

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

~~Adopted December 5, 2016~~

~~Updated December 4, 2017~~

~~Updated October 29, 2018~~

~~Updated February 14, 2020~~

~~Updated July 24, 2020~~

~~Updated December 6, 2022~~

~~2016 King County Comprehensive Plan~~



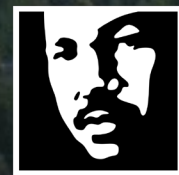
King County

Office of Performance
Strategy and Budget))

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2024 King County **Comprehensive Plan**

Ordinance XXXXX, Attachment A
Adopted TBD



King County

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1 **King County**

2
3 December 2016

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7 Dear King County Resident:

8
9 After more than two years of outreach, research and engagement with community members and stakeholders, the
10 King County Council and King County Executive are pleased to present the adopted 2016 King County
11 Comprehensive Plan.

12
13 The 2016 update is a major review of the Comprehensive Plan. It builds on King County's 25 years of success in
14 implementing the Growth Management Act. Since adoption of the first Comprehensive Plan in 1994, the vast
15 majority of housing growth countywide—96 percent—has occurred in urban areas. Building on this success, the
16 2016 plan now also responds to new critical challenges:

17
18 **Equity and Social Justice.** The 2016 Comprehensive Plan includes strong, specific language about how
19 consideration of Equity and Social Justice will shape County actions, how we will move forward with affordable
20 housing and human services goals, how we will work to ensure that undesirable land uses do not overburden
21 historically underserved communities, and how all residents of King County will benefit from careful application of
22 Equity and Social Justice principles when the County sites facilities, operates programs, or launches new initiatives.

23
24 **Climate Change and Environmental Protection.** The 2016 Comprehensive Plan incorporates key goals and policies
25 from the County's 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan. It demonstrates the County's commitment to climate action,
26 with new policies on environmental and climate justice; more specific references to our efforts to reduce County
27 greenhouse gas emissions through new technologies, such as all electric battery buses; commitments to ongoing
28 preservation of valuable open spaces; and development of a Green Building handbook and building codes.

29
30 **Local Government Responsibilities.** At its core, the Comprehensive Plan is a description of King County's role in
31 the unincorporated areas. The 2016 Comprehensive Plan highlights this role and provides additional clarity about
32 the County's responsibility as a local service provider to unincorporated residents through enhancements to policies
33 and text throughout all chapters. At the same time, the adopted Comprehensive Plan describes the County's role as
34 a regional service provider and a leader and convener on regional issues of concern.

35
36 **Housing and Human Services.** The 2016 Comprehensive Plan reflects the importance of serving those most in need
37 by organizing policies related to affordable housing and human services into a new chapter. Language in the
38 adopted Plan strengthens and clarifies these policies to reflect the County's commitment to help people who are
39 experiencing homelessness, those at risk of displacement, and those in need of mental health and behavioral health
40 services. The Plan also adds a new policy that calls for a regional approach to increasing the availability of
41 affordable housing.

42
43 **Local and Regional Planning.** The adopted 2016 Comprehensive Plan complies with the State Growth
44 Management Act and illustrates the County's continued commitment to protect rural lands from expansion of the
45 urban growth area. The Comprehensive Plan also launches a new subarea planning program that will create more
46 detailed, stakeholder informed local plans across the entire unincorporated area.

47

**((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)) TBD**


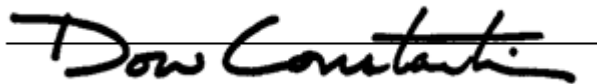
48 **Natural Resource Lands.** The adopted 2016 Comprehensive Plan reaffirms King County’s commitment to
49 protecting our valuable forest and agricultural lands in accordance with the State Growth Management Act. The
50 Comprehensive Plan links the production of local food and the proliferation of farmers markets to continued
51 protection for our Agriculture Production Districts, which have remained in place for more than forty years. New
52 policies in this update also encourage the use of Best Management Practices and sustainable farming activities to
53 help protect the environment.
54

55 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Growth Management Act. This landmark legislation created
56 a new planning approach in Washington State that sought to address the harmful impacts of uncoordinated and
57 unplanned growth. The Growth Management Act requires jurisdictions to designate an urban growth area within
58 which growth would be encouraged and outside of which growth could occur only if it was not urban in nature. It
59 also requires the adoption of regulations to assure the conservation of agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands
60 of long term significance as well as regulations to protect environmentally critical areas including wetlands, aquifer
61 recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat corridors, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas. By
62 almost any measure, King County has been successful in realizing these broad goals. Since adoption of the first
63 Comprehensive Plan in 1994, the vast majority of housing growth countywide—96 percent—has occurred in urban
64 areas. And, through incorporations and annexations, more than 60 percent of the unincorporated urban area that
65 existed in 1994 is now within cities, which continues to fulfill the goal of transitioning counties to serve as providers
66 of rural and regional services. In Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, the County has preserved working farms
67 and forests through a balanced strategy that includes regulations, incentives, and technical assistance, and this has
68 led to a sustainable rate of development.
69

70 Looking forward, the State, local jurisdictions, and regional partners will soon be reviewing the required timelines
71 for comprehensive plan updates and how that relates to timing of growth forecasts, Buildable Lands Reports,
72 updates to the multicounty planning policies and growth allocations, and updates to countywide planning policies
73 and growth targets. The County will be involved in this work and will determine how it affects our own
74 Comprehensive Plan update schedule to ensure alignment with the broader growth management framework
75 timelines. Review of the King County Comprehensive Plan update process will also evaluate scheduling major
76 updates in odd calendar years, in consideration of the County’s biennial budget cycle.⁺
77

78 The adoption of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan marks yet another step of King County’s ongoing success at
79 balancing economic vitality and healthy neighborhoods with careful stewardship of our farms, forests, and open
80 spaces. Together, we can ensure that that our region continues to manage growth effectively while protecting
81 thriving rural and resource lands, and remain in compliance with the Growth Management Act.
82

83 Sincerely,

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

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

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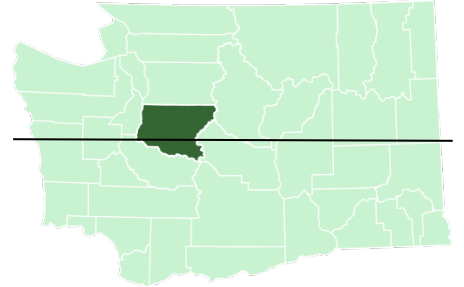
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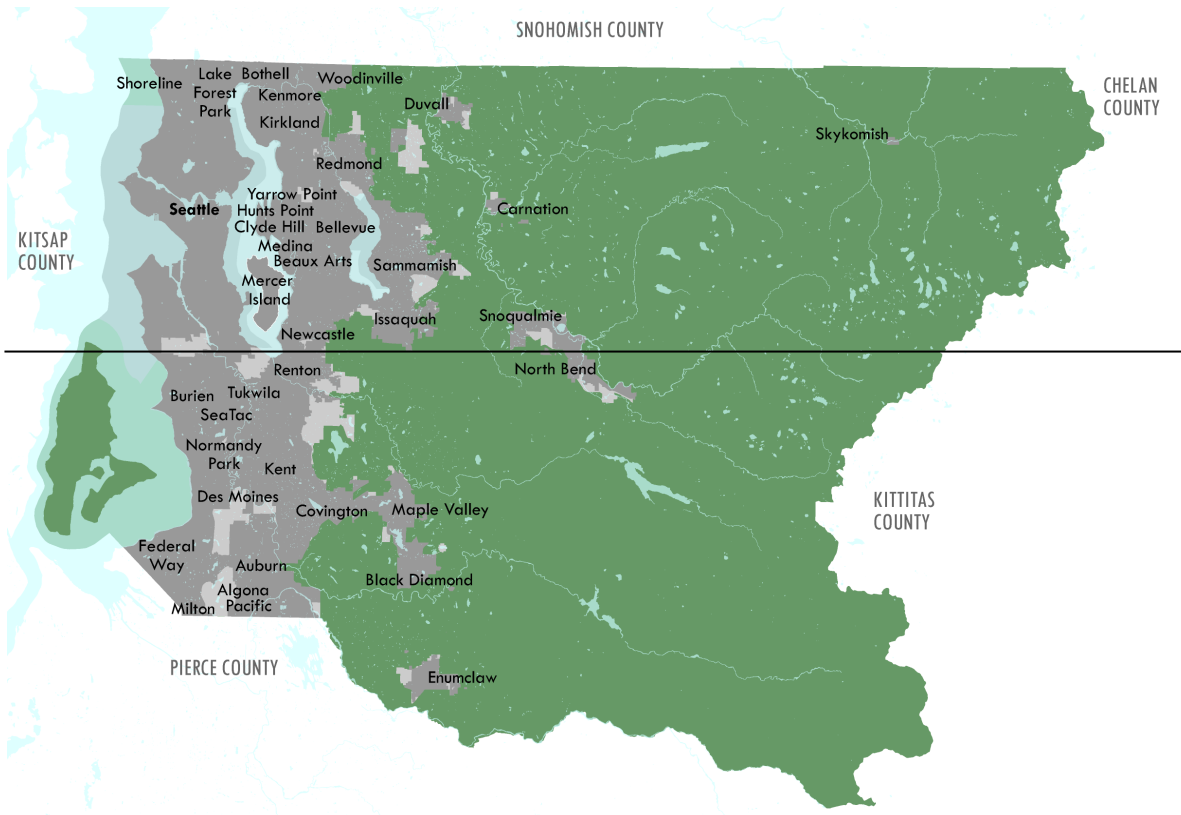
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~~In 2015, King County was the most populous county in Washington State and the 13th most populous county in the nation. Between 2015 and 2031, King County is targeted to grow by 252,000 residents.~~



~~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.~~



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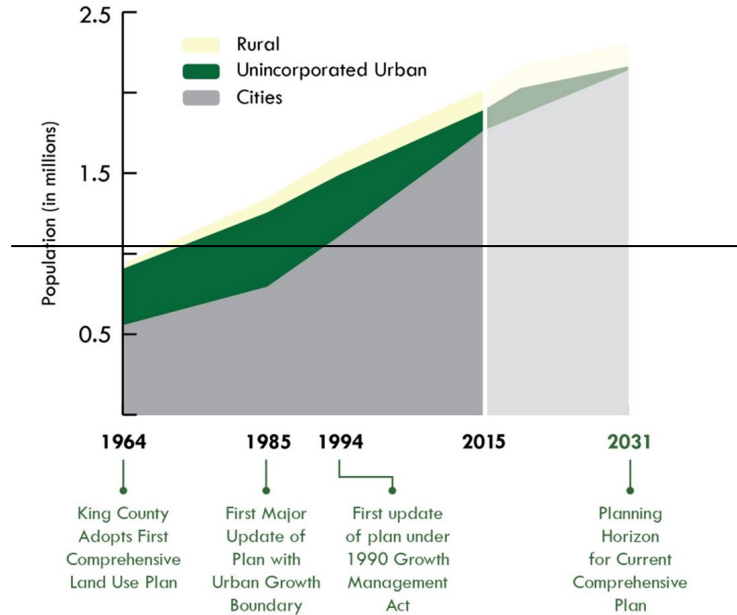
21 About King County

22

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.

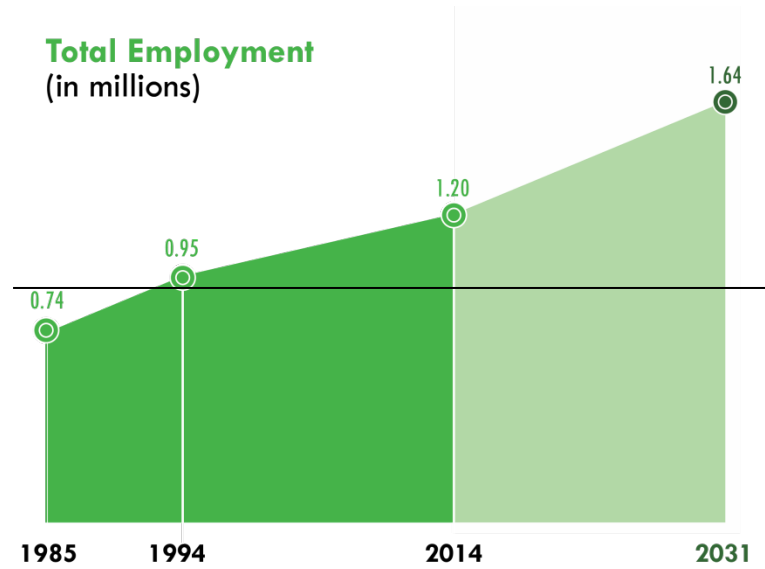
Over the past 20 years, King County has experienced a substantial 25% growth in its population. By 2031, King County is **expected to grow to a population of 2.3 million, adding just over 250,000 residents** to its overall population. Based on the Guiding Principles of the Comprehensive Plan, **95%**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



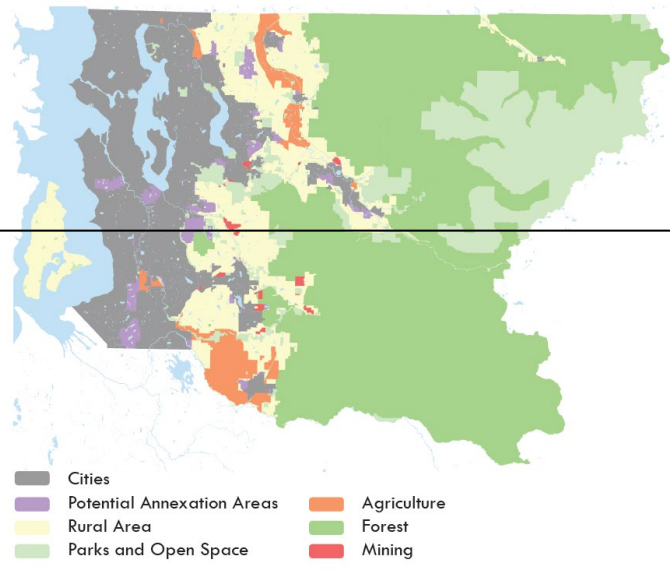
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Geography



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.

Guiding Principles

Moving Towards a Sustainable King County

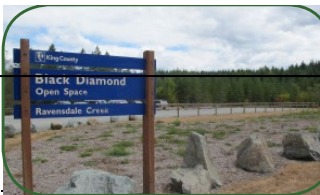
King County’s Comprehensive Plan has long been based on a vision of the county as a livable area with healthy, thriving and dense urban communities; ample open space, forest and farm lands preserved for long term use; a vibrant economy inclusive of numerous sectors; and a transportation system providing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

41 **Major Update**

42 The 2016 update is a major review of the Comprehensive Plan and, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the passage
43 of the Growth Management Act. This landmark legislation requires jurisdictions to designate an urban growth area,
44 within which growth would be encouraged, and adopt regulations to conserve resource land and environmentally
45 sensitive areas. By almost any measure, King County has been successful in realizing the broad goals of the Growth
46 Management Act. However, success has not been easy and, looking forward, the Comprehensive Plan needs to
47 respond to new challenges, such as equitable access to opportunity, reducing carbon pollution and responding to
48 climate impacts, addressing housing affordability and strengthening mobility. To address these, **the following**
49 **updates are included in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan:**
50

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.

51 These amendments, along with others included in the following chapters, are intended to help the
52 Comprehensive Plan remain responsive to the County's growth management challenges of today... and
53 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.))



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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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CHAPTER 1

REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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 ~~((2016))~~ King County Comprehensive Plan establishes a vision that preserves this incredible diversity while ~~((continuing to acknowledge))~~ acknowledging that residents want options ~~((as to))~~ for 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.

9 ~~((I.))~~ About King County

10 **King County Geography**

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

17 18 **King County Jurisdictions**

19 In 1994, when King County's first Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act was adopted, the
20 county had 34 cities with 1,116,000 people. More than a third of annual new residential development was
21 occurring in unincorporated areas. Since December 1994, five new cities have incorporated and numerous
22 annexations have occurred, shifting more than 220,000 people into city limits. As of ~~((2015))~~ 2023, there are 39
23 cities ranging in size from Seattle with more than ~~((660,000))~~ 762,500 people to Skykomish and Beaux Arts with
24 fewer than 350 each. King County's 39 cities now cover 418 square miles, or 20~~((%)~~) percent of the county's total
25 land area. Unincorporated King County~~((, the territory))~~ (areas outside any city), now has ~~((about 253,000))~~
26 over 248,000 people, or ~~((13%))~~ 11 percent of the county's population.

27 28 **King County Demographics**

29 In ~~((2015))~~ 2023, with more than ~~((2,050,000))~~ 2,320,000 people, King County is the largest county in
30 Washington State and the ~~((13th))~~ 12th largest in the nation. King County exhibits growing diversity~~((: more than
31 one third))~~; nearly half of the population is now ((persons of color)) Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color.
32 ~~((As of 2010, 65% of the population is non-Hispanic white, 15% Asian or Pacific Islander, 7.7%
33 African American, 1% Native American and 8.9% Latino (2010 census data).))~~ As of 2020, 54 percent of the
34 population is non-Hispanic white, 20 percent Asian, seven percent Black or African American, one percent
35 Native American, one percent Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 8.9 percent Hispanic or Latino/a/x
36 (2020 census data).

37 38 **King County Housing Needs**

39 The number of housing units in King County is growing ~~((faster than its population))~~ but struggled to keep pace
40 with the need induced by population growth and a strong economy. The ~~((2010))~~ 2020 Census counted more
41 than ~~((851,000))~~ 969,000 houses, apartment and condominium units, and mobile homes. The number of
42 housing units has increased by ~~((159,000 units (23%) since 1994))~~ 118,000 units (14 percent) since 2010, driven
43 largely by growth in multifamily units. Household size has ~~((stabilized after declining in the 1970s and 1980s and
44 is now))~~ increased slightly after the Great Recession of 2008 and is estimated at ((2.39)) 2.42 persons per
45 household ~~((the same as in 2000)).~~ ~~((A slight))~~ Owing to the aging of the population, a decline in household
46 size is anticipated in coming years to about 2.26 in ((2031)) 2044.

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King County must plan for and accommodate 5,412 net new housing units in urban unincorporated King County between 2020-2044, including 1,034 net new emergency housing/shelter beds. The County adopted development regulation changes with the 2024 Comprehensive Plan to create sufficient zoning capacity to accommodate all of these housing needs and types.

King County Economy

King County is truly the economic engine of Washington State, with more than ~~((4-2))~~ 1.3 million workers employed at ~~((nearly 80,000))~~ over 66,000 business firms, excluding sole proprietorships. King County’s ~~((87))~~ \$142 billion payroll is ~~((52%))~~ 67 percent of Washington State’s ~~((167))~~ \$214 billion payroll and over three- ~~((fourths))~~ quarters of the four-county region’s payroll.

~~((Since 2000, the region has had two major recessions, a boom, and recovery. The result is that as of 2010 the number of jobs was the same as it was in 2000: about 1.1 million. Since 2010, job growth has been substantial. Manufacturing employment remains important, but, since 2006, growth has been in the trade, business services and information sectors. The economy has diversified from its traditional aerospace and resource bases to high tech, services and trade, both local and international. Given the county’s complement of healthy, innovative businesses and its industrial diversification, its future unemployment rates should be lower than in the state and the nation.))~~ After the Great Recession, King County’s diverse economy rebounded quickly compared to the pace of national recovery, owing largely to strong growth in the information technology and services sectors, supported by retail and construction sector growth. Progressive increases in the minimum wage in several cities in King County raised incomes for the county’s lowest wage earners, although the county’s prosperity has not been shared by all. With the arrival of the global COVID pandemic in 2020, unemployment soared, particularly for retail and service sector employees, shuttering businesses and amplifying King County’s economic, social, and health inequities. While employment has rebounded from initial losses, many workers have permanently left the workforce or remain under-employed. The pandemic has changed the nature of work from increased telework to the types of jobs that are now most available. The long-term impacts from the COVID pandemic, as well as the rising effects from climate change discussed later in the plan, will imprint on the King County economy for next 20 years and beyond.

~~((H.))~~ King County Planning Framework

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

84 King County’s first Comprehensive Plan under the Washington State Growth Management Act was adopted in
85 1994. The Growth Management Act directs the state's most populous and fastest growing counties and their
86 cities to prepare comprehensive land use plans that anticipate growth over a 20((-))-year horizon and provide for
87 it in a managed manner.

88
89 There is a hierarchy of growth management planning in the county with consistency between the levels. Some
90 issues, such as the establishment of the Urban Growth Area, are best decided at the countywide level, while
91 others, such as the amount of commercial space needed in a neighborhood, are best determined at the subarea
92 plan level. At a broader scale, the Growth Management Act requires development of Multicounty Planning
93 Policies by ~~((the counties of))~~ King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, as well as the development of
94 Countywide Planning Policies by King County and its 39 cities. These ~~((documents are to be used solely))~~
95 policies are used for establishing a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are
96 developed and adopted.

97
98 **~~((A.))~~ Public Participation in Planning**

99 At the core of King County's planning is the goal of ~~((providing))~~ advancing equitable outcomes that support a
100 high quality of life for all county residents. This can only be achieved by actively ~~((soliciting public~~
101 ~~participation))~~ and equitably engaging the public to help shape ~~((its))~~ County plans, including strategic,
102 comprehensive, functional, and subarea plans, and ~~((use))~~ by using these planning processes to strengthen
103 communities and improve access to the Determinants of Equity.¹

104
105 Unfortunately, previous planning processes have excluded and harmed those who are Black, Indigenous, and
106 other People of Color; immigrants; refugees; and living with low or no incomes. King County is working to
107 ensure that the perspectives of these historically underrepresented groups and those who have been
108 disproportionally harmed by previous planning efforts are engaged by the County and centered throughout
109 planning processes.

110
111 Additionally, while the Growth Management Act requires the coordination of local plans, Indian tribes have
112 historically not been included because of their independent sovereign status and unique rights to self-governance.
113 However, King County also recognizes that the lands addressed by the Comprehensive Plan are those that are
114 the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples that have lived here since time immemorial. Recognizing
115 this, King County will coordinate with Indian tribes as part of the County's planning processes and will seek
116 opportunities to work together to advance key issues, such as environmental stewardship, treaty fishing rights,
117 and protecting cultural heritage.

118
119 **RP-101** King County shall strive to provide a high quality of life for all of its residents by:
120 working with cities, special purpose districts, and residents to develop attractive,

¹ Defined in King County Code 2.10.210

121 safe, and accessible communities at appropriate urban and rural service levels;
122 ~~((retain))~~ retaining rural character and rural neighborhoods; planning for and
123 accommodating housing affordable to all income levels; ((support)) supporting
124 economic development; ~~((promote))~~ promoting equity and racial and social
125 justice; ~~((preserve and maintain))~~ preserving and maintaining resource and open
126 space lands; ~~((preserve))~~ preserving the natural environment; and ((protect))
127 protecting significant cultural and historic resources.

128
129 **RP-102** In its planning processes, including the development, update, and
130 implementation of King County plans, ((King)) the County shall use equitable
131 engagement strategies to actively solicit public participation from a wide variety
132 of sources, particularly from populations historically underrepresented or
133 excluded from planning processes ((in its planning processes, including the
134 development, update, and implementation of its plans)).

135
136 **RP-103** King County shall ~~((seek comment from))~~ coordinate with Indian tribes during its
137 planning processes in a manner that respects their sovereign status, promotes
138 tribal self-determination and self-governance, and honors past and present
139 agreements.

140
141 ~~((R-102))~~ **RP-103a** King County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to support the diversity and richness of its
142 rural communities and their distinct character by working with its rural
143 constituencies through its Community Service Areas program to sustain and
144 enhance the rural character of Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

145
146 **~~((B.))~~ Multicounty Planning**

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

154
155 VISION ~~((2040))~~ is a regional strategy to accommodate the population and job growth expected by ~~((2040))~~ 2050
156 in the four-county Puget Sound region. As an integrated, long-range vision for maintaining a healthy region,
157 promoting economic vitality, a healthy environment, and well-being of people and communities, VISION
158 ~~((2040))~~ provides clear direction to regional, county, and local governments on topics such as setting priorities for
159 transportation investment, stimulating economic development, planning for open space, making ~~((city and~~
160 ~~town))~~ local jurisdictions' centers more suitable for transit and walking, and improving transportation safety and

161 mobility. ~~((VISION 2040 promotes a triple-bottom line approach to decision-making that seeks to promote
162 social, economic and environmental benefits in all projects, programs and plans.))~~

163
164 As part of VISION ~~((2040))~~, the Regional Growth Strategy looks at how the region can distribute ~~((forecast))
165 forecasted~~ growth, primarily within the designated urban growth area. The strategy is a description of a
166 preferred pattern of urbanization that has been designed to minimize environmental impacts, support economic
167 prosperity, promote adequate and affordable housing, improve mobility, and make efficient use of existing
168 infrastructure. The strategy provides regional guidance for counties~~((,))~~ and cities ~~((and towns))~~ to use as they
169 develop ~~((new))~~ local population and employment growth targets and update local comprehensive plans.

170

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

176

177 **~~((C.))~~ Countywide Planning**

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

184

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

191

192 ~~((The Countywide Planning Policies were first adopted by King County and ratified by the cities within the
193 county in 1992. In response to VISION 2040, the county and the cities within the county approved a major
194 overhaul and update to the Countywide Planning Policies in 2013. These revised))~~ The Countywide Planning
195 Policies implement ~~((the regional and countywide vision))~~ VISION by providing a countywide framework to
196 plan for job growth and new development, including housing, commercial, institutional, and other
197 non-residential uses. The Countywide Planning Policies provide broad direction to individual jurisdiction's

⁽²⁾ As amended by Ordinance 17687.

198 comprehensive plans, including the King County Comprehensive Plan. The goals of the policies include:
199 promoting a compact and centers-focused growth pattern that uses land and infrastructure efficiently, protecting
200 the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, providing affordable housing throughout the county,³ and
201 coordinating protection and restoration of the natural environment in King County.^{((³))}
202

203 **RP-105** King County ~~((should))~~ shall work with the Growth Management Planning Council
204 to adopt Countywide Planning Policies that support ~~((annual ratifications to))~~
205 allocated housing and employment growth targets for cities and the county,
206 approve designations of countywide centers, and address other countywide
207 planning topics.
208

209 **RP-106** ~~((Except for Four-to-One proposals,))~~ King County shall not amend the Urban
210 Growth Area prior to the Growth Management Planning Council taking action on
211 the proposed amendment to the Urban Growth Area.
212

213 **RP-107** King County shall not forward to the Growth Management Planning Council for
214 its recommendation any proposed amendment to the Urban Growth Area unless
215 the proposal was:
216 a. Included in the scoping motion for a King County Comprehensive Plan
217 update;
218 b. ~~((An))~~ Subject to area zoning study ~~((of the proposal))~~ that was included
219 in the public review draft of a proposed King County Comprehensive
220 Plan update; or
221 c. Subjected to the hearing examiner process for site specific map
222 amendments as ~~((contemplated))~~ established by the King County Code.
223

224 **RP-108** King County shall implement the Countywide Planning Policies through its
225 Comprehensive Plan and through Potential Annexation Area, preannexation,¹ and
226 other interlocal agreements with ~~((its))~~ cities.
227

228 **~~((D. — Sub-Regional)) Subregional Planning and Partnerships~~**

229 King County engages with partners in subareas of the county in ~~((sub-regional))~~ subregional planning programs
230 and partnerships that are related to the Comprehensive Plan. These activities are guided by the policies in the
231 Comprehensive Plan as well as the other components of the overall King County ~~((P))~~ planning ~~((F))~~ framework
232 noted in this chapter. ~~((Some key activities are noted below.))~~
233

³As amended by Ordinance 17687.)

- 234 **RP-109** King County should establish and/or participate in regional and subregional
235 partnerships to advance the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan(~~, such as:~~
236 a. ~~— The King County Cities Climate Collaboration (the "K4C") to confront~~
237 ~~climate change,~~
238 b. ~~— The Puget Sound Regional Council's Regional Transit Oriented~~
239 ~~Development Program to advance transit-oriented development around~~
240 ~~transit stations and hubs,~~
241 c. ~~— The Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Advisory Council, or successor~~
242 ~~groups, to support a vision that includes dual use (recreation trail and~~
243 ~~public transportation) and multiple objectives, consistent with its federal~~
244 ~~railbanked status, and~~
245 d. ~~— The Regional Code Collaboration to collaborate on development of and~~
246 ~~updates to green building codes.))~~

247
248 These programs are described in greater detail, and where appropriate additional policies (~~(added)~~) included, in
249 the relevant subsequent chapters of the Comprehensive Plan.

- 250
251 **RP-109a** **Upon notification from a city that abuts the Rural Area or Natural Resource lands**
252 **regarding proposed large, mixed-use developments, King County shall**
253 **coordinate the city to ensure that the development review process mitigates**
254 **impacts on the surrounding Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.**
255

256 **((E.)) Comprehensive Planning**

257 ~~((The 2016 update is the fifth major review of the King County Comprehensive Plan.))~~ In accordance with the
258 Growth Management Act, ~~((#))~~ the Comprehensive Plan is designed to manage growth so that development is
259 directed to designated urban areas and away from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The Growth
260 Management Act also requires King County to designate and protect critical areas and commercially significant
261 forestry, agriculture, and mining areas. The Growth Management Act requires a comprehensive plan to adhere
262 to a set of ~~((fourteen))~~ goals and to include ~~((the following))~~ mandatory plan elements~~((:))~~, such as land use,
263 housing, capital facilities, utilities, rural, shorelines, and transportation elements. The ~~((King County))~~
264 Comprehensive Plan provides a legal framework for managing growth and making decisions about land use in
265 unincorporated King County. Public and private agencies, property owners, developers, community groups, and
266 King County staff use the Comprehensive Plan in several ways.

267
268 The Comprehensive Plan provides guidance to ~~((e))~~ County officials for decisions on proposals such as zoning
269 changes and developments. It also ~~((gives))~~ provides the public ~~((direction on))~~ the ~~((e))~~ County's position on
270 proposed changes in land use or zoning, environmental regulations, or broader policy issues. ~~((The Plan))~~ It also
271 serves as a framework for other plans and regulations such as subarea plans and the King County Code that
272 govern the location and density of land uses in unincorporated King County. The Comprehensive Plan provides
273 a basis for decisions about public spending on facilities and services. Finally, ~~((the Plan))~~ it presents other

274 agencies, such as cities and special purpose districts, with King County's position on large-scale matters such as
275 annexation, use of resource lands, environmental protection, service provision, and others.

276

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

282

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

290

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

295

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

304

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

310

311 **RP-114** When updating the Comprehensive Plan, King County shall ((continue its
312 process of reviewing county regulatory and administrative actions)) review
313 proposals so as to avoid unconstitutional takings of private property.

314

315 **~~((F-)) Subarea Planning~~**

316 ~~((Community Service Area)) Subarea plans, ((as well as other community plans and basin plans)) such as but not~~
317 ~~limited to Community Service Area Subarea Plans (see Chapter 11, Community Service Area Subarea~~
318 ~~Planning), focus the policy direction of the Comprehensive Plan to a smaller geographic area (((See Chapter 11~~
319 ~~Community Service Area Subarea Planning, for information on large scale subarea land use plans for rural and~~
320 ~~urban unincorporated areas in King County)). Smaller scale studies, known as area zoning and land use studies,~~
321 ~~per King County Code,⁴ are focused on adoption or amendment of land use and zoning maps on an area wide~~
322 ~~basis rather than the broad range of topics that are addressed in a full subarea plan. Examples of subarea plans~~
323 ~~and area zoning studies include the Duwamish Coalition Project, White Center Action Plan, Fall City Subarea~~
324 ~~Plan, the East Redmond Subarea Plan, and planning efforts within a watershed or basin. Development of~~
325 ~~subarea plans are guided by the following policy as well as other applicable policies of the Comprehensive Plan~~
326 ~~and provisions in the King County Code.⁵)~~

327

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

- 334 a. Identification of policies in the Comprehensive Plan that apply to the
- 335 subarea;
- 336 b. Review and update of applicable ~~((e))Community Service Area Subarea~~
- 337 ~~((p))Plan policies;~~
- 338 c. Specific land uses and implementing zoning, consistent with the
- 339 Comprehensive Plan;
- 340 d. Identification of the boundaries of Unincorporated Activity Centers,
- 341 countywide centers, and Rural Towns;
- 342 e. Recommendations for the establishment of new Unincorporated Activity
- 343 Centers~~((,))~~ and Regional, Community, and Neighborhood Business
- 344 Centers, if appropriate;
- 345 f. Recommendations for additional Open Space designations and park
- 346 sites;
- 347 g. Recommendations for capital improvements~~((, the means and schedule~~
- 348 ~~for providing them and amendments to functional plans)) to support~~
- 349 planned land uses and community priorities;
- 350 h. Resolution of land use and service issues in Potential Annexation Areas;
- 351 i. Identification of new issues that need resolution at a countywide level;

⁽⁴⁾ Per King County Code 20.08.030 Area Zoning))

⁽⁵⁾ Per King County Code 20.08.060 Subarea plan))

- 352 j. Identification of all necessary implementing measures needed to carry
- 353 out the plan;
- 354 k. Specific land uses and zoning that encourage healthy, livable
- 355 communities by promoting physical activity of walking and bicycling;
- 356 and
- 357 l. Identification of locations and conditions for special overlay districts.

358
359 ((The passage of Ordinance 17319 and 17415 in 2011 replaced the Unincorporated Area Councils with the
360 Community Service Area geography. As described more fully in Chapter 11, Community Service Area Subarea
361 Planning, this geography will be used as the guiding structure for subarea planning starting in 2015.

362
363 To the extent practicable, subarea plans in unincorporated King County should be developed in close
364 coordination between the community and county staff that may have a lead or partial role in implementing the
365 plans to ensure clearer expectations on how and whether community recommendations in a subarea plan are
366 feasible for implementation and within what type of timeframe. This type of coordination, supported by the
367 financial analysis noted in the following policy, is critical to all subarea and functional plans in order to evaluate
368 the resources required and the time frame necessary for full implementation. Plan alternatives and costs should
369 be clearly understood and plans should be financially achievable.

370
371 **RP-116** ~~King County should identify the financial costs and public benefits of proposed~~
372 ~~subarea and functional plans prior to adoption to ensure that implementation can~~
373 ~~be appropriately prioritized.~~

374
375 In addition to subarea plans and area zoning and land use studies, King County's land use planning also includes
376 other planning processes. These include Comprehensive Plan policy directed subarea studies, such as the
377 establishment of new community business centers, adjusting Rural Town boundaries, or assessing the feasibility
378 of zoning reclassifications in urban unincorporated areas. Subarea studies are focused on specific areas of the
379 County, but do not look at the range of issues that a subarea plan would include. In some cases, an area zoning
380 and land use study may suffice to meet the requirements of the policies. In addition, there are Site Specific Land
381 Use Amendments⁶ and Zone Reclassifications,⁷ which are site specific processes that involve County staff review
382 and recommendations, a public hearing and recommendation by a Hearing Examiner and a decision by County
383 Council. These must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan or be proposed with a Plan update.))

384
385 **~~(G.)~~ Functional Planning**

386 Functional plans are detailed plans for facilities and services ((and also include)), as well as action plans and
387 programs for other governmental activities. Some functional plans are operational or programmatic and guide

((⁶ Per King County Code 20.08.170 Site Specific Land Use Amendments))

((⁷ Per King County Code 20.08.160 Reclassification))

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388 daily management decisions. Others include specific details of facility design and location. Functional
389 ~~((P))~~plans ~~((that guide specific siting of facilities))~~ help implement and must be consistent with the
390 Comprehensive Plan. ~~((Functional plans are prepared by King County, independent special purpose districts or~~
391 ~~other public and private agencies.))~~ Examples of functional plans ~~((in King County))~~ include~~((the Strategic~~
392 ~~Climate Action Plan, Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan, Open Space Plan, Regional Wastewater Services~~
393 ~~Plan, Strategic Plan for Road Services, and Strategic Plan for Public Transportation))~~ the King County Open
394 Space Plan and King County Flood Hazard Management Plan.

395
396 ~~((Capital improvements are important components of functional plans. Capital facilities and spending on~~
397 ~~improvements and new facilities are closely linked to availability of funds. Functional plans must identify costs~~
398 ~~and services of needed facilities and distinguish between improvements needed for new growth verses those~~
399 ~~needed to support existing public health and welfare needs.))~~

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

414
415 ~~**RP-118** Existing functional plans that have not been adopted as part of this~~
416 ~~**Comprehensive Plan shall remain in effect and continue as official county policy**~~
417 ~~**until reviewed and revised to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, or until**~~
418 ~~**repealed or replaced. In case of conflict or inconsistency between applicable**~~
419 ~~**policies in existing community and functional plans and the Comprehensive**~~
420 ~~**Plan, the Comprehensive Plan shall govern.**~~

421
422 ~~**RP-119** King County shall prepare functional plans to identify countywide facility and~~
423 ~~**service needs and define ways to fund these consistent with the King County**~~
424 ~~**Comprehensive Plan. Independent special purpose districts and other public**~~
425 ~~**agencies also prepare functional plans that should be considered by King**~~
426 ~~**County.))**~~

427

428 **Other Planning**

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

440

441 **((H.)) Comprehensive Plan Review and Amendment**

442 The Growth Management Act allows updates to comprehensive plans once each year. In King County, the
443 annual update allows limited changes. The ~~((eight))~~ 10-year update, which aligns the timing with Growth
444 Management Act periodic review and update requirements, allows substantive changes to policies and
445 amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary ~~((to be proposed and adopted))~~. A smaller-range of
446 substantive changes to policies and amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary may also be considered at
447 the midpoint of the ~~((eight))~~ 10-year update schedule, but only if authorized by motion. These provisions are
448 detailed in Chapter 12, Implementation, Amendments, and Evaluation, and King County Code ((Title)) Chapter
449 20.18. ((Additional information and policies are found in Chapter 12, Implementation, Amendments and
450 Evaluation.))

451

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

460

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

467

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

477

478 Additional Comprehensive Plan review and assessment actions are discussed in Chapter 12, Implementation,
479 Amendments, and Evaluation.

480

481 ~~((I.))~~ **Managing Performance**

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

489

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

493

- ~~• Ensure county goals are being met;~~

494

- ~~• Improve county services, where necessary;~~

495

- ~~• Serve as both a local and a regional government;~~

496

- ~~• Increase transparency with the public;~~

497

- ~~• Increase use of data for more informed public discussion and decision making;~~

498

- ~~• Increase accountability at all levels of government; and~~

499

- ~~• Increase attention to effective performance measurement as called for in the King County Strategic Plan.~~

500

501

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

504
505 ~~RP-121~~ ~~Using best management practices, King County shall develop assessment and~~
506 ~~review tools to ensure that health, equity, social, and environmental justice~~
507 ~~impacts are considered in the development, implementation and funding of~~
508 ~~county projects and programs.~~

509
510 ~~Additional information and provisions related to monitoring can be found in Chapter 12, Implementation,~~
511 ~~Amendments and Evaluation.~~

512
513 ~~J.~~ ~~**King County Strategic Plan**~~

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

519
520 ~~In 2015, the King County Council passed Motion 14317, which adopted new goals and initiated an update of the~~
521 ~~Strategic Plan. Motion 14317 outlines goals and guiding principles that address topics in the Growth~~
522 ~~Management Act and other locally defined priorities. These are as follows:~~

523
524 ~~**King County’s Goals**~~

- 525 ~~● Mobility: Deliver a seamless network of transportation options to get people where they need to go,~~
526 ~~when they need to get there.~~
- 527 ~~● Health and Human Services: Improve the health and well-being of all people in the community.~~
- 528 ~~● Economic Vitality: Increase access to family wage job opportunities throughout the county.~~
- 529 ~~● Safety and Justice: Provide for a safe and just community through proactive law enforcement and an~~
530 ~~accessible and fair justice system, while implementing alternatives to divert people from the criminal~~
531 ~~justice system.~~
- 532 ~~● Accessible, Affordable Housing: Increase access to quality housing that is affordable to all.~~
- 533 ~~● Healthy Environment: Preserve open space and rural character while addressing climate change.~~
- 534 ~~● Efficient, Accountable Regional and Local Government: Ensure that County government operates~~
535 ~~efficiently and effectively and is accountable to the public.~~

536
537 ~~**Guiding Principles that Direct our Efforts**~~

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- ~~538 • Equitable and Fair: Address the root causes of inequities to provide for equal access to opportunities for~~
~~539 all.~~
- ~~540 • Financially Sustainable: Align funding, policy and operational goals of King County government.~~
- ~~541 • Regionally Collaborative: Engage with partners, stakeholders, and public and private organizations to~~
~~542 achieve goals.~~
- ~~543 • Quality Local Government: Provide effective, efficient local governance and services to unincorporated~~
~~544 areas.~~

~~545 **RP-122** Planning in King County shall be consistent with the King County Strategic Plan~~

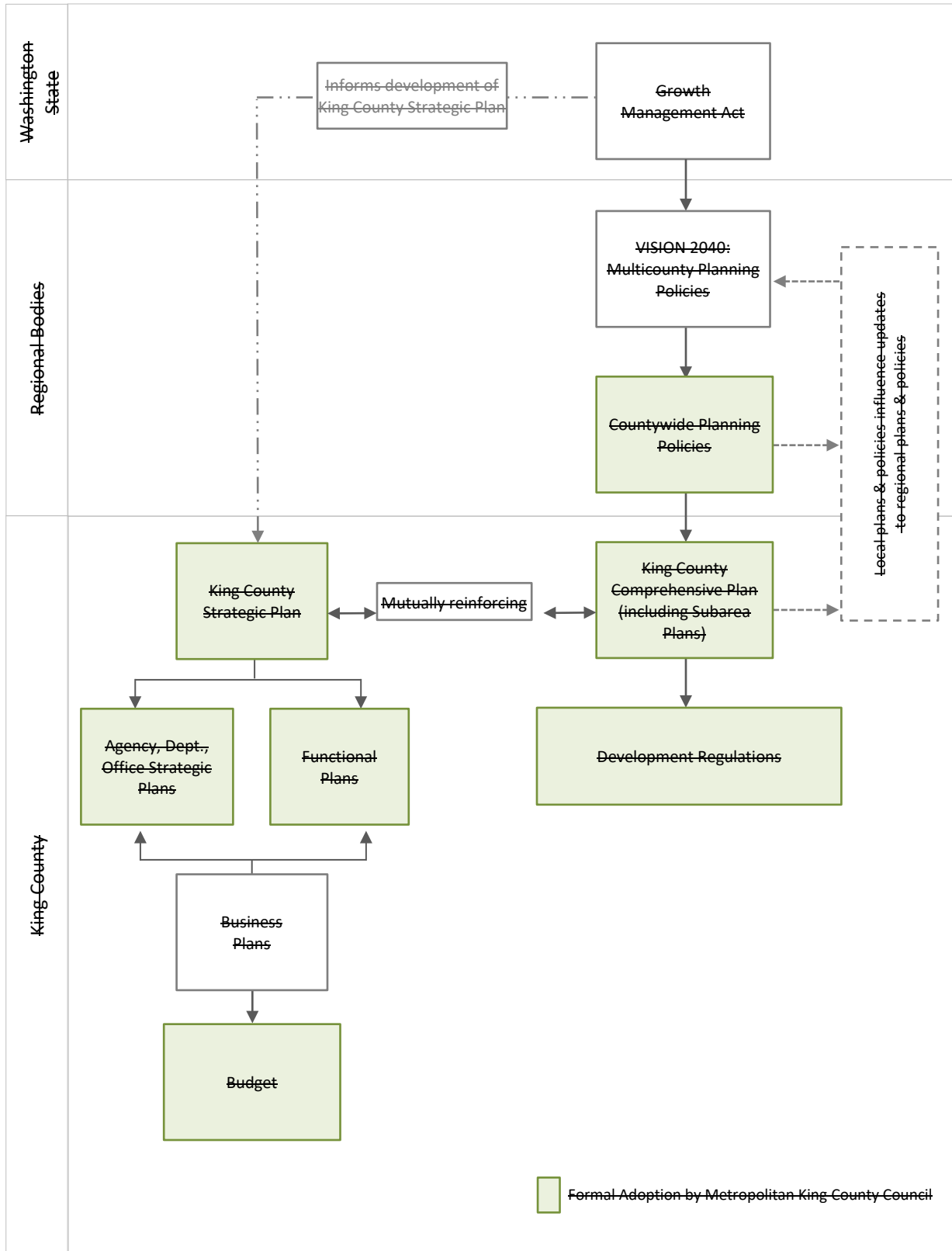
~~546 by:~~

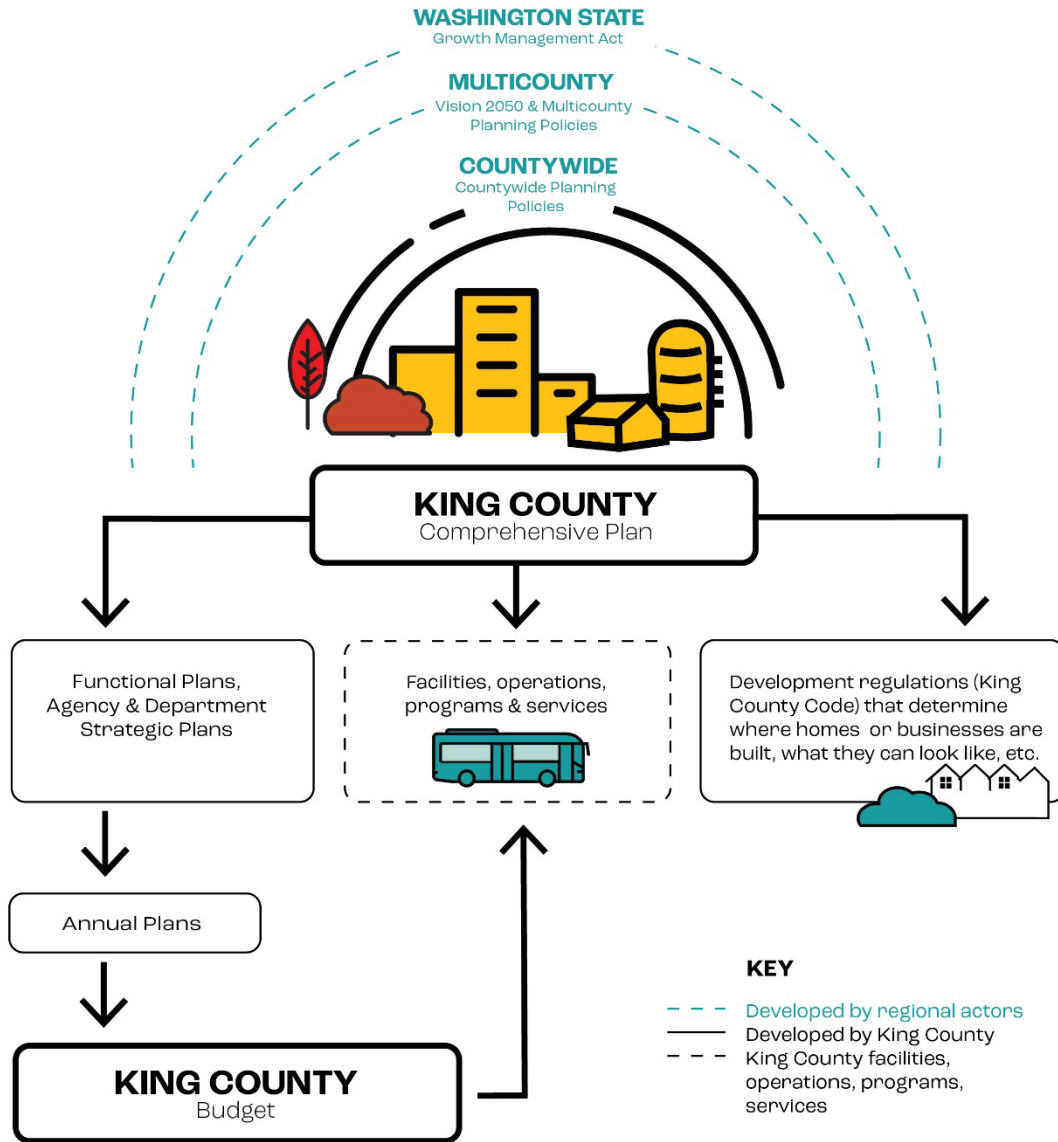
- ~~547 a. Encouraging vibrant, economically thriving and sustainable~~
~~548 communities;~~
- ~~549 b. Enhancing the county's natural resources and the environment;~~
- ~~550 c. Supporting safe communities; and~~
- ~~551 d. Providing equitable opportunities for all individuals.)~~

~~552~~
~~553~~
554 Planning Framework Hierarchy

~~555 ((These)) The planning processes and structures discussed in this section respond to Growth Management Act,~~
~~556 Multicounty Planning Policy, and Countywide Planning Policy requirements and goals and reflect local~~
~~557 circumstances and priorities. This complex framework is illustrated in the following graphic.~~

560 **Figure: Planning Hierarchy Relationship to Growth Management Planning**
 561
 562





564 **~~((H.))~~ King County Guiding Principles**

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

- 571 • create higher urban densities by directing ~~((96%))~~ 99 percent of the growth into the urban cores of the
572 region (Urban Growth Area),
- 573 • preserve irreplaceable resource lands, parks and critical areas,
- 574 • improve mobility by making transit service more accessible,
- 575 • sustain a vibrant economy,
- 576 • serve in the capacity of both a local and a regional government, and
- 577 • improve water quality and manage stormwater runoff~~((,~~
- 578 ~~• improve air quality and particulate emissions, and~~
- 579 ~~• reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions))~~.

581 **Guiding Principles**

582 **~~((A.))~~ Creating Sustainable Neighborhoods**

583 Neighborhoods are the backbone of any community. Creating sustainable neighborhoods may mean using
584 incentives, programs, or regulations to help create new neighborhoods~~((,~~) and support existing neighborhoods.
585 Encouraging mixed land use and making access to jobs, shopping, and schools easier establishes the
586 cohesiveness of a neighborhood. Having opportunities for physical activity and providing for people, if they
587 choose, to age in place and remain in their neighborhood as their lifestyle changes or they face changing physical
588 capabilities establishes the stability of a neighborhood. All of these factors contribute to creating a sustainable
589 neighborhood.

590
591 Sustainable neighborhoods are important areas where housing affordable to all economic segments of the
592 populations can and should be located. Sustainability of a neighborhood also relates to the impact the
593 neighborhood has on the environment. Incorporation of sustainable development practices into the design,
594 construction and maintenance of the neighborhood can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution,
595 reduce the use of natural resources, reduce energy and other maintenance costs, and enhance property values.

596

597 **RP-201** In its policies and regulations, King County shall ~~((strive to))~~ promote sustainable
598 and equitable neighborhoods and communities. King County shall seek to
599 ensure that the benefits and impacts of the ~~((e))~~ County’s activities are equitably
600 distributed among all segments of the population.
601

602 **~~((B.)) Preserving and Maintaining Open Space and Natural Resource Lands~~**

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

608
609 The Growth Management Act requires the County and ~~((its))~~ the cities in King County to form linkages between
610 and within population centers with lands useful for recreation, trails, wildlife habitat, and connection of critical
611 areas. To fulfill that mandate, King County operates a regional and local open space system consisting of parks,
612 trails, natural areas, working resource lands, and flood hazard management lands. These open spaces provide
613 multiple benefits and functions, including visual variety and relief from developed areas, protection of
614 environmental and ecological processes, provision of wildlife habitat, promotion of mental and physical health,
615 and creating opportunities for outdoor recreation. However, preserving open space requires careful planning and
616 management to ensure compatibility and long-term viability of these benefits and functions.

617
618 **RP-202** **King County shall pursue opportunities to preserve and maintain remaining high-**
619 **priority forest, agriculture, and other open space lands.**
620

621 **~~((C.)) Directing Development Toward Existing Communities~~**

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

627
628 The separate land uses were served by a roadway system of wide streets, with infrequent crosswalks, designed to
629 accommodate cars, but not people. This pattern did not support using transit, bicycling, or walking to meet daily
630 transportation needs, thus leading to an overburdening of the roadway system and a loss of regional and personal
631 mobility. Low-density patterns that emerged relied on driving alone for many trips, contributing to persistent air
632 pollution problems and increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

633
634 Reducing sprawl by focusing development into existing urban areas is one of the statutory goals of the ~~((state’s))~~
635 Growth Management Act. To achieve that goal, in the 1990s, King County and the cities worked to ~~((steering))~~

636 steer growth to already developed communities (both within urban areas and, at much smaller scales, in Rural
637 Areas and Natural Resource Lands, in a system of central places) with existing infrastructure and services can
638 result in (1) protecting Rural Areas, (2) conserving natural resources, and (3) providing more economical and
639 equitable services and facilities. Work to maintain those growth patterns and limit new sprawl from happening
640 continues today, as it is critical to supporting efficient and sustainable communities and protecting rural
641 character, the environment, and natural resources.

642
643 ~~((This broader approach does not mean that all new urban development will be high density. In many cases,~~
644 ~~existing moderate density locations, especially single family neighborhoods, will not significantly change.~~
645 ~~Rather, King County will work to better integrate the locations where people work, shop, live, and play in a~~
646 ~~manner that uses public and private resources more efficiently.))~~

647
648 **RP-203** **King County shall continue to ~~((support the reduction of))~~ limit sprawl by**
649 **focusing growth and future development in the Urban Growth Area, consistent**
650 **with adopted growth targets.**

651
652 **~~((D-))~~ Providing a Variety of Transportation Choices**

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

661
662 The ability to access various transportation modes has a profound effect on quality of life for ~~((this county's))~~
663 county residents and the vitality of ~~((its))~~ the economy. The ~~((e))~~ County's transportation system must be
664 designed, operated and maintained in a manner that (1) provides access to mobility options for a wide range of
665 users, including historically ~~((disadvantaged))~~ underserved populations, (2) contributes to safe communities, (3)
666 reduces impacts on the county's natural resources and environment, and (4) fosters a vibrant community.

667
668 **RP-204** **King County shall continue to promote an efficient multimodal transportation**
669 **system that provides residents with a range of transportation choices that**
670 **respond to community needs and reduce impacts on the natural environment.**

671
672

673 **~~((E.))~~ Addressing Health, Equity, and Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice**

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

683
684 On average, ~~((p))~~ People of ~~((e))~~ Color and people living ~~((in poverty))~~ with low or no incomes have ~~((lower levels
685 of))~~ less access to quality education; are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed; are more likely to pay
686 too much of their income for housing costs and other necessities; and are more likely to experience adverse
687 health outcomes, such as obesity, diabetes, or asthma, that can have the effect of reducing life expectancy. These
688 challenges affect specific communities and, in turn, the entire region, resulting in a number of adverse
689 socioeconomic consequences, including, for example, unfilled high-skilled jobs, higher levels of homelessness,
690 and higher health care costs.

691
692 ~~((Promoting economic opportunity for areas with fewer assets is a key goal of the Growth Management Act. In
693 2010, King County adopted Ordinance 16948, which defined and established))~~ King County Code Chapter 2.10
694 establishes ~~((the "Fair and Just" principle in the County's Strategic Plan. This transformed the work on equity
695 and social justice from an initiative to))~~ an integrated effort that intentionally applies ~~((this))~~ the "Fair and Just"
696 principle to all work ~~((in order))~~ to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and communities. A key
697 component of this ~~((ordinance was defining))~~ work are the "Determinants of Equity," which are the social,
698 economic, geographic, political, and physical environment conditions in which people in the county are born,
699 grow, live, work, and age that lead to a just and thriving society. Access to the determinants of equity is
700 necessary to have equity for all people regardless of race, class, gender, or language spoken. Inequities are
701 created when structural barriers exist that prevent individuals and communities from accessing these conditions
702 and reaching their full potential.

703
704

705 **Figure: Determinants of Equity⁸**



706

707

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

716

⁸ King County Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice

717 ~~((As noted previously, t))~~The Comprehensive Plan plays multiple roles related to land use planning – a
718 countywide collaborative role in how growth is accommodated in the county and region, and a local land use
719 regulatory role for how growth occurs in unincorporated areas. This dual role is important to recognize given
720 the geographic distribution of communities that are the focus of the County's ~~((E))~~equity and racial and
721 ~~((S))~~social ~~((J))~~justice work.

722
723 King County is committed to working to reduce inequities and address concerns of social justice by
724 incorporating the values of the ~~((e))~~County's ~~((E))~~equity and racial and ~~((S))~~social ~~((J))~~justice work into the daily
725 practice of developing policies and programs, ~~((making))~~ informing funding decisions and delivering services.
726 Further, King County ~~((will))~~ continues to identify and address the conditions at the root of disparities, engage
727 communities to have a strong voice in shaping their future, and raise and sustain the visibility of ~~((E))~~equity and
728 racial and ~~((S))~~social ~~((J))~~justice. The goal is to start by focusing on prevention and addressing the fundamental
729 causes of the inequities ~~((in order))~~ to have a greater overall impact.

730
731 ~~((In order t))~~To achieve this, the County uses ~~((the E))~~equity ~~((I))~~impact ~~((R))~~reviews ~~((Tool))~~ as a process to
732 identify, evaluate and communicate the potential equity impact – both positive and negative – of a proposed
733 policy, program, or service. The ~~((E))~~equity ~~((I))~~impact ~~((R))~~review ~~((Tool))~~ process merges empirical
734 (quantitative) data and community engagement findings (qualitative) to inform planning, decision-making and
735 implementation of actions which affect equity in King County. Data are developed and compiled through a
736 number of efforts ~~((, and published in a number of sources, including King County's January 2015 report, The~~
737 ~~Determinants of Equity; the King County Performance Dashboard; the public-private Communities Count~~
738 ~~initiative; and the Public Health Community Health Indicators Project. Data from these sources and others))~~
739 and should be disaggregated when possible, combined with qualitative data from communities, and analyzed
740 carefully to ensure that equity impacts are rigorously and holistically considered and advanced in the design and
741 implementation of a proposed action (plan, policy, and program development; service delivery; operations
742 modification; capital programs and projects, etc.).

743
744 **RP-205** **King County ~~((will))~~ shall, when implementing and evaluating its land use**
745 **policies, programs, investments and practices, ~~((seek to reduce health~~**
746 **inequities)) identify and proactively address issues of equity~~((,)); racial, social,~~**
747 **and environmental justice; disparate health outcomes; and physical, economic,**
748 **and cultural displacement ~~((when evaluating and implementing its land use~~**
749 **policies, programs, and practices))**.

750
751 **((F.)) Achieving Environmental Sustainability**
752 King County can influence environmental sustainability through its land use and transportation policies and
753 plans, investments in capital projects and facilities, economic development initiatives, and day-to-day operations.
754 To be effective, sustainability actions need to be taken at many scales: in unincorporated land use regulations; in

755 coordination with neighboring local governments, across county departments((,)); and through the day-to-day
756 actions of individual employees.

757

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

762

763

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

769

770 **Climate Change**

771 Climate change is a paramount challenge with fundamental and far-reaching consequences, a threat
772 multiplier exacerbating inequities and intensifying natural hazards – flooding, wildfires, and extreme heat –
773 that put the County’s people, economy, and environment at risk. The County’s approach to climate action
774 has three core elements: (1) reducing greenhouse gas emissions, both from government operations and at the
775 countywide scale; (2) advancing climate equity and community-driven climate policy, especially for frontline
776 communities; and (3) preparing for the impacts of climate change while increasing climate resilience. The
777 following guiding principles for climate action formalize the County’s commitment to lead on climate action,
778 while also integrating and highlighting principles that guide County climate action.

779

780 **RP-207** **King County shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advance climate equity,**
781 **and prepare for climate change impacts. The following principles shall guide and**
782 **be integrated in County climate action:**
783 **a. Act with urgency and intention;**
784 **b. Lead with racial justice and equity;**
785 **c. Respond to community needs and priorities;**
786 **d. Use and develop a comprehensive and data- and science-driven**
787 **approach;**
788 **e. Seek systemic solutions;**
789 **f. Build partnerships;**
790 **g. Lead through local action;**
791 **h. Prioritize health and co-benefits; and**
792 **i. Be transparent and accountable.**

793

794 ~~((IV. Summary of the King County Comprehensive Plan~~

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

797

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

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

802

803 **Chapter 2: Urban Communities**

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

807

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

809 Protecting Rural Areas, Natural Resource Lands and rural communities in King County is a major focus of the
810 Comprehensive Plan in compliance with both the Growth Management Act and the King County Strategic Plan.
811 This chapter delineates the county’s approach to conserving Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands,
812 supporting rural communities and their heritage, and supporting the agriculture, forestry, and mining economies.
813 Integral to these efforts are incentive tools such as the Transfer of Development Rights program that ensure the
814 protection of environmental quality and wildlife habitat, while respecting economic values and property rights.

815

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

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

821

822 **Chapter 5: Environment**

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

829

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

839

840 **Chapter 6: Shorelines**

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

844

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

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

850

851 **Chapter 8: Transportation**

852 This chapter sets the policy framework that guides efficient provision of vital transportation infrastructure and
853 services that support a vibrant economy, thriving communities, and the county's participation in critical regional
854 transportation issues. The chapter reflects the goals of the King County Strategic Plan and the priorities
855 established in the strategic plans for public transportation, airport and road services. It also reflects the county's
856 continuing transition to becoming a road service provider for a primarily rural road system, and speaks to the
857 challenges of providing transportation services and infrastructure in a time of growing need and severely
858 constrained financial resources.

859

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

866

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

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

875

876 **Chapter 10: Economic Development**

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

885

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

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

895

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

897 The Comprehensive Plan policies, development regulations and Countywide Planning Policy framework have
898 been adopted to achieve the growth management objectives of King County and the region. This chapter
899 describes the County's process for updating the Comprehensive Plan and outlines and distinguishes the annual,
900 midpoint, and the eight year cycle updates. The chapter identifies a series of major Workplan actions that will be
901 undertaken between the eight year updates to implement or refine provisions within the Plan. This chapter
902 further explains the relationship between planning and zoning.

903

904 **~~V. Technical Appendices~~**

905 Integral to the vision and goals of the Comprehensive Plan are the detailed inventories, forecasts, finance plans
906 and Urban Growth Area analysis required by the Growth Management Act. Four technical appendices (Volume
907 1) are adopted as part of the plan to implement these Growth Management Act requirements (RCW 36.70A.070,
908 36.70A.110, 36.70A.130). Technical Appendices A, B, C, and D were updated in 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020.

909
910 **Volume 1**

911 Technical Appendix A. — Capital Facilities and Services

912 Technical Appendix B. — Housing

913 Technical Appendix C. — Transportation

914 C1. Transportation Needs Report

915 C2. Regional Trail Needs Report

916 Technical Appendix D. — Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area

917

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

920

921 **Volume 2 (1994)**

922 Technical Appendix D. — Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area

923 Technical Appendix E. — Washington State Laws

924 Technical Appendix F. — History of Planning in King County

925 Technical Appendix G. — Economic Development

926 Technical Appendix H. — Natural Resource Lands

927 Technical Appendix I. — Natural Environment

928 Technical Appendix J. — Potential Annexation Areas

929 Technical Appendix K. — King County Functional and Community Plans

930 Technical Appendix L. — Public Involvement Summary

931

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

933

934 **Volume 3**

935 Technical Appendix M. — Public Participation Summary 2000

936

937 ~~Volume 4~~

938 ~~Technical Appendix N. — Public Participation Summary 2004~~

939

940 ~~Volume 5~~

941 ~~Technical Appendix O. — Public Participation Summary 2008~~

942

943 ~~Volume 6~~

944 ~~Technical Appendix P. — Public Participation Summary 2012~~

945 ~~Technical Appendix Q. — School Siting Task Force Report~~

946

947 ~~Volume 7~~

948 ~~Technical Appendix R. — Public Participation Summary 2016~~

949 ~~Technical Appendix S. — Public Participation Summary 2020~~

950

951

952 ~~**VI. The Regulations**~~

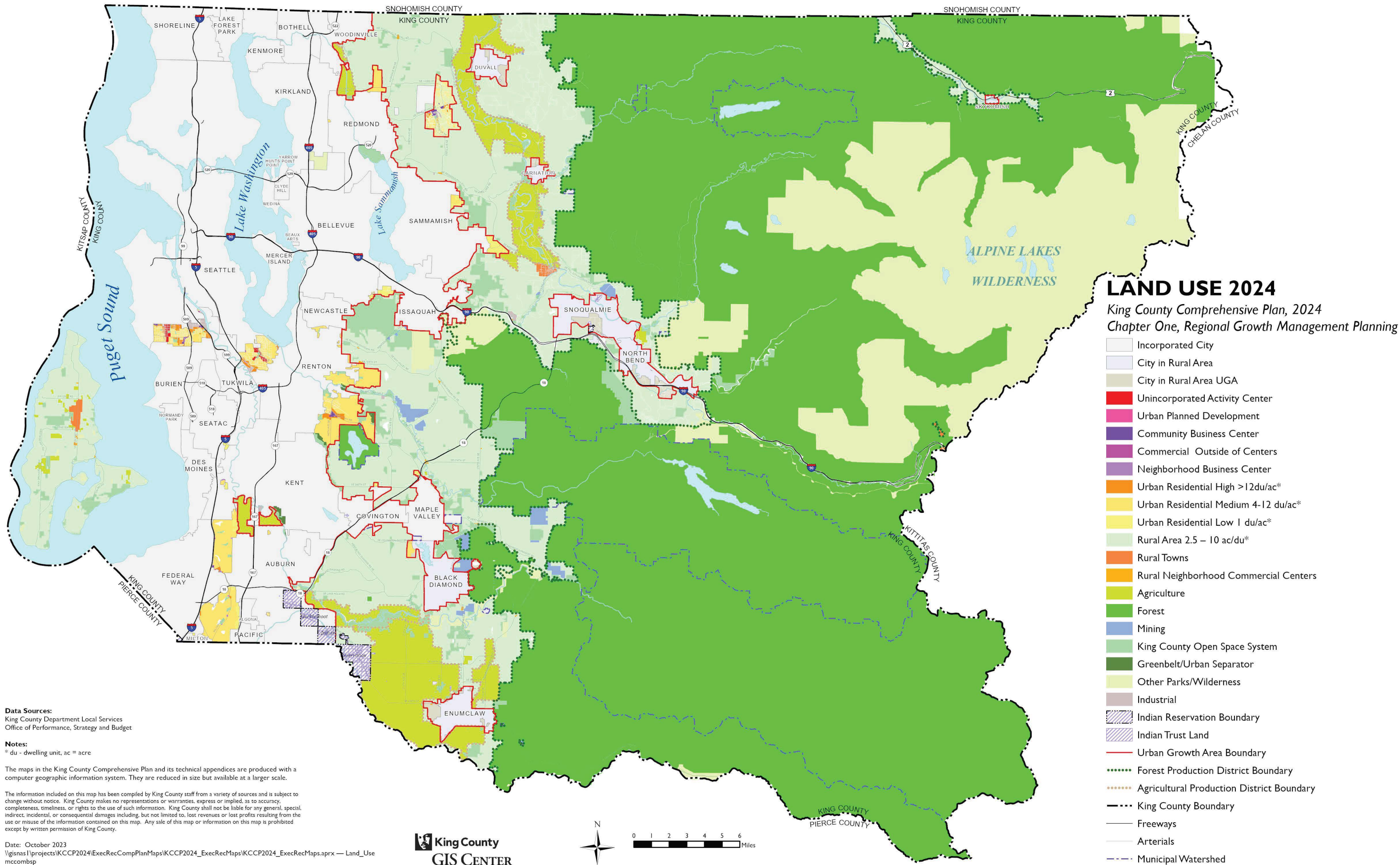
953 ~~The King County Comprehensive Plan is implemented through regulations adopted as part of the King County~~
954 ~~Code. All development proposals in King County must meet the requirements of the Code. Additional~~
955 ~~information and policies are found in Chapter 12, Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation.~~

956

957 ~~**VII. For More Information**~~

958 ~~Please visit the web site of the King County Department of Performance, Strategy and Budget at~~
959 ~~<http://www.kingcounty.gov/compplan> for current information on planning in King County and to view~~
960 ~~electronic versions of the plan and related documents.))~~

961



LAND USE 2024
 King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024
 Chapter One, Regional Growth Management Planning

- Incorporated City
- City in Rural Area
- City in Rural Area UGA
- Unincorporated Activity Center
- Urban Planned Development
- Community Business Center
- Commercial Outside of Centers
- Neighborhood Business Center
- Urban Residential High >12du/ac*
- Urban Residential Medium 4-12 du/ac*
- Urban Residential Low 1 du/ac*
- Rural Area 2.5 – 10 ac/du*
- Rural Towns
- Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers
- Agriculture
- Forest
- Mining
- King County Open Space System
- Greenbelt/Urban Separator
- Other Parks/Wilderness
- Industrial
- Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- Forest Production District Boundary
- Agricultural Production District Boundary
- King County Boundary
- Freeways
- Arterials
- Municipal Watershed

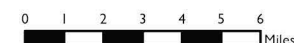
Data Sources:
 King County Department Local Services
 Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Notes:
 * du - dwelling unit, ac = acre

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: October 2023
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CHAPTER 2 URBAN COMMUNITIES

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.

~~((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.~~

8
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12

13 It is the goal of King County to work toward a model sustainable community to balance growth with natural
14 resource protection while addressing climate change. Sustainable development creates a balance between
15 people, economy, and environment, balancing using resources to meet current needs while ensuring future
16 generations can benefit from equivalent resources. Sustainable development seeks to achieve this goal by
17 addressing the impacts of the built environment in which the residents of King County live and work. To
18 highlight the importance of sustainable development and to consolidate policies applicable to both Rural Areas
19 and Natural Resource Lands as well as urban communities, text and policies regarding sustainable development
20 for public projects can be found in Chapter 9, Services, Facilities and Utilities, Section II (Facilities and
21 Services), subpart D (Capital Facility Planning). Text and policies regarding sustainable development in the
22 private sector can be found in Chapter 10, Economic Development, Section V (Sustainable Development in the
23 Private Sector:))
24

25 **~~((I.))~~ Urban Communities**

26 A critical challenge for King County ((and its residents)) is to ((create)) encourage urban communities that
27 provide ((the sense of place and the range of choices people want for a quality urban life and experience, as well
28 as to respond to the cultural and economic needs of diverse urban communities. Urban areas need more than
29 physical infrastructure. They also need a broad range of amenities and human services that make them attractive
30 and safe places to work and live, while protecting the physical environment and maintaining the region's quality
31 of life. In short, they need to become and be sustained as healthy and equitable communities. The design goals
32 of healthy communities include making it easier for people to live healthy lives by encouraging mixed)) a
33 healthy, safe built environment for people from all backgrounds at all stages of life, as well as accommodate
34 housing affordable to all income levels. Components of such a community include: cultivating a sense of place;
35 responding to cultural and economic needs; supporting access to affordable and healthy food and housing;
36 providing a broad range of amenities; and planning for a mix of land uses and greater land density to shorten
37 distances between housing, workplaces, transit, schools, and recreation so people can choose to ((walk or
38 bicycle)) use active transportation to more easily ((to)) these destinations. The County can meet this challenge
39 through periodic review and updates to its development regulations and functional and long-range plans.
40

41 People are more likely to walk to their destination if the distance is less than one-half mile ("walking distance")
42 or to bicycle if the distance is less than three miles ("bicycling distance"). Incorporating high comfort pedestrian
43 and bicycle infrastructure for all ages and abilities, especially sidewalks and bicycle paths that are separated from
44 ((automobile)) vehicle traffic, can increase the safety and frequency of bicycle, pedestrian, and transit trips.
45 ((Healthy communities provide opportunities for people to be physically active and socially engaged as part of
46 their daily routine and include access to open space and parks. People can, if they choose, age in place and
47 remain in their community as their lifestyle changes or as they face changing physical capabilities. This
48 contributes to a healthy community, as does ensuring access to affordable, healthy food, especially fruits and
49 vegetables, and limiting access to unhealthy substances. An integral part of a healthy community is "healthy

50 housing," which protects residents from exposure to harmful substances and environments, and reduces the risk
51 of injury. These goals can be achieved, in part, through implementing building practices that promote health.))

52
53 **U-101** **Development within the Urban Growth Area should create and maintain safe,**
54 **healthy, and diverse communities. These communities should contain a range of**
55 **affordable, healthy housing, and employment opportunities, as well as school**
56 **and recreational facilities, and should be designed to protect the natural**
57 **environment and significant cultural resources.**
58

59 **~~((A.))~~ The Urban Growth Area**

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

- 63 • Limit sprawling development;
- 64 • Improve efficiencies and ~~((R))~~reduce costs of service provision by encouraging concentrated
65 development;
- 66 • ~~((Improve the efficiency of transportation and utilities;~~
- 67 • Improve equitable access to human services;))
- 68 • Protect the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands;
- 69 • Enhance the preservation of open space; and
- 70 • ~~((Mitigate the impacts of climate change and adapt to its effects))~~ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by
71 creating walkable, transit-oriented communities that are less reliant on single-occupant vehicles.
- 72

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

77
78 The Urban Growth Area includes all cities within the county, including the Urban Growth Area~~((s))~~ for Cities in
79 the Rural Area, the cities' Potential ~~((a))~~Annexation ~~((a))~~Areas, and other land within the unincorporated part of
80 the county characterized by urban-type growth~~((–The Urban Growth Area also includes the Bear Creek Urban~~
81 Planned Developments)) such as the Redmond Ridge, Redmond Ridge East, and Trilogy neighborhoods east of
82 Redmond. ~~((See Chapter 3, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, for additional policy guidance on growth~~
83 within the annexation areas of Cities in the Rural Area.

~~(([†] As amended by Ordinance 17687.))~~

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

The Urban Growth Area is also where King County plans for and accommodates housing need 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.

U-101a The Urban Growth Area is considered long-term and can only be amended consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies, and the King County Comprehensive Plan policies.

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

- a.1. Are characterized by urban development that can be efficiently and cost effectively served by roads, water, sanitary sewer and storm drainage, schools, and other urban governmental services within the next 20 years;**
- ~~((b-))~~ 2. Do not extend beyond natural boundaries, such as watersheds, which impede provision of urban services;**
- ~~((c-))~~ 3. Respect topographical features that form a natural edge, such as rivers and ridge lines;**
- ~~((d-))~~ 4. Are sufficiently free of environmental constraints to be able to support urban growth without major environmental impacts, unless such areas are designated as an urban separator by interlocal agreement between jurisdictions;**
- ~~((e-))~~ Are included within the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development sites; and**
- f.) 5. Are not Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands; and**
- 6. Are not within the 100-year floodplain of any river or river segment that has a mean annual flow of 1,000 or more cubic feet per second as determined by the Washington State Department**

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of Ecology, unless otherwise exempted under Chapter 36.70A
Revised Code of Washington; or

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

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

- a. Whether the parcel is split to recognize (~~((environmentally sensitive features))~~) critical areas;
- b. The parcel's geographic features;
- c. Whether the parcel will be added to an adjoining city's Potential Annexation Area; and
- d. The requirements of interlocal agreements, or the requirements of King County plans.

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

U-104 Rural zoned properties that are 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 in (~~((a form satisfactory to))~~) an interlocal agreement or conservation easement adopted by the King County Council for park purposes and:

- a. The property is (~~((no more))~~) less than 30 acres in size and was acquired by the city prior to 1994; or
- 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~~
- e-)) 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~~

- 165 ~~excluding Urban Growth Area boundaries established through the~~
- 166 ~~Four to One Program;~~
- 167 ~~b. The church property shall not be adjacent to an Agricultural Production~~
- 168 ~~District or the Forest Production District;~~
- 169 ~~c. Sewer service is required once the property is included in the Urban~~
- 170 ~~Growth Area;~~
- 171 ~~d. Direct vehicular access to a principal arterial road is required; and~~
- 172 ~~e. The church property shall be included in the Potential Annexation Area~~
- 173 ~~of the appropriate city at the same time it is included in the Urban~~
- 174 ~~Growth Area.~~
- 175

1.) 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 Centers map at the end of this chapter. The two unincorporated activity centers (Skyway and White Center) meet the criteria for countywide center designation in the Countywide Planning Policies. King County intends to apply for this designation following adoption of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

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))~~ vehicle 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. Tobacco remains a major contributor to 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))~~ support equitable outcomes when they limit circumstances where tobacco and cannabis retail activities, including advertising that is in view of the general public, are disproportionately located in areas with a high percentage of youth and/or Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color residents. 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.

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

210

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

215

216 **U-107** King County should support ((land use and zoning)) actions that promote public
217 health ((by increasing opportunities for every resident to be more physically
218 active)); address racially and environmentally disparate outcomes; support safe
219 and convenient daily physical activity and social connectivity; protect from
220 exposure to harmful substances and environments; increase life opportunities
221 and access to employment; and support housing in high-opportunity areas((-
222 Land use and zoning actions include)), through activities such as:

223 **a. _____((e))Concentrating growth, infrastructure, and services into the Urban**
224 **Growth Area;**

225 **b. _____((p))Promoting urban centers;**

226 **c. _____((a))Allowing mixed-use developments;**

227 **d. _____((s))Supporting access to healthy, affordable retail foods; and**

228 **e. _____((a))Adding pedestrian and bicycle facilities and connections.**

229

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

237

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

244

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

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

257 **U-111** Development standards for urban areas should emphasize ways to allow
258 maximum permitted densities and uses of urban land while not compromising
259 the function of critical environmental areas. Mitigating measures should serve
260 multiple purposes, such as drainage control, groundwater recharge, stream
261 protection, air quality improvement, open space preservation, cultural and
262 historic resource protection, and landscaping preservation. When technically
263 feasible, standards should be simple and measurable, so they can be
264 implemented without lengthy review processes.

266 ~~((U-132a))~~ **U-111a** King County shall allow and support the development of ~~((innovative))~~
267 community gardens and urban agriculture throughout ~~((the public realm of))~~
268 residential and commercial areas.

270 While there are many benefits of focusing growth into centers, one impact of climate change is a greater
271 likelihood ~~((that the frequency of hazardous))~~ of extreme heat in urban heat islands ~~((in urban areas will~~
272 ~~increase)).~~ The term “heat island” refers to ~~((urban))~~ areas where air and surface temperatures that are higher
273 than the nearby Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands due to development. Heat islands form as cities
274 replace natural land cover with pavement, buildings, and other built infrastructure. Heat islands can affect the
275 health of residents living in those areas. The heat island effect can be reduced by requiring cool roofs, cool
276 pavements, tree canopy, and other vegetation. ~~((These tools are discussed in King County's Green Building~~
277 ~~Handbook.))~~

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

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

294

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

299

300 **((2.)) Urban Growth Area Targets**

301

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

306

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

314

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

324

**((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)) TBD**

325 The following Figure, Table DP-1 King County Jurisdiction Growth Targets 2019-2044, portrays the housing
326 and job growth targets for each jurisdiction as adopted in the Countywide Planning Policies. The complete
327 table, including city growth targets, is included here to provide regional context for the unincorporated area
328 targets.

329
330 The table includes targets for Potential Annexation Areas with development capacity. Portions of growth targets
331 for Potential Annexation Areas will transfer into cities when annexation takes place in the future. Although they
332 may be refined through future planning with affected communities and adjacent cities, these urban
333 unincorporated targets are intended to be used as a guide for future planning of land uses and decisions on
334 services and infrastructure.

335
336 ***Figure: Table DP-1: King County Jurisdiction Growth Targets 2019-2044***

		Net New Units and Jobs	
	Jurisdiction	2019-2044 Housing Target	2019-2044 Jobs Target
<u>Metro Cities</u>	<u>Bellevue</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>
	<u>Seattle</u>	<u>112,000</u>	<u>169,500</u>
Metropolitan Cities Subtotal		147,000	239,500
<u>Core Cities</u>	<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>
Core Cities Subtotal		112,860	207,170
<u>High Capacity Transit Communities</u>	<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>

**((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)) TBD**

		Net New Units and Jobs	
Jurisdiction		2019-2044 Housing Target	2019-2044 Jobs Target
<u>Woodinville</u>		<u>2,033</u>	<u>5,000</u>
High Capacity Transit Communities Subtotal		29,942	25,570
<u>Cities and Towns</u>	<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>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>	
Cities and Towns Subtotal		17,583	17,891
<u>Urban Unincorporated</u>	<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>
Urban Unincorporated Subtotal		1,292	700
Urban Growth Area Total		308,677	490,831

**PAA means Potential Annexation Area*

337

338

339 U-114

340

Land use policies and regulations shall accommodate a growth target of approximately ((11,140)) 5,412 housing units and approximately ((6,810)) 3,340

341 jobs by ((2034)) 2044, as established in the Countywide Planning Policies for the
342 unincorporated portion of the Urban Growth Area.

343 a. As part of accommodating the housing growth target, King County shall
344 plan for and accommodate its jurisdictional housing need, as
345 established in the Countywide Planning Policies; and

346 b. The targets allocated to urban unincorporated King County shall be
347 monitored and may be refined through future planning that includes the
348 community, adjacent cities, and service providers.

349

350 **U-115** King County shall provide adequate land capacity for residential (including to
351 plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all income levels), commercial,
352 industrial, and other non-residential growth in the urban unincorporated area. As
353 required under the Growth Management Act, this land capacity shall:

354 a. ((b))Be calculated on a countywide basis and be consistent with the
355 Countywide Planning Policies; and

356 b. ((shall-i))Include both redevelopment opportunities as well as
357 opportunities for development on vacant lands.((²))

358

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

363

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

372

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

377

((²As 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)) TBD**

378

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

Regional Geography	Housing Target	PAA Housing Target	Employment Target	PAA Emp. Target
— City / Subarea	Net New Units	Net New Units	Net New Jobs	Net New Jobs
	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031
Metropolitan Cities				
— Bellevue	17,290		53,000	
— Seattle	86,000		146,700	
Total	103,290		199,700	
Core Cities				
— 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
— 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
Total	79,495		170,590	
Larger Cities				
— 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	
Total	28,230		42,800	
Small Cities				
— 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		—	

**((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)) TBD**

Regional Geography	Housing Target	PAA Housing Target	Employment Target	PAA Emp. Target
City / Subarea	Net New Units	Net New Units	Net New Jobs	Net New Jobs
	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031
— 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		—	
Total	10,922		8,168	
Urban Unincorporated				
— Potential Annexation Areas	8,760		970	
— North Highline	820		2,170	
— Bear Creek Urban Planned Dev	910		3,580	
— Unclaimed Urban Unincorp.	650		90	
Total	11,140		6,810	
King County UGA Total	233,077		428,068	

* 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.)

379

380 **((B.)) Residential Land Use**

381 ((Housing is the major use of urban land in King County, occupying well over half of the county's developed
382 land area. This plan supports the creation of a full range of housing choices for county residents.)) The
383 Comprehensive Plan supports planning for and accommodating housing that is affordable to all economic
384 segments of the population, promoting a variety of residential densities and types, and encouraging preservation
385 of existing housing stock.

386

387 **U-118 New residential development in the Urban Growth Area should occur where**
388 **facilities and services can be provided at the lowest public cost and in a timely**
389 **fashion. The Urban Growth Area ((should have)) shall include zoning that**
390 **provides for a variety of housing types and prices, including mobile home parks,**

391 ~~((multifamily development))~~ **apartments, middle housing, townhouses, and**
392 **small-lot((;)) single((-family)) detached home development.**
393

394 **~~((1.))~~ Residential Densities**

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

402
403 **U-119 King County shall seek to achieve through future planning efforts, over the next**
404 **20 years, including collaborative efforts with cities, an average zoning density of**
405 **at least eight homes per acre in the Urban Growth Area through a mix of**
406 **densities and housing types. A lower density zone may be used to recognize**
407 **existing subdivisions with little or no opportunity for infill or redevelopment.**

408
409 **U-120 King County should apply the urban residential, low land use designation in**
410 **limited circumstances in unincorporated urban areas ((in order)) to protect((;))**
411 **floodplains, critical aquifer recharge areas, high function wetlands and unstable**
412 **slopes from degradation, and the link these environmental features have to a**
413 **network of open space, fish and wildlife habitat, and urban separators. The**
414 **residential density for land so designated should be maintained at one unit per**
415 **acre, and lands that are sending sites under the Transfer of Development Rights**
416 **Program may transfer density at a rate of at least four units per acre.**

417
418 **U-121 New multifamily housing should be built to the scale and design of the existing**
419 **community or neighborhood, while contributing to an area-wide density and**
420 **development pattern that supports transit and allows for a range of housing**
421 **choices. Multifamily housing in unincorporated urban areas should be sited as**
422 **follows:**
423 **a. In or next to unincorporated activity centers or next to community or**
424 **neighborhood business centers;**
425 **b. In mixed-use developments in centers and activity areas; and**
426 **c. On small, scattered parcels integrated into existing urban residential**
427 **areas. Over time, zoning should encourage a larger proportion of**
428 **multifamily housing to be located on small, scattered sites rather than on**
429 **larger sites.**

430

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

434
435 **U-122a** King County ~~((should))~~ shall explore zoning policies and provisions and tools
436 that increase housing density and affordable housing opportunities within
437 unincorporated urban ~~((growth))~~ areas, with a focus on areas near frequent
438 transit and commercial areas.
439

440 **((2.)) Minimum Density**

441 In accordance with the Countywide Planning Policies, King County has included a minimum density
442 requirement in its zoning regulations for all new urban residential development with a zoned density of four or
443 more homes per acre.
444

445 **U-123** King County should apply minimum density requirements to all unincorporated
446 urban residential zones of four or more homes per acre, except under limited
447 circumstances such as the:
448 a. Presence of significant physical constraints such as those noted in
449 policy U-120, or
450 b. Implementation of standards applied to a property through a
451 property-specific development condition~~((;))~~ or special district overlay~~((;))~~
452 ~~or subarea study)).~~
453

454 **((3.)) Increases of Zoning Density**

455 While King County supports higher densities in unincorporated urban areas, increased densities that would be
456 incompatible with existing neighborhoods or cause significant impacts on roads, services and the environment
457 are discouraged. The following policies will guide decisions on application of densities and proposed rezones.
458

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

462 **U-125** King County should support proposed zoning changes to increase density within
463 the unincorporated urban area when consistent with the King County
464 Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map and when the following conditions are
465 present:
466 a. The development will be compatible with the character and scale of the
467 surrounding neighborhood;
468 b. Urban public facilities and services are adequate, consistent with
469 adopted levels of service and meet Growth Management Act
470

- 471 concurrency requirements, including King County transportation
- 472 concurrency standards;
- 473 c. The proposed density change will not increase unmitigated adverse
- 474 impacts on environmentally critical areas or increase unmitigated
- 475 adverse displacement impacts on residents or businesses, either on site
- 476 or in the vicinity of the proposed development;
- 477 d. The proposed density increase will be consistent with or contribute to
- 478 achieving the goals and policies of ~~((this))~~ the ((e)) Comprehensive
- 479 ~~((p))~~ Plan((,)) and the subarea plan ((or subarea study)) for that
- 480 geography, if applicable((,or));
- 481 e. ~~((t))~~ The development is within walking distance of transit corridors or
- 482 transit activity centers, retail and commercial activities, and is accessible
- 483 to parks and other recreation opportunities; and
- 484 ~~((e-))~~ f. An equity impact analysis has been completed that identifies all potential
- 485 equity impacts and displacement risk to residents or businesses located
- 486 on or adjacent to the site proposed for zoning reclassification:
 - 487 1. For ~~((area zoning or))~~ zoning reclassifications initiated by the
 - 488 County in a subarea plan or area zoning and land use study, the
 - 489 analysis shall include, at a minimum, ((use of the County's Equity
 - 490 Impact Review tool)) an equity impact review.
 - 491 2. For zoning reclassifications not initiated by the County, a
 - 492 community meeting shall be held that meets the requirements of
 - 493 ~~((K.C.C.))~~ King County Code 20.20.035 prior to submittal of the
 - 494 application. Notice of the community meeting should be provided,
 - 495 at a minimum, in the top six languages ~~((identified by the tier map of~~
 - 496 ~~limited-English-proficient persons maintained by the office of equity~~
 - 497 ~~and social justice and the county demographer))~~ spoken in that
 - 498 community.

500 **U-126** King County, when evaluating rezone requests, shall consult with the city whose

501 Potential Annexation Area includes the property under review; if a

502 pre-annexation agreement exists, King County shall work with the city to ensure

503 compatibility with the city's pre-annexation zoning for the area. King County

504 shall also notify special purpose districts and local providers of urban utility

505 services and should work with these service providers on issues raised by the

506 proposal.

507

508 ~~((As part of its voluntary program with the Federal Aviation Administration to reduce aircraft noise inside~~

509 ~~residences surrounding the King County International Airport, the County completed a Federal Aviation~~

510 ~~Administration Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study. As part of the study, noise contours were~~

511 ~~developed and plotted as part of a Noise Mitigation Boundary. Over the past seven years and with available~~

512 ~~Federal Aviation Administration funding, the County completed a residential sound mitigation program within~~
513 ~~the Noise Mitigation Boundary. The program provided a variety of noise mitigation components, including~~
514 ~~insulation, windows, and ventilation to 609 homes surrounding the airport. The program was completed in~~
515 ~~2015.)~~

516
517 **U-127 King County shall not support requests for residential density increases or**
518 **conversion of non-residential property to residential uses on lands located within**
519 **the outer boundaries of the Federal Aviation Administration approved Noise**
520 **Mitigation Boundary as identified by Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and**
521 **King County International Airport.**

522
523 ~~((Development in the Unincorporated Urban Growth Area at a greater density than permitted by the minimum~~
524 ~~zoning density, but equal to or less than the maximum zoning density allowed under the Residential Density~~
525 ~~Incentive Program, will be allowed in exchange for public amenities such as low-income housing, preservation of~~
526 ~~designated historic features or extra energy conservation measures, or through the transfer of development rights~~
527 ~~from other parts of the county.~~

528
529 ~~**U-128 Density incentives should encourage private developers to: provide affordable**~~
530 ~~**housing, significant open space, trails and parks; use the Transfer of**~~
531 ~~**Development Rights Program, Low Impact Development and Green Building;**~~
532 ~~**locate development close to transit; participate in historic preservation; and**~~
533 ~~**include energy conservation measures.))**~~

534
535 **((4.)) Mixed-Use Development**

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

540
541 Mixed-use is traditional in older downtowns and commercial areas, where offices and retail typically occupy the
542 first floor and residences are upstairs. Mixed-use developments can help meet projected housing needs, promote
543 public health, and help provide mitigation for climate change by providing opportunities for people to walk or
544 bicycle to retail shopping, such as grocery stores with fresh fruits and vegetables and locally produced
545 value-added food products, such as cheese, meats, and preserves. It provides an opportunity to support
546 ~~((disadvantaged))~~ historically underserved communities by clustering public services. If people can replace some
547 of their driving trips with walking, biking, or transit, then vehicle miles traveled will decrease. Further, by
548 placing shopping and services close to where people live, even if some of the trips are made by ~~((auto))~~ vehicle,
549 they will be shorter than if the uses had been separated.

550

551 U-129 King County ~~((supports))~~ should allow mixed use developments in the urban area
552 in community and neighborhood business centers, unincorporated activity
553 centers, and in areas designated commercial outside of centers.

554
555 U-130 Design features of mixed-use developments should include the following:
556 a. Integration of the retail and/or office uses and residential units within the
557 same building or on the same parcel;
558 b. Quality and appropriate ground level spaces built to accommodate retail
559 and office uses;
560 c. Off-street parking behind or to the side of the buildings, or enclosed
561 within buildings; and
562 d. Opportunities to have safe, accessible pedestrian connections and
563 bicycle facilities within the development and to adjacent residential
564 developments.

565
566 U-131 In a mixed-use development where residential and nonresidential uses are
567 proposed in separate structures and the residential uses are proposed to be
568 constructed prior to the nonresidential uses, permitting and development
569 reviews should be through a process that ensures an integrated design.

570
571 U-132 In a mixed-use development, incentives such as increases in residential density
572 or floor area ratio should be used to encourage the inclusion of well-designed
573 and accessible public gathering spaces in the site design.

574
575 ~~((U-132a King County shall allow and support the development of innovative community
576 gardens and urban agriculture throughout the public realm of residential and
577 commercial areas.))~~

578
579 U-132b King County shall allow and support mixed-use food innovation districts
580 supportive of affordable, healthy local food.

581

582 **~~((5.)) Urban Residential Neighborhood Design and Infill/Redevelopment~~**

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

586

587 The high level of amenities and development include outdoor spaces that are usable, attractive, comfortable, and
588 enjoyable. The design of urban streets, including features such as parking strips, street trees, alleys and off-street
589 parking all contribute to the character of urban neighborhoods. Careful site planning can incorporate
590 neighborhood features, contribute to aesthetic value, minimize site disturbance, conserve energy, reduce urban

591 heat, and, in some cases, reduce development costs. Neighborhood shopping, grocery stores with fresh fruits
592 and vegetables, libraries, larger parks, schools, and public golf courses are examples of uses that provide
593 amenities for nearby residents.

594

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

599

600 **U-133** King County shall encourage ~~((s))~~ affordable, innovative, quality infill
601 development and redevelopment in existing unincorporated urban areas. A
602 variety of regulatory, incentive, and program strategies ~~((euld))~~ should be
603 considered, including:
604 a. **Special development standards for infill sites;**
605 b. **Assembly and resale of sites to providers of affordable and healthy**
606 **housing;**
607 c. ~~((Impact mitigation fee structures that favor infill developments;~~
608 ~~d.))~~ **Greater regulatory flexibility in allowing standards to be met using**
609 **innovative techniques;**
610 ~~((e.))~~ **d. Coordination with incentive programs of cities affiliated to annex the**
611 **area;**
612 ~~((f.))~~ **e. Green** ~~((B))~~ **building techniques that create sustainable development; and**
613 ~~((g.))~~ **f. Joint public/private loan guarantee pools.**

614

615 **U-134** ~~((family))~~ **Single** ~~((duplexes))~~ **detached homes, accessory dwelling units, townhomes,**
616 **middle housing, and apartments shall be allowed in all urban**
617 **residential zones, provided that apartments, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes**
618 **shall not be:**
619 a. ~~((Apartments shall not be a))~~ **Allowed in the R-1 zone unless 50** ~~((%))~~
620 **percent or more of the site is environmentally constrained; and**
621 b. ~~((Apartments in R-1, R-4, R-6 and R-8 shall not be d))~~ **Developed at**
622 **densities in excess of 18 units per acre in the net buildable area in the R-**
623 **1, R-4, R-6, or R-8 zone.**

624

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

629

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

632
633 **U-137** New urban residential developments should provide recreational space,
634 community facilities, and neighborhood circulation for pedestrians and bicyclists
635 to increase opportunities for physical activity and ensure access to transit
636 facilities where they exist or are planned.

637
638 **U-138** Residential developments should provide a variety of housing types and lot
639 patterns through lot clustering, flexible setback requirements, and mixed
640 attached and detached housing.

641
642 **U-139** Nonresidential uses, such as schools, ~~((religious facilities))~~ places of worship,
643 libraries, and small-scale retail and personal services, should be integrated into
644 urban residential neighborhoods to create viable neighborhoods with reduced
645 dependence on ~~((the automobile))~~ vehicles. These uses should be sited,
646 designed, and scaled to be compatible with existing residential character and
647 should provide convenient and safe walking and bicycling connections to
648 neighboring residences.

649
650 **U-139a** King County shall support policy and system changes that increase access to
651 affordable, healthy foods in neighborhoods.

652
653 **U-139b** King County should allow the creation of local improvement districts, where
654 required to carry out important public functions that are not otherwise able to be
655 carried out by existing local governments.

656
657 Multifamily residential development is important to King County's housing supply because it uses land and
658 energy efficiently and provides opportunities for affordable rental and ownership housing. Multifamily
659 development is defined as one building that contains two or more separate dwelling units. Multifamily
660 developments can be apartments, ~~((duplexes))~~ middle housing, townhouses, or ~~((other))~~ innovative housing
661 types.

662
663 **U-140** Multifamily residential development should provide common and private open
664 space; variation in facades and other building design features that may include
665 varying window treatments, building colors, and materials; and light fixtures that
666 will give a residential scale and identity to multifamily development.

667
668 ~~((Generally, larger parcels of buildable vacant land in the Urban Growth Area have been preferred for
669 development. Development of these large parcels, especially for attached units at higher densities, often
670 provoked concerns about compatibility due to their scale and design.~~

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~~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.

~~(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 Common facilities 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 developments. 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

711 state and local regulations to avoid exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and
712 emissions from electronic smoking and vaping devices.

713
714 Neighborhood recreation space and parks are important amenities for residents. The higher the density, the
715 more essential such amenities become to a desirable living environment. If the site of a proposed development is
716 large enough, a park site dedication or private park site can be required as a condition of a rezone, subdivision,
717 or site plan approval.

718
719 **U-144 Recreation space based on the size of the developments shall be provided on**
720 **site, except that in limited cases, fee payments for local level park and outdoor**
721 **recreation needs may be accepted by King County.**

722
723 **U-145 Recreation spaces located within ~~((a residential))~~ the following developments,**
724 **except those for elderly or other special needs populations, shall include a**
725 **child's play area:**
726 **a. single detached subdivisions;**
727 **b. apartment, townhouse, and mixed-use developments, of more than four**
728 **units in the UR and R-4 through R-48 zones; and**
729 **c. stand-alone townhouse developments in the NB zone of more than four**
730 **units on property designated commercial outside of center in the urban**
731 **area.**

732
733 **U-146 Recreation spaces located in residential developments in the Urban Area should**
734 **include amenities such as play equipment, open grassy areas, barbecues,**
735 **benches, bicycle racks, trails, and picnic tables.**

736
737 **~~((C.))~~ Commercial Land Use**

738 The Countywide Planning Policies call for a significant share of new jobs and housing to occur within cities and
739 in ~~((urban))~~ regional and countywide growth centers, which are areas of concentrated employment and housing.
740 ~~((The designated urban centers are to accommodate 15,000 jobs within a one-half mile radius of a major transit~~
741 ~~stop, an average employment density of 50 jobs per gross acre and an average of 15 housing units per gross~~
742 ~~acre.))~~ Criteria related to densities, planning, and infrastructure for growth centers are included in the
743 Multicounty Planning Policies and Countywide Planning Policies. ~~((All of the urban))~~ Regional centers are
744 designated by the Puget Sound Regional Council ((as Regional Growth Centers)) and all are located in cities.
745 Countywide centers are designated by the Growth Management Planning Council and are located in both
746 incorporated and unincorporated areas. The County's two unincorporated activity centers (Skyway and White
747 Center) meet the criteria for countywide center designation. King County intends to apply for this designation
748 following adoption of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

749

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

760

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

767

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

771

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

777

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

781

782 **~~((1.))~~ Unincorporated Activity Centers**

783 Unincorporated activity centers are the primary locations for commercial and industrial development in urban
784 unincorporated King County. White Center and Skyway are the only designated unincorporated activity
785 centers. ~~((The North Highline Community Service Area Subarea Plan establishes the size of, and mix of uses~~
786 ~~allowed in, the White Center Unincorporated Activity Center. The Skyway West Hill Community Service Area~~
787 ~~Subarea Plan establishes the size and mix of uses in the Skyway Unincorporated Activity Center.)) The Land
788 Use Map designates unincorporated activity centers. The North Highline Community Service Area Subarea~~

789 Plan and Skyway-West Hill Community Service Area Subarea Plan establishes policy direction for development
790 and uses in each respective activity center.

791

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

- 795 a. **Health, human service and public safety facilities;**
- 796 b. **Retail stores and services;**
- 797 c. **Professional offices;**
- 798 d. **Business/office parks;**
- 799 e. **Multifamily housing and mixed-use developments;**
- 800 f. **Heavy commercial and industrial uses, when there is direct freeway or**
801 **rail access;**
- 802 g. **Light manufacturing;**
- 803 h. **Parks and open space; and**
- 804 i. **Farmers Markets.**

805

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

810

811 **U-152** **King County may designate new unincorporated activity centers or expand**
812 **existing unincorporated activity centers only through a subarea planning**
813 **process that should address:**

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

821

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

- 824 a. **Be ~~((M))~~ more than ~~((forty))~~ 40 acres in size, excluding land needed for**
825 **surface water management or protection of environmentally critical**
826 **areas;**
- 827 b. **Include ~~((R))~~ retail space based on the amount of residential development**
828 **planned for the surrounding area to provide for community and local**
829 **shopping needs; and**

830 c. ~~Limit ((R))~~retail space ~~((should not exceed))~~ to a maximum of 60 acres
831 and 600,000 square feet unless ((it is served by direct freeway access
832 by)) located on a principal or minor arterial that connects directly to a
833 freeway and the retail space is well served by transit.

834

835 **U-154** Design features of unincorporated activity centers should include the following:

- 836 a. Safe and attractive walkways and bicycle facilities for all ages and
- 837 abilities with access to each major destination, including schools,
- 838 community centers, and commercial areas;
- 839 b. Buildings close to sidewalks to promote walking and access to transit;
- 840 c. Compact design with close grouping of compatible uses;
- 841 d. Off-street parking in multistory structures located to the side or rear of
- 842 buildings or underground;
- 843 e. Public art;
- 844 f. Public spaces, such as plazas and building atriums;
- 845 g. Retention of attractive natural features, historic buildings, and
- 846 established character;
- 847 h. Aesthetic design and compatibility with adjacent uses through setbacks,
- 848 building orientation, landscaping, and traffic control;
- 849 i. Screening of unsightly views, such as heavy machinery, outdoor storage
- 850 areas, loading docks, and parking areas from the view of adjacent uses
- 851 and from arterials; and
- 852 j. Signs should be regulated to reduce glare and other adverse visual
- 853 impacts on nearby residences, without limiting their potential
- 854 contribution to the color and character of the center.

855

856 **U 158** New major residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments in
857 unincorporated activity centers should include low impact design features and
858 should promote public health by increasing opportunities for physical activity in
859 daily life. The development should include: safe walkways and bicycle facilities
860 for all ages and abilities with access to commercial areas, schools, and
861 community facilities; trails; and pocket parks.

862

863 **~~((2,))~~ Community Business Centers**

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

870

871 **U-159** Community business centers in the urban areas should provide primarily
872 shopping and personal services for nearby residents. Offices and multifamily
873 housing are also encouraged. Industrial and heavy commercial uses should be
874 excluded. Community business centers should include the following mix of
875 uses:
876 a. Retail stores and services;
877 b. Professional offices;
878 c. Community and human services;
879 d. Multifamily housing as part of a mixed-use development, with residential
880 densities of at least 12 units per acre when well served by transit; and
881 e. Stands or small outlets that offer fresh, affordable fruit and produce and
882 locally produced value-added food products.

883

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

889

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

892

893 **U-162** The specific size and boundaries of community business centers should be
894 ~~((consistent with the criteria listed below))~~;
895 a. More than 10 acres and up to 40 acres in size, excluding land needed for
896 surface water management or protection of environmentally critical
897 areas;
898 b. Designed to provide shopping and services for a market population of
899 15,000 to 40,000 people;
900 c. Located one to three miles from an unincorporated activity center or
901 from another community business center. May be located less than two
902 miles from a neighborhood business center when it is demonstrated the
903 neighborhood business center will not be adversely affected; and
904 d. ~~((Must be 1))~~ Located at the intersection of two principal or minor
905 arterials.

906

907 **U-163** Design features of community business centers should include the following:
908 a. Safe and attractive walkways and bicycle facilities for all ages and
909 abilities;
910 b. Close grouping of stores;

- 911 c. Off-street parking behind or to the side of buildings, or enclosed within
- 912 buildings;
- 913 d. Public art;
- 914 e. Retention of attractive natural features, historic buildings, and
- 915 established character;
- 916 f. Landscaping, which may include planters and street trees;
- 917 g. Appropriate signage;
- 918 h. Public seating areas; and
- 919 i. Architectural features that provide variation between buildings or
- 920 contiguous storefronts.
- 921

922 **((3.)) Neighborhood Business Centers**

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

928
929 As shown on the Urban Centers map at the end of this chapter, King County has seven of these centers,
930 including Avondale Corner, Beverly Park, Jovita, Lake Geneva, Martin Luther King Jr. Way/60th Ave.-64th
931 Ave. S, Rainier Ave. S./S. 114th St.-S. 117th St., and Spider Lake.

932
933 **U-164 Neighborhood business centers in urban areas should include primarily retail**
934 **stores and offices designed to provide convenient shopping and other services**
935 **for nearby residents. Industrial and heavy commercial uses should be excluded.**

- 936 **Neighborhood business centers should include the following mix of uses:**
- 937 a. **Retail stores and services;**
 - 938 b. **Professional offices;**
 - 939 c. **Multifamily housing as part of a mixed-use development with residential**
940 **densities up to 12 units per acre when convenient to a minor arterial.**
941 **Higher densities are appropriate when the center is a walkable**
942 **community, convenient to a principal arterial or well-served by transit;**
943 **and**
 - 944 d. **Farmers Markets.**

945
946 **U-165 Designated neighborhood business centers are shown on the Comprehensive**
947 **Plan Land Use Map. Expansion of existing or the designation of new**
948 **neighborhood business centers shall only be permitted through a subarea plan**

949 or area zoning and land use study. Redevelopment and infill development of
950 existing neighborhood business centers is encouraged.

951
952 **U-166** Within neighborhood business centers, the following zoning is appropriate:
953 **Neighborhood Business and Office.**

954
955 **U-167** The specific size and boundaries of neighborhood business centers should be
956 ~~((consistent with the criteria listed below.))~~;
957 a. Ten acres or less in size, excluding land needed for surface water
958 management or protection of ~~((environmentally sensitive features))~~
959 critical areas;
960 b. Designed to provide convenience shopping for a market population of
961 8,000 to 15,000 people;
962 c. Located within walking distance of transit corridors or transit activity
963 centers; and
964 d. Located one to three miles from another neighborhood business center.

965
966 **U-168** Design features of neighborhood business centers should include the following:
967 a. Safe and attractive walkways and bicycle facilities for all ages and
968 abilities;
969 b. Close grouping of stores;
970 c. Off-street parking behind or to the side of buildings, or enclosed within
971 buildings;
972 d. Public art;
973 e. Retention of attractive natural features, historic buildings, or established
974 character;
975 f. Landscaping, which may include planters and street trees;
976 g. Appropriate signage;
977 h. Public seating areas; and
978 i. Architectural features that provide variation between buildings or
979 contiguous storefronts.

980

981 **~~((4.)) Commercial Development Outside of Centers~~**

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

989

990 U-169

Stand-alone commercial developments legally established outside designated centers in the unincorporated urban area may be recognized with the ~~((CQ))~~ 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 or land use study, if the current ~~((CQ))~~ 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.

993

1000 U-170

The ~~((CQ))~~ Commercial Outside of Center designation may 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.

1001

1012 **~~((5.)) Commercial Site Improvement Standards and Public Services~~**

1013 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.

1014

1015 U-171

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 developments shall provide the following improvements:

1016

1017

1018

1019

1020

- 1021 a. Paved streets;
- 1022 b. Sidewalks for all ages and abilities and bicycle facilities in commercial
- 1023 and retail areas;
- 1024 c. Adequate parking for employees and business users;
- 1025 d. Landscaping along or within streets, sidewalks, and parking areas to
- 1026 provide an attractive appearance;
- 1027 e. Adequate stormwater control, including curbs, gutters, and stormwater
- 1028 retention facilities;
- 1029 f. Public water supply;
- 1030 g. Public sewers;
- 1031 h. Controlled traffic access to arterials and intersections; and
- 1032 i. Where appropriate, in commercial areas, common facilities, such as
- 1033 shared streets, walkways, and waste disposal and recycling with
- 1034 appropriate levels of landscaping.

1035
1036 The design and construction quality of development in unincorporated urban
1037 areas should meet or exceed the quality in the area's designated annexation city.
1038

1039 **~~((6.))~~ Industrial Development**

1040 Maintaining a strong industrial land supply is an important factor in maintaining the county's economic base and
1041 providing family-wage jobs. The following policies assure that industrial development is supported and is also
1042 compatible with adjacent land uses while providing appropriate services for employees. In addition, King
1043 County is committed to helping return contaminated sites to productive use.

1044
1045 **U-172** Within the Urban Growth Area(~~(, but outside unincorporated activity centers,))~~
1046 properties with existing industrial uses shall be protected. The ~~((e))~~County may
1047 use tools such as special district overlays to identify them for property owners
1048 and residents of surrounding neighborhoods.

1049
1050 **U-173** Industrial development should have direct access from arterials or freeways.
1051 Access points should be combined and limited in number to allow smooth traffic
1052 flow on arterials. Access through residential areas should be avoided.

1053
1054 **U-174** Small amounts of retail and service uses in industrial areas may be allowed for
1055 convenience to employees and users.

1056
1057 **U-175** King County, in collaboration with cities and the development community, should
1058 create and fund a process to clean up and reclaim polluted industrial areas ~~((in~~
1059 ~~order))~~ to expand the land available for industrial development.
1060

1061 **~~((D-))~~ Urban Planned Developments and Fully Contained Communities**

1062 The Growth Management Act allows, within the designated Urban Growth Area, development of large land
1063 ownerships that may offer the public and the property owner opportunities to realize mutual benefits when such
1064 development is coordinated through the review process as an Urban Planned Development. ~~((Possible public
1065 benefits include greater preservation of public open space, proponent contributions to major capital improvement
1066 needs, diversity in housing types and affordability, and the establishment of the specific range and intensity of
1067 uses for the entire Urban Planned Development. A property owner and the public could benefit from the
1068 efficiency of combined hearings and land use decision making, as well as the establishment of comprehensive
1069 and consistently applied project wide mitigations guiding the review of subsequent land use approvals.))~~ In the
1070 mid-1990s, King County approved the Bear Creek Urban Planned Developments (also referred to as the Novelty
1071 Hill Urban Planned Developments) in the communities of Redmond Ridge, Redmond Ridge East, and Trilogy.

1072
1073 The Growth Management Act also allows counties to establish a process, as part of the Urban Growth Area
1074 designation, for reviewing proposals to authorize new Fully Contained Communities. The Bear Creek Urban
1075 Planned Developments were also approved as Fully Contained Communities.

1076
1077 The Bear Creek Urban Planned Development agreements and Fully Contained Community approvals expired in
1078 2020 and 2023. At that time, the former Urban Planned Development and Fully Contained Community areas
1079 were redesignated in the Comprehensive Plan consistent with their developed conditions. Their zoning was also
1080 changed to ensure the areas could continue to be used in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Plan land
1081 use designations.

1082
1083 At this time, there are no longer large, undeveloped unincorporated urban areas that would be suitable for future
1084 designation and development of additional Urban Planned Developments or Fully Contained Communities.

1085
1086 ~~**((U-176) Sites for potential new Urban Planned Developments may be designated within
1087 the established Urban Growth Area to realize mutual benefits for the public and
1088 the property owner. Two Urban Planned Developments areas have been
1089 designated by the county: the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area,
1090 comprised of the Redmond Ridge (formerly known as Northridge) Urban Planned
1091 Development, the Trilogy at Redmond Ridge (formerly known as Blakely Ridge)
1092 Urban Planned Development, and the Redmond Ridge East Urban Planned
1093 Development; and Cougar Mountain Village Urban Planned Development. Future
1094 Urban Planned Development sites in the Urban Growth Area shall be designated
1095 through a subarea planning process, or through a Comprehensive Plan
1096 amendment initiated by the property owner.**~~

1097

**((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)) TBD**

- 1098 ~~U-177~~ ~~_____~~ ~~The creation of Urban Planned Developments is intended to serve as a model for~~
1099 ~~achieving a mix of uses, appropriate development patterns, and high quality~~
1100 ~~design, as well as providing for public benefits that shall include:~~
1101 ~~a. _____ Open space and critical areas protection;~~
1102 ~~b. _____ Diversity in housing types and affordability;~~
1103 ~~c. _____ Quality site design; and~~
1104 ~~d. _____ Transit and nonmotorized transportation opportunities.~~
1105

1106 ~~The Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area was first designated for urban development in 1989 in the~~
1107 ~~Bear Creek Community Plan. The urban designation of this area under the Growth Management Act was~~
1108 ~~established in the Countywide Planning Policies in 1992 and affirmed in 1994. The Bear Creek Urban Planned~~
1109 ~~Development area was included in the Urban Growth Area designated in the 1994 King County Comprehensive~~
1110 ~~Plan. Since the adoption of the 1994 Comprehensive Plan, both Redmond Ridge and Trilogy have been~~
1111 ~~approved as Urban Planned Developments and King County has entered into development agreements~~
1112 ~~governing the development of these sites. The legality of these development approvals was challenged and these~~
1113 ~~legal challenges have been rejected. Therefore, these sites will be, and are being, developed at urban densities.~~
1114

1115 ~~Through the adoption of the 2000 King County Comprehensive Plan update, King County reaffirmed its urban~~
1116 ~~designation of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area. In addition to the reasons that led the County~~
1117 ~~(and the region) to originally include this area within the County's Urban Growth Area, when the County~~
1118 ~~adopted the 2000 update, it noted that: two sites within this area had been approved for urban development after~~
1119 ~~the adoption of the original Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan; significant infrastructure~~
1120 ~~improvements had been made at these sites; and the ultimate development of these sites was proceeding in~~
1121 ~~accordance with issued permit approvals. The existence of these urban improvements further supported a~~
1122 ~~conclusion that this area is characterized by urban growth within the meaning of the Growth Management Act~~
1123 ~~and was therefore appropriately included within the County's Urban Growth Area.~~
1124

1125 ~~Since the county considered and adopted the 2000 update, significant development within the Bear Creek Urban~~
1126 ~~Planned Development area has taken place. The Urban Planned Development permits approved by the county~~
1127 ~~required the construction of infrastructure needed to support urban development of the Bear Creek Urban~~
1128 ~~Planned Development area. Those infrastructure improvements have now been completed or are under~~
1129 ~~construction. This includes sanitary sewer trunk lines and pump stations; water trunk lines, pump stations, and~~
1130 ~~storage facilities; stormwater collection, detention, treatment and discharge facilities; other utilities; a park and~~
1131 ~~open space system linked by trails; and required road improvements. In addition, King County has granted final~~
1132 ~~plat approval for lots for more than 2,100 of the dwelling units approved by the Redmond Ridge and Trilogy~~
1133 ~~Urban Planned Development permits and more than 1,600 of those dwelling units have been built, are under~~
1134 ~~construction, or have been permitted. Furthermore, major community facilities and services such as the 18-hole~~
1135 ~~golf course and clubhouse, the Redmond Ridge Community Center, and the retail center and grocery store have~~
1136 ~~been completed or are under construction. All of these developments support the conclusion that the Redmond~~
1137 ~~Ridge and Trilogy Urban Planned Development sites are now fully characterized by and irrevocably committed~~

**((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)) TBD**

1138 to urban growth, and the county therefore reaffirms its urban designation of the Bear Creek Urban Planned
1139 Development area.

1140
1141 The urban designation of the Bear Creek, now referred to as Redmond Ridge East, has an approved Urban
1142 Planned Development permit and a Fully Contained Community permit that authorized the urban development
1143 of Redmond Ridge East. Redmond Ridge East is served by the urban infrastructure that has already been
1144 constructed to serve the Redmond Ridge and Trilogy Urban Planned Development sites.

1145
1146 The county reaffirms its urban designation of the Redmond Ridge East for the following reasons: this site has
1147 always been treated by King County as part of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development urban area; this site
1148 is adjacent to the urban development that has already occurred and that will continue to occur at Trilogy and
1149 Redmond Ridge; this site is located in relationship to the rest of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development
1150 area so as to be appropriate for urban growth; and this site is an area that will be served by existing urban public
1151 facilities and services that have been provided in accordance with Trilogy and Redmond Ridge Urban Planned
1152 Development permit requirements.

1153
1154 The Growth Management Act allows counties to establish a process, as part of the Urban Growth Area
1155 designation, for reviewing proposals to authorize new Fully Contained Communities. Criteria for approval of
1156 Fully Contained Communities are contained in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.350. If a county
1157 establishes in its comprehensive plan a process for authorizing Fully Contained Communities, it must adopt
1158 procedures for approving Fully Contained Communities in its development regulations. King County has
1159 established a Fully Contained Community consisting of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area.

1160
1161 **~~U-178~~ King County has established a Fully Contained Community. This one area is
1162 **~~designated through this Comprehensive Plan and is shown on the Land Use Map~~**
1163 **~~as the urban planned community of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development~~**
1164 **~~area comprised of Trilogy at Redmond Ridge, Redmond Ridge, and Redmond~~**
1165 **~~Ridge East Urban Planned Development sites. Nothing in these policies shall~~**
1166 **~~affect the continued validity of the approved Urban Planned Development permits~~**
1167 **~~for these sites. This Fully Contained Community designation may be~~**
1168 **~~implemented by separate or coordinated Fully Contained Community permits.~~****

1169
1170 **~~U-179~~ The population, household, and employment growth targets and allocations for
1171 **~~the county's Urban Growth Area in this plan include the Bear Creek Urban~~**
1172 **~~Planned Development area. Accordingly, the requirements in Revised Code of~~**
1173 **~~Washington 36.70A.350(2) that the county reserve a portion of the 20-year~~**
1174 **~~population projection for allocation to new Fully Contained Communities has~~**
1175 **~~been satisfied.~~****

1176

1177 **U-180** ~~The review and approval process for a Fully Contained Community permit shall~~
1178 ~~be the same as that for an Urban Planned Development permit, except the~~
1179 ~~following additional criteria shall be met, pursuant to the provisions of RCW~~
1180 ~~36.70A.350:~~
1181 ~~a. New infrastructure (including transportation and utilities infrastructure)~~
1182 ~~is provided for and impact fees are established and imposed on the Fully~~
1183 ~~Contained Community consistent with the requirements of RCW~~
1184 ~~82.02.050;~~
1185 ~~b. Transit-oriented site planning and traffic demand management programs~~
1186 ~~are implemented in the Fully Contained Community. Pedestrian, bicycle,~~
1187 ~~and high-occupancy vehicle facilities are given high priority in design~~
1188 ~~and management of the Fully Contained Community;~~
1189 ~~c. Buffers are provided between the Fully Contained Community and~~
1190 ~~adjacent non-Fully Contained Community areas. Perimeter buffers~~
1191 ~~located within the perimeter boundaries of the Fully Contained~~
1192 ~~Community delineated boundaries, consisting of either landscaped~~
1193 ~~areas with native vegetation or natural areas, shall be provided and~~
1194 ~~maintained to reduce impacts on adjacent lands;~~
1195 ~~d. A mix of uses is provided to offer jobs, housing, and services to the~~
1196 ~~residents of the new Fully Contained Community. No particular~~
1197 ~~percentage formula for the mix of uses should be required. Instead, the~~
1198 ~~mix of uses for a Fully Contained Community should be evaluated on a~~
1199 ~~case-by-case basis, in light of the geography, market demand area,~~
1200 ~~demographics, transportation patterns, and other relevant factors~~
1201 ~~affecting the proposed Fully Contained Community. Service uses in the~~
1202 ~~Fully Contained Community may also serve residents outside the Fully~~
1203 ~~Contained Community, where appropriate;~~
1204 ~~e. Affordable housing is provided within the new Fully Contained~~
1205 ~~Community for a broad range of income levels, including housing~~
1206 ~~affordable by households with income levels below and near the median~~
1207 ~~income for King County;~~
1208 ~~f. Environmental protection has been addressed and provided for in the~~
1209 ~~new Fully Contained Community, at levels at least equivalent to those~~
1210 ~~imposed by adopted King County environmental regulations;~~
1211 ~~g. Development regulations are established to ensure urban growth will not~~
1212 ~~occur in adjacent nonurban areas. Such regulations shall include but~~
1213 ~~are not limited to: rural zoning of adjacent Rural Areas; Fully Contained~~
1214 ~~Community permit conditions requiring sizing of Fully Contained~~
1215 ~~Community water and sewer systems so as to ensure urban growth will~~
1216 ~~not occur in adjacent nonurban areas; and/or Fully Contained~~
1217 ~~Community permit conditions prohibiting connection by property~~

1218 owners in the adjacent Rural Area (except public school sites) to the
1219 Fully Contained Community sewer and water mains or lines;
1220 h. ~~Provision is made to mitigate impacts of the Fully Contained Community~~
1221 ~~on designated agricultural lands, forest lands, and mineral resource~~
1222 ~~lands; and~~
1223 i. ~~The plan for the new Fully Contained Community is consistent with the~~
1224 ~~development regulations established for the protection of critical areas~~
1225 ~~by King County pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170.~~

1226
1227 ~~For purposes of evaluating a Fully Contained Community permit the following~~
1228 ~~direction is provided: The term "fully contained" is not intended to prohibit all~~
1229 ~~interaction between a Fully Contained Community and adjacent lands but to limit~~
1230 ~~impacts on adjacent lands and contain them within the development site as much~~
1231 ~~as possible. "Fully contained" should be achieved through the imposition of~~
1232 ~~development conditions that limit impacts on adjacent and nearby lands and do~~
1233 ~~not increase pressures on adjacent lands for urban development. "Fully~~
1234 ~~contained" is not intended to mandate that all utilities and public services~~
1235 ~~needed by an urban population both start and end within the property (since~~
1236 ~~sewer, water, power, and roads, are of such a nature that the origin and/or outfall~~
1237 ~~cannot reasonably exist within the property boundaries), but that the costs and~~
1238 ~~provisions for those utilities and public services that are generated primarily by~~
1239 ~~the Fully Contained Community (schools, police, parks, employment, retail~~
1240 ~~needs) be reasonably accommodated within its boundaries and not increase~~
1241 ~~pressure for more urban development on adjacent properties.)~~

1242
1243 U-181 ~~((Except for existing Fully Contained Community designations, n))~~No new Urban
1244 Planned Developments or Fully Contained Communities shall be designated or
1245 approved in King County.
1246

1247 ~~((E.))~~ **Urban Separators and the Four-to-One Program**

1248 The Countywide Planning Policies call for the ~~((e))~~County and cities to implement urban separators. Different
1249 from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, these are low-density areas within the Urban Growth Area
1250 that create open space corridors, provide a visual contrast to continuous development, and reinforce the unique
1251 identities of communities. Urban separators can play a significant role in preserving environmentally critical
1252 areas and in providing habitat for fish and wildlife. They also provide recreational benefits, such as parks and
1253 trails, and meet the Growth Management Act's requirement for greenbelts and open space in the Urban Growth
1254 Area. Urban Separators are ~~((mapped on the Land Use 2008 map in))~~ designated in the Countywide Planning
1255 Policies and are shown in the Land Use Map at the end of Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning.
1256

1257 **U-182** Urban separators are corridors of land that define community or municipal
1258 identities and boundaries, provide visual breaks in the urban landscape, and link
1259 parks and open space within and outside the Urban Growth Area. These urban
1260 corridors should include and link parks and other lands that contain significant
1261 ~~((environmentally sensitive features))~~ **critical areas**, provide wildlife habitat or
1262 critical resource protection, contain defining physical features, or contain
1263 historic resources. The residential density for land so designated should be
1264 maintained at one unit per acre, and lands that are sending sites under the
1265 Transfer of Development Rights Program may transfer density at a rate of at least
1266 four units per acre.

1268 **U-183** King County should ~~((actively pursue designating urban separators in the
1269 unincorporated area and))~~ work with the cities to establish **and maintain**
1270 permanent urban separators within the incorporated area that link with and
1271 enhance King County's urban separator corridors.

1273 **U-184** Designated urban separators should be preserved through park, trail, and open
1274 space acquisitions; incentive programs such as the Transfer of Development
1275 Rights Program; the Public Benefit Rating System Program; and regulatory
1276 measures.

1278 While urban separators complement the regional open space system by helping to define urban communities, the
1279 King County Four-to-One Program provides an opportunity to add land to the regional open space system
1280 through the dedication of permanent open space. The Four-to-One Program has been recognized as an
1281 innovative land use technique under the Growth Management Act⁽³⁾ and for King County, the purpose of the
1282 program is to create a contiguous band of open space, running north and south along the ~~((main))~~ Urban Growth
1283 Area ~~((B))~~ boundary. Since its inception in 1994, just over ~~((1,300))~~ **360** acres have been added to the Urban
1284 Growth Area while nearly ~~((4,500))~~ **1,300** acres of permanent open space have been conserved through the Four-
1285 to-One Program. Changes to the Urban Growth Area through this program are processed as ~~((L))~~ land ~~((U))~~ use
1286 ~~((A))~~ amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan, subject to the provisions in King County Code
1287 ~~((e))~~ Chapter 20.18.

1289 **U-185** Through the Four-to-One Program, King County shall actively pursue dedication
1290 of open space along the original Urban Growth Area ~~((line))~~ **boundary** adopted in
1291 the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan. Through this program, one acre of
1292 Rural Area zoned land may be added to the Urban Growth Area in exchange for a
1293 dedication to King County of four acres of permanent open space. ~~((Land added
1294 to the Urban Growth Area for drainage facilities that are designed as mitigation to~~

⁽³⁾ 36.70A.070(5)(b) and .090 Revised Code of Washington)

1295 ~~have a natural looking visual appearance in support of its development, does not~~
1296 ~~require dedication of permanent open space.))~~

1297
1298 **U-186** King County shall evaluate Four-to-One proposals for both quality of open space
1299 and feasibility of urban development and annexation. The highest-quality
1300 proposals shall be recommended for adoption as amendments to the Urban
1301 Growth Area. Lands preserved as open space shall retain their Rural Area
1302 ~~designations ((and should))~~; generally be configured in such a way as to connect
1303 with open space on adjacent properties; include half of the site in dedicated open
1304 space; and fully buffer the new urban area from surrounding Rural Area lands
1305 and Natural Resource Lands.

1306
1307 **U-187** King County shall use the following criteria for evaluating open space in
1308 Four-to-One proposals:
1309 a. Quality of fish and wildlife habitat areas;
1310 b. Connections to regional open space systems;
1311 c. Protection of wetlands, stream corridors, ground water and water
1312 bodies;
1313 d. Unique natural, biological, cultural, historical, or archeological features;
1314 e. Size of proposed open space dedication and connection to other open
1315 space dedications along the Urban Growth Area ~~((line))~~ boundary; and
1316 f. The land proposed as open space shall remain undeveloped, except for
1317 those uses allowed in ~~((U-488))~~ in King County Code 20.18.180.

1318
1319 **U-188** King County shall preserve the open space acquired through the Four-to-One
1320 Program primarily as natural areas, passive recreation sites, or resource lands
1321 for farming or forestry. King County may allow ~~((the following))~~ additional uses
1322 only if located on a small portion of the open space, provided that these uses are
1323 found to be compatible with the site's natural open space values and functions,
1324 such as those listed in ~~((the preceding policy:~~
1325 a. ~~Trails;~~
1326 b. ~~Compensatory mitigation of wetland losses on the urban designated~~
1327 ~~portion of the project, consistent with the King County Comprehensive~~
1328 ~~Plan and the Critical Area Ordinance; and~~
1329 c. ~~Active recreation uses not to exceed five percent of the total open space~~
1330 ~~area. Support services and facilities for the active recreation uses may~~
1331 ~~locate within the active recreation area only, and shall not exceed five~~
1332 ~~percent of the active recreation area. An active recreation area shall not~~
1333 ~~be used to satisfy the active recreation requirements for the urban~~
1334 ~~designated portion of the project as required by))~~ King County Code
1335 ~~((Title 24A))~~ King County Code 20.18.180.

1336

1337 **U-189**

Land added to the Urban Growth Area under the Four-to-One Program shall:

1338

a. Not expand the Urban Growth Area from a location that was previously expanded through the Four-to-One Program;

1339

1340

b. Be limited to residential development and have a minimum density of ((four)) eight dwellings per acre ((and));

1341

1342

c. ((shall be)) Be ((physically contiguous)) adjacent to the original Urban Growth Area boundary adopted in the 1994 Comprehensive Plan, unless there are limitations due to the presence of critical areas((, and));

1343

1344

1345

d. ((shall be)) 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((-);

1346

1347

1348

1349

e. ((Drainage facilities to s)) Support the urban development ((shall be)) with drainage facilities that are located within the urban portion of the development((-);

1350

1351

1352

1353

f. ((In some cases, lands must m)) Meet affordable housing requirements under this program((-); and

1354

1355

g. ((The total area)) Not result in more than a total of 4,000 acres being added to the Urban Growth Area as a result of this ((policy shall not exceed 4,000 acres)) program.

1356

1357

1358

1359 **U-190**

~~((King County shall amend))~~ Amendments to the Urban Growth Area to add Rural Area lands to the Urban Growth Area ~~((consistent with Policy U-185))~~ through the Four-to-One Program may be made during the annual, midpoint, or 10-year Comprehensive Plan amendment process. 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 annual ~~((review of))~~ update to the King County Comprehensive Plan.

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1369 **U-190a**

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.

1370

1371

1372

1373

~~**(F. Eastside Rail Corridor**~~

1374

~~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~~

1375

1376 approximately seven mile “spur” extending from Woodinville to Redmond. King County, the cities of Redmond
1377 and Kirkland, Sound Transit, and Puget Sound Energy have acquired Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway’s
1378 (BNSF) property interests in the Eastside Rail Corridor and have established a shared policy goal of dual use
1379 (recreational trail and public transportation), supporting mobility through transit, nonmotorized and active
1380 transportation, including access to transit outside the corridor, consistent with its federal railbanked status. The
1381 owners share other multiple objectives for the corridor, including accommodating utilities, parks, recreation and
1382 cultural amenities, and encouraging equitable access to these facilities, and to housing and jobs, in support of
1383 economic opportunity for all King County residents.

1384

1385 ~~U-191~~ ~~King County shall collaborate with all Eastside Rail Corridor owners, adjacent~~
1386 ~~and neighboring jurisdictions, and other interested and affected parties in~~
1387 ~~support of achieving a vision for the corridor that includes dual use (recreational~~
1388 ~~trail and public transportation) and supports multiple objectives, consistent with~~
1389 ~~federal railbanking.~~

1390

1391 ~~U-192~~ ~~King County shall identify and implement actions that support development of~~
1392 ~~the Eastside Rail Corridor to include dual use (recreational trail and public~~
1393 ~~transportation), consistent with federal railbanking, and to achieve multiple~~
1394 ~~objectives, such as actions to include property management and maintenance,~~
1395 ~~service and capital planning and improvements, community and stakeholder~~
1396 ~~engagement, securing funding to implement priority activities, and other actions.~~

1397

1398 ~~U-193~~ ~~King County shall work within all appropriate planning venues and processes to~~
1399 ~~integrate the Eastside Rail Corridor into land use plans, transportation system~~
1400 ~~plans, trail system plans, utility plans, and other plans, including significant~~
1401 ~~capital projects or plans that affect and relate to dual use (recreational trail and~~
1402 ~~public transportation), consistent with federal railbanking, and achieving multiple~~
1403 ~~objectives for the corridor.)~~

1404

1405 ~~((H.))~~ Potential Annexation Areas

1406 The annexation of urban unincorporated areas is good public policy. The ~~((State))~~ Growth Management Act
1407 and the regionally adopted Countywide Planning Policies stipulate that counties are the appropriate providers of
1408 regional services and of local services to the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. For their part, cities are
1409 the appropriate providers of local urban services to all areas within the designated Urban Growth Area
1410 ~~((B))~~boundary. This logical split of government services is in part a reflection of the greater taxing authority
1411 afforded to cities by the state Legislature. Annexation is a means to achieve the desired governmental service
1412 and land use vision set forth in regional policy and state law so that residents of urban areas receive urban level
1413 services.

1414

~~((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)) TBD**

1415 King County’s annexation efforts are particularly important given the impacts of historical patterns of
1416 annexation. Over time, higher tax revenue-generating areas – retail, industrial, and commercial centers and
1417 more affluent residential neighborhoods – have incorporated or annexed first, while lower income, ethnically
1418 diverse communities remained unincorporated. Given the County’s limited taxing authority, promoting
1419 annexation of these areas into cities, where a higher level of service can be provided, is ~~((the best way to advance~~
1420 ~~equity))~~ will foster more equitable and socially just outcomes for residents in unincorporated urban areas.

1421
1422 Although it is the policy of the County to support and promote annexation, its formal ability to do so is
1423 extremely limited. State laws provide the cities, county residents and property owners with the authority to
1424 initiate the annexation process. A successful annexation initiative depends on establishing a collaborative and
1425 ongoing dialogue between the three affected interest groups: residents, the County, and the affected city.
1426 However, King County has a successful history of engaging in annexation discussions with urban
1427 unincorporated area residents. ~~((Most recently, from 2008 to 2019, there have been six major annexations:~~

- 1428 ~~• Lea Hill and Auburn West Hill into Auburn;~~
- 1429 ~~• Benson Hill into Renton;~~
- 1430 ~~• North Highline Area X into Burien;~~
- 1431 ~~• Panther Lake into Kent;~~
- 1432 ~~• Juanita Finn Hill Kingsgate into Kirkland; and~~
- 1433 ~~• Klahanie into Sammamish.~~

1434
1435 ~~As a result of these and some smaller annexations, by 2016, King County's urban unincorporated population~~
1436 ~~dropped by more than 110,000 persons from its 2007 level, to an estimated population of 119,900 (comparable to~~
1437 ~~the population of Kent, the third largest city in the county).))~~

1438
1439 Much of the remaining urban unincorporated area is made up of geographically isolated islands surrounded by
1440 cities or adjacent to the ~~((u))~~Urban ((g))Growth Area boundary. Because these areas are scattered across the
1441 county, the provision of local services is costly. ~~((Covering the cost of serving these areas reduces the amount of~~
1442 ~~revenue available for regional services and for local services in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.~~
1443 ~~Therefore, King County has a strong fiscal interest in seeing the remaining urban unincorporated areas annexed~~
1444 ~~to cities within the next several years.))~~

1445
1446 The policies in this section are intended to guide the ~~((e))~~County's decision making on annexation-related issues
1447 to ensure the needs of residents in the urban unincorporated area are considered, the perspective of the future
1448 annexing city is considered, and that a smooth transition from ~~((e))~~County to city government occurs.

1449
1450 **U-201** ~~((In order to))~~To meet the Growth Management Act and ((the regionally-adopted))
1451 Countywide Planning Policies goal of becoming a regional service provider for all

1452 county residents and a local service provider in the Rural Area and Natural
1453 Resource Lands, King County shall encourage annexation of the remaining
1454 urban unincorporated area. The ((e))County may also act as a contract service
1455 provider where mutually beneficial.

1456
1457 **U-201a** In all urban unincorporated areas, King County shall consider equity and racial
1458 and social justice in its planning, project development, and service delivery
1459 approach.

1460
1461 **U-202** To help create an environment that is supportive of annexations, King County
1462 shall work with cities and with neighborhood groups, local business
1463 organizations, public service providers, and other ~~((stakeholders))~~ affected
1464 parties on annexation-related activities to move the remaining urban islands
1465 towards annexation by the city most appropriate to serve it. King County ~~((will))~~
1466 shall also seek changes at the state level that would facilitate annexation of
1467 urban unincorporated areas.

1468
1469 **U-202a** The County should seek state legislative authority to impose taxes in
1470 unincorporated urban areas consistent with the taxing authorities and rates of
1471 cities, and seek to impose rates consistent with the city to improve service
1472 delivery and infrastructure levels.

1473
1474 **U-203** The Potential Annexation Areas Map adopted by the Growth Management
1475 Planning Council illustrates city-designated ~~((p))~~Potential ~~((a))~~Annexation
1476 ~~((a))~~Areas ~~((PAA))~~)). This may include contested areas (where more than one
1477 city claims a ~~((PAA))~~ Potential Annexation Area), and those few areas that are
1478 unclaimed by any city. For contested areas, the ~~((e))~~County should attempt to
1479 help resolve the matter, or to enter into an interlocal agreement with each city for
1480 the purpose of bringing the question of annexation before voters. For unclaimed
1481 areas, King County should work with adjacent cities and service providers to
1482 develop a mutually agreeable strategy and time frame for annexation. For areas
1483 affiliated with a city for annexation, King County should proactively support
1484 annexations.

1485
1486 **U-204** King County shall support annexation proposals that are consistent with the
1487 Countywide Planning Policies and the Washington State Growth Management
1488 Act, when the area proposed for annexation is wholly within the annexing city's
1489 officially adopted ~~((PAA))~~ Potential Annexation Area, and when the area is not
1490 part of a contested area.

1491

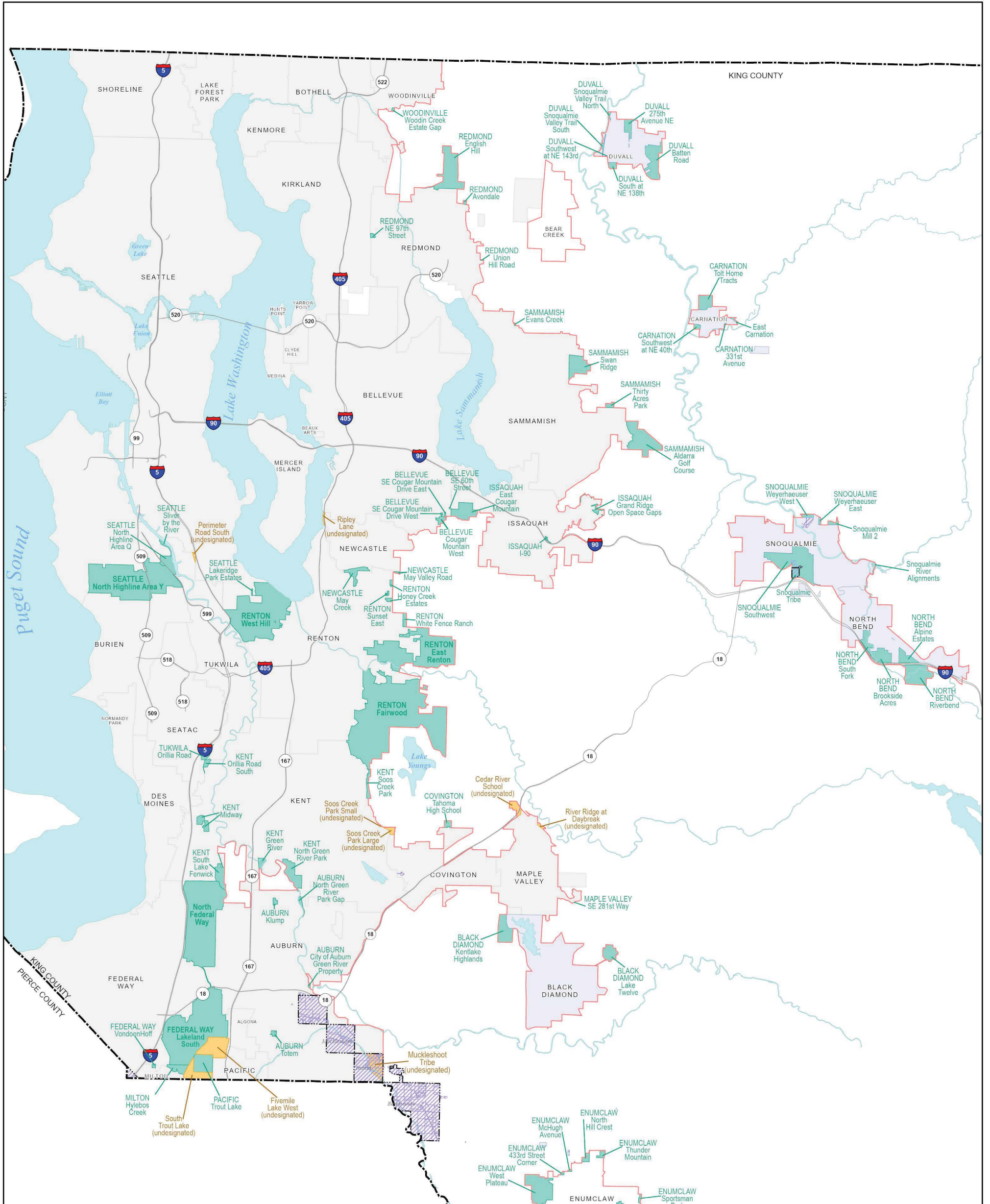
- 1492 **U-205** **King County shall not support annexation proposals that would:**
- 1493 a. **Result in illogical service areas;**
- 1494 b. **Create unincorporated islands, unless the annexation is preceded by an**
- 1495 **interlocal agreement in which the city agrees to pursue annexation of the**
- 1496 **remaining island area in a timely manner;**
- 1497 c. **Focus solely on areas that would provide a distinct economic gain for**
- 1498 **the annexing city at the exclusion of other proximate areas that should**
- 1499 **logically be included;**
- 1500 d. **Move designated Agricultural and/or Forest Production District lands**
- 1501 **into the Urban Growth Area, except as allowed in Policies R-656 and R-**
- 1502 **656a; or**
- 1503 e. **Apply zoning to maintain or create permanent, low-density residential**
- 1504 **areas, unless such areas are part of an urban separator or are**
- 1505 **environmentally constrained, rendering higher densities inappropriate.**
- 1506
- 1507 **U-206** **King County shall favor annexation over incorporation as the preferred method**
- 1508 **of governance transition. King County ((will)) shall not support incorporations**
- 1509 **when the proposed incorporation area is financially infeasible.**
- 1510
- 1511 **U-207** **King County shall work with cities to develop pre-annexation or annexation**
- 1512 **interlocal agreements to address the transition of services from the ((e))County**
- 1513 **to the annexing cities. The development of such agreements should include a**
- 1514 **public outreach process to include but not be limited to residents and property**
- 1515 **owners in the Potential Annexation Areas, as well as residents and property**
- 1516 **owners in the surrounding areas. Such agreements may address a range of**
- 1517 **considerations, including but not limited to:**
- 1518 a. **Establishing a financing partnership between the ((e))County, city₁ and**
- 1519 **other service providers to address needed infrastructure;**
- 1520 b. **Providing reciprocal notification of development proposals in Potential**
- 1521 **Annexation Areas, and opportunities to identify and/or provide**
- 1522 **mitigation associated with such development;**
- 1523 c. **Supporting the city’s desire, to the extent possible, to be the designated**
- 1524 **sewer or water service provider within the Potential Annexation Area,**
- 1525 **where this can be done without harm to the integrity of existing systems**
- 1526 **and without significantly increasing rates;**
- 1527 d. **Assessing the feasibility and/or desirability of reverse contracting in**
- 1528 **order for the city to provide local services on the ((e))County’s behalf**
- 1529 **prior to annexation, as well as the feasibility and/or desirability of the**
- 1530 **((e))County continuing to provide some local services on a contract**
- 1531 **basis after annexation;**

- 1532 e. Exploring the feasibility of modifying development, concurrency, and
- 1533 infrastructure design standards prior to annexation, when a specific and
- 1534 aggressive annexation timeline is being pursued;
- 1535 f. Assessing which ~~((e))~~County-owned properties and facilities should be
- 1536 transferred to city control, and the conditions under which such
- 1537 transfers should take place;
- 1538 g. Transitioning ~~((e))~~County employees to city employment where
- 1539 appropriate;
- 1540 h. Ensuring that land use plans for the annexation area are consistent with
- 1541 the Countywide Planning Policies with respect to planning for urban
- 1542 densities and efficient land use patterns; provision of urban services,
- 1543 affordable housing, and transportation; the protection of critical areas;
- 1544 and the long-term protection of urban separators;
- 1545 i. Continuing equivalent protection of cultural resources, and county
- 1546 landmarks and historic resources listed on the King County Historic
- 1547 Resource Inventory;
- 1548 j. Maintaining existing equestrian facilities and establishing equestrian
- 1549 linkages; and
- 1550 k. Establishing a timeline for service transitions and for the annexation.

1551
1552 King County will explore new options to affiliate unincorporated urban areas with cities, and to make the
1553 provision of services to such areas financially sustainable.

- 1554
1555 **U-208** King County should engage in joint planning processes for the urban
- 1556 unincorporated areas with the area’s designated annexation city. Alternatively,
 - 1557 upon a commitment from the city to annex through an interlocal agreement, King
 - 1558 County ~~((will))~~ shall engage in joint planning processes for the urban
 - 1559 unincorporated areas in tandem with the annexing city. Such planning may
 - 1560 consider land use tools such as:
 - 1561 a. ~~((traditional s))~~Subarea plans~~((, subarea studies))~~ or area ~~((rezoning))~~
 - 1562 zoning and land use studies;
 - 1563 b. ~~((a))~~Allowing additional commercial and high-density residential
 - 1564 development through the application of new zoning;
 - 1565 c. Transfers of Development Rights that add units to new development
 - 1566 projects; and
 - 1567 d. ~~((a))~~Application of collaborative and innovative development
 - 1568 approaches, such as design standards.

1569
1570 ~~((King County will work through the Growth Management Planning Council to~~
1571 ~~develop a plan to move the remaining unincorporated urban Potential Annexation~~
1572 ~~Areas towards annexation.))~~



**King County's
Urban Potential Annexation Areas and
City in Rural Area Potential Annexation Areas**
King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024
Chapter 2, Urban Communities

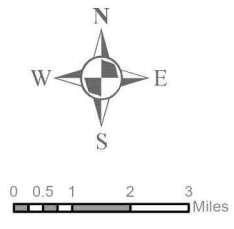
- Designated City PAAs
- Undesignated PAAs
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- King County Boundary
- Incorporated City
- City in Rural Area
- Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land



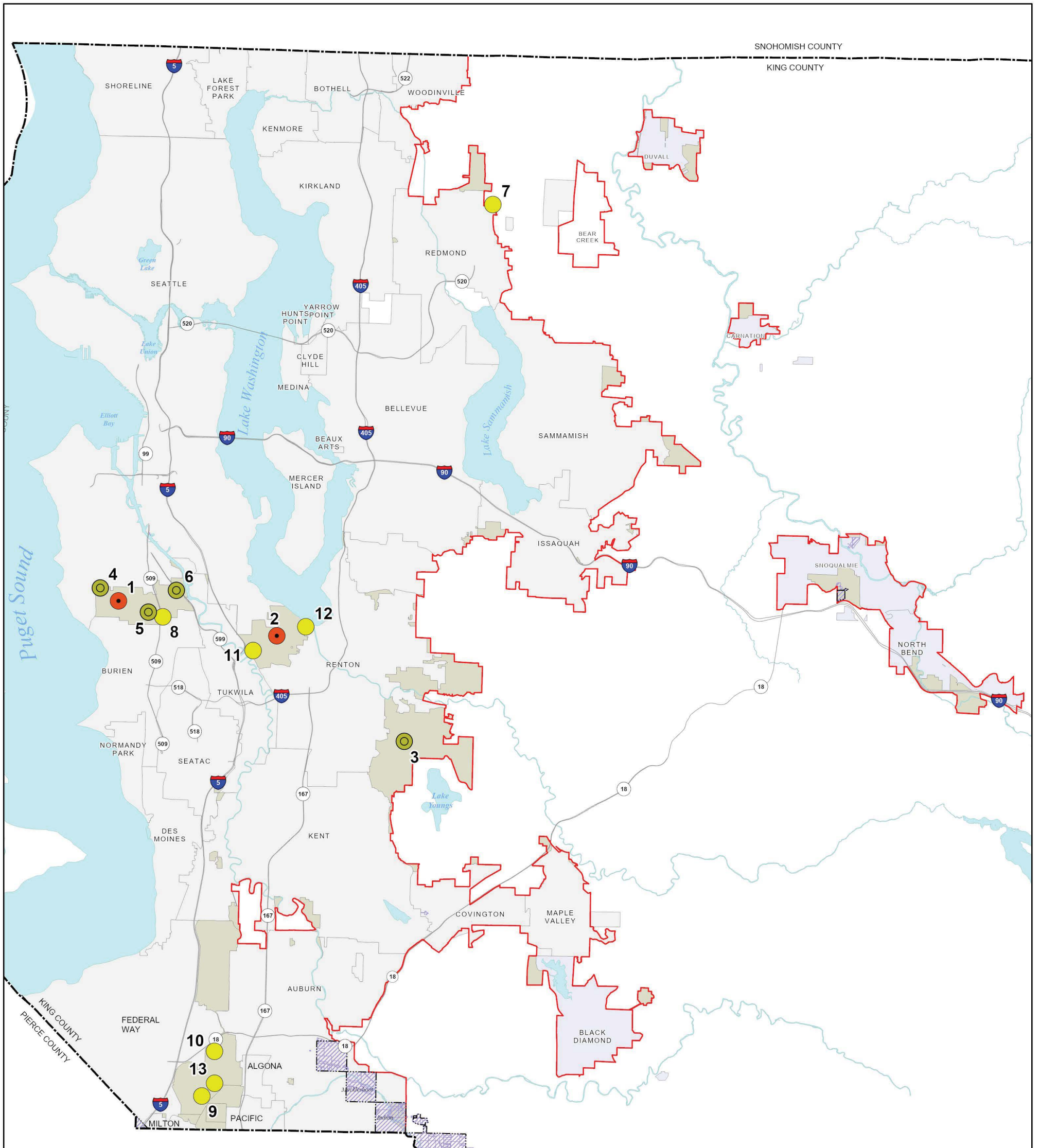
Data Sources:
King County Department Local Services
Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

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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URBAN CENTERS 2024

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
- 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
- Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- King County Boundary
- Freeways



Data Sources:
King County Department Local Services
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Date: October 2023

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CHAPTER 3

RURAL AREAS AND NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS

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.

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))~~ Forestry, or Mining ~~((on the Land Use Map))~~.

8
9

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

11 ~~The "Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands," "Rural Area Designation," "Rural Densities and Development,"~~
12 ~~"Rural Public Facilities and Services," and "Rural Commercial centers" ((S))sections ((I through V)) of this~~
13 ~~chapter satisfy the Growth Management Act's mandatory rural element by designating Rural Area lands ((#~~
14 ~~order)) to limit development and prevent sprawl, by permitting land uses that are supportive of and compatible~~
15 ~~with the rural character established in the King County Countywide Planning Policies, and by providing for a~~
16 ~~variety of rural densities. These sections also satisfy the mandatory land use element by indicating the~~
17 ~~population densities that are appropriate for the Rural Area. The policies in these sections also encourage~~
18 ~~natural resource-based industries and uses in the Rural Area as required by the Growth Management Act.~~

19
20 ~~The "Natural Resource Lands" ((S))section ((VI)) of this chapter satisfies Growth Management Act Goal 8 to~~
21 ~~maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries; the Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.170~~
22 ~~requirement to designate Natural Resource Lands; and the Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.080 optional~~
23 ~~conservation element by conserving Natural Resource Lands.~~

24
25 ~~**((2. — Equity and Social Justice Initiative**~~

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

30
31 ~~In its role as a local government in the unincorporated area, King County is committed to work to reduce~~
32 ~~inequities and provide opportunities by incorporating the values of the county's Equity and Social Justice work~~
33 ~~into the daily practice of developing policies and programs, making funding decisions and delivering services.~~

34
35 ~~Policies in this chapter also support healthy built and natural environments by protecting Natural Resource~~
36 ~~Lands from development and ensuring a mix of land uses that support rural jobs, natural resource-based~~
37 ~~businesses and conserved open spaces that provide environmental services such as clean air, clean water and~~
38 ~~wildlife habitat. Agricultural policies support local food systems and provide access to affordable, healthy, and~~
39 ~~culturally appropriate foods for county residents. Agricultural policies in this chapter that implement the~~
40 ~~county's 2015 Local Food Initiative address the need to bring additional land into food production, to improve~~
41 ~~access to technical and financial resources for farmers that need them, and make local food more accessible in~~
42 ~~underserved communities.~~

43
44 ~~Additional policies related to economic development in the agriculture and forestry sectors are located in~~
45 ~~Chapter 10, Economic Development.~~

46

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

51

52 **3. — Rural Area and Communities)**

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

- 56 • The "Rural Area" (capitalized) is a geography that includes the Rural Area (ra) land use designation and
57 Rural Area (RA) zone classifications. The Rural Area geography also includes other zoning
58 classifications and land use designations on properties that are also located outside of the Urban
59 Growth Area and designated Natural Resource Lands, such as in Rural Towns and Rural
60 Neighborhood Commercial Centers.
- 61 • If only the Rural Area land use designation (ra) or Rural Area zoning (RA) are meant, the words "land
62 use designation" or "zone" (or equivalent term) will be included, respectively.
- 63 • "Natural Resource Lands" (capitalized) are a separate geography from the Rural Area and include lands
64 of long-term commercial significance that are required to be designated and protected under the Growth
65 Management Act, such as Agricultural Production Districts, Forest Production Districts, and Mineral
66 lands.
- 67 • There are also other, non-designated resource lands (lower-case) that are not of long-term commercial
68 significance that occur in the Rural Area geography.
- 69 • The term "rural" (lower-case), such as in "rural character" or "rural history," can apply to both the Rural
70 Area and Natural Resource Lands geographies.

71

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

73

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

77

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

85

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

94

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

96

97

98 **4. ~~Resource Lands~~)**

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

106

107 ~~((The p))~~Population growth in the Puget Sound Region since 1945 has resulted in the conversion of agricultural
108 and forest lands to other uses, and the reduction of mining opportunities. The natural resource land base has
109 diminished for many reasons, among them the demand for more land for urban land uses, fragmentation of large
110 acreages into rural residential properties, loss of infrastructure such as local processing facilities for
111 resource-based industries, and the high cost of land. Since 1994, when King County designated its Natural
112 Resource Lands of long~~(())~~-term commercial significance under Growth Management Act, it has been much
113 more successful in retaining these areas.

114

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

120

121 **I-)) Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands**

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

131
132 Traditional rural economic activities have evolved over the decades as residents have responded to changing
133 markets and the expansion of urban areas. Large-scale, commercial forestry and mining have been and continue
134 to be the traditional land uses in the eastern half of King County. Farming continues in the prime soils found in
135 the river valleys and on the Enumclaw Plateau. Although certain historically prevalent types of agriculture such
136 as hops farming have disappeared, and the number of dairy farms has declined, today’s farmers are exploring
137 new crops, value-added products, and creative direct marketing. County residents raise livestock, such as
138 poultry, cattle, sheep, ~~((lamas, alpacas, and buffalo)),~~ hogs, and goats. Equestrian activities, including breeding,
139 training, boarding and recreation, have become a more significant part of the rural economy. The types of
140 businesses now locating in the Rural Towns and Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers and being developed
141 as home-based businesses have also responded to these changes in the county, and in the commercial market(
142))place.

143
144 The glacial soils and terrain that give King County its natural beauty also create significant environmentally
145 critical areas, such as steep, erodible slopes, wetlands, and groundwater recharge areas. ~~((Maintenance))~~
146 Retention of tree cover, natural vegetation, and wetlands are critical to the continued functioning of the
147 ecosystem and preservation of rural character. The interplay of forest cover, soils, and water are essential to
148 watershed health, ensuring adequate unpolluted groundwater recharge, stormwater runoff flow control and
149 pollution reduction, carbon sequestration, and habitat functions.

150
151 Conserving Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands in King County is integral to providing diversity in lifestyle
152 choices; sustaining farming, ~~((livestock,))~~ and forestry economies; protecting environmental quality and wildlife
153 habitat; providing recreation opportunities; and maintaining a link to the county’s resource-based heritage.

154
155 **((A-)) Rural ((Legacy)) History and Communities**

156 King County’s rural legacy is found in the rich history of its rural communities and continues today in the
157 preservation of the county’s historic, cultural, ecological, and archaeological sites, and ~~((to))~~ in its rich and varied

158 forestry, agricultural, and mining heritage. The railroad played a significant role in the ~~((historic))~~ historical
159 growth and development of the county; its legacy is still seen in tourism opportunities in the Cities in the Rural
160 Area such as Skykomish and Snoqualmie. Historic barns and farmhouses are found throughout the agricultural
161 areas of the county. A few commercial-scale ~~((L))~~ lumber mills influenced the development of communities, such
162 as the Rural ~~((Commercial))~~ Neighborhood Commercial Center of Preston ~~((, where the mill site is still in~~
163 ~~existence and historic photos adorn the walls of the community center.~~ Chapter 7, Parks Open Space and
164 Cultural Resources of this Comprehensive Plan provides the direction and policies for preserving the county's
165 rural heritage. ~~The policies that relate to conserving the farms and forests in King County are discussed in~~
166 ~~sections II and VI of this chapter).~~

167

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

176

177 **((B.)) Rural Character**

178 The Growth Management Act requires the protection of traditional rural activities and rural character. King
179 County is committed to protecting rural character and recognizes that each of its rural communities has distinct
180 and unique characteristics. These communities vary depending on settlement and economic history, geography,
181 and distance from the urbanizing areas of the region. ~~((For example, residents of Vashon Maury Island,~~
182 ~~accessible only by ferry, sea or air, enjoy an island's leisurely and scenic lifestyle.))~~ Residents of the hilly gorge
183 region around Black Diamond enjoy numerous recreational opportunities. There are small communities
184 throughout rural King County, such as Hobart and Cumberland, each with its own unique history and lifestyle.
185 Other communities with rich rural heritages, such as Old Maple Valley, are in transition as development of land
186 in and adjacent to the areas is occurring. In the Snoqualmie Valley, farming is still the mainstay, while further
187 east, the Town of Skykomish has a significant railroad and forestry history.

188

189 Population growth in Puget Sound communities affects rural character everywhere in the region. ~~((King County~~
190 ~~was once firmly rooted in agriculture, forestry and mining. However, w))~~ With regional growth both the rural
191 economy and the rural population are changing, as are the expectations of some rural residents for ((e)) County
192 services. Some residents are more accustomed to independent lifestyles focused around resource uses such as
193 farming, dairying, keeping of livestock, or forestry. Other residents and visitors can be surprised by the sights,
194 sounds, and smells associated with rural living; and can be accustomed to higher levels of service and facilities
195 than are traditionally provided in the Rural Area.

196

197 One of the challenges facing the ((e))County is to provide for a diversity of lifestyle choices while providing
198 public services at rural levels. As the ((e))County recognizes a profound difference between the nature and
199 character of unincorporated rural King County as compared to the urban areas, it is the intent of the ((e))County
200 to continue to provide services at established rural levels that support and help maintain rural character.
201

202 ~~((C.)) Public Engagement~~

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

208
209 ~~**R-102** King County will continue to support the diversity and richness of its rural~~
210 ~~communities and their distinct character by working with its rural constituencies~~
211 ~~through its Community Service Areas program to sustain and enhance the rural~~
212 ~~character of Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.~~

214 ~~H.)) Rural Area Designation~~

215 ~~((A.)) Rural Area Designation Criteria~~

216 The Rural Area designation in King County represents the multi-use nature of rural lands, including working
217 farms and forests, livestock uses, home-based businesses and housing. The sustainability and enhancement of
218 these areas and their underlying economic health is critical to the range of lifestyle choices available in King
219 County.

220
221 The criteria set forth in this section were used to draw the boundaries of the Rural Area designated by this plan.

222
223 ~~**R-201** It is a fundamental objective of the King County Comprehensive Plan to maintain~~
224 ~~the character of its designated Rural Area. The Growth Management Act~~
225 ~~specifies the rural element of comprehensive plans include measures that apply~~
226 ~~to rural development and protect the rural character of the area (Revised Code of~~
227 ~~Washington 36.70A.070((5))). The Growth Management Act defines rural~~
228 ~~character as it relates to land use and development patterns (Revised Code of~~
229 ~~Washington 36.70A.030((15))). ((This definition can be found in the Glossary of~~
230 ~~this Plan.)) Rural development can consist of a variety of uses that are~~
231 ~~consistent with the preservation of rural character and the requirements of the~~
232 ~~rural element. ((In order to))To implement the Growth Management Act, it is~~
233 ~~necessary to define the development patterns that are considered rural,~~

234 historical, or traditional and do not encourage urban growth or create pressure
235 for urban facilities and service.

236
237 Therefore, King County’s land use regulations and development standards shall
238 protect and enhance the following attributes associated with rural character and
239 the Rural Area:

- 240 a. The natural environment, particularly as evidenced by the health of
241 wildlife and fisheries (especially salmon and trout), aquifers used for
242 potable water, surface water bodies including Puget Sound and natural
243 drainage systems and their riparian ~~((corridors))~~ areas;
- 244 b. Commercial and noncommercial farming, forestry, fisheries, mining,
245 home((-))_occupations and home industries;
- 246 c. Historic resources, historical character, and continuity important to local
247 communities, as well as archaeological and cultural sites important to
248 Indian tribes;
- 249 d. Community small-town atmosphere, safety, and locally((-))_owned small
250 businesses;
- 251 e. Economically and fiscally healthy Rural Towns and Rural Neighborhood
252 Commercial Centers with clearly defined identities compatible with
253 adjacent rural, agricultural, forestry, and mining uses;
- 254 f. Regionally significant parks, trails, and open space;
- 255 g. A variety of low-density housing choices compatible with adjacent
256 farming, forestry, and mining and not needing urban facilities and
257 services;
- 258 h. Traditional rural land uses of a size and scale that blend with ~~((historic))~~
259 historical rural development; and
- 260 i. Rural uses that do not include primarily urban-serving facilities.

261
262 **R-202** The Rural Area geography shown on the King County Comprehensive Plan Land
263 Use Map shall include areas that are rural in character and ~~((meet one or more of
264 the following criteria))~~ that:

- 265 a. Have ~~((Q))~~ opportunities ~~((exist))~~ for significant commercial or
266 noncommercial farming and forestry (large-scale farms and forest lands
267 are designated as Resource Lands);
- 268 b. ~~((The area w))~~ Will help buffer nearby Natural Resource Lands from
269 conflicting urban uses;
- 270 c. ~~((The area is))~~ Are contiguous to other lands in the Rural Area, Resource
271 Lands or large, predominantly environmentally critical areas;
- 272 d. ~~((There are))~~ Have major physical barriers to providing urban services at
273 reasonable cost, or such areas will help foster more logical boundaries
274 for urban public services and infrastructure;

- 275 e. ~~((The area is))~~ **Are** not needed for the foreseeable future that is well
- 276 beyond the 20-year forecast period to provide capacity for population or
- 277 employment growth;
- 278 f. ~~((The area has))~~ **Have** outstanding scenic, historic, environmental,
- 279 resource or aesthetic values that can best be protected by a rural
- 280 designation; or
- 281 g. **Have** ~~((S))~~ **significant environmental constraints that make the area**
- 282 **generally unsuitable for intensive urban development.**
- 283

284 The Rural Area geography is generally located east of the Urban Growth Area, with the exception of the entirety
285 of Vashon-Maury Island. Within the Rural Area, three land use categories are primarily applied: Rural Area
286 (encompassing the Rural Area-2.5, Rural Area-5, Rural Area-10, and Rural Area-20 zones), allowing a range of
287 low-density residential developments, forestry, farming, livestock uses, recreation and a range of traditional rural
288 uses; Rural Town, recognizing historical settlement patterns and allowing commercial uses to serve rural
289 residents; and Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, allowing small-scale convenience services for nearby
290 rural residents.

291
292 While the Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies and King County’s policies and
293 regulations call for protecting the Rural Area by limiting housing densities, there are many other features in
294 addition to density that characterize the Rural Area. Some of the most important features include integration of
295 housing with traditional rural uses such as forestry, farming and keeping of livestock; protection of streams,
296 wetlands and wildlife habitat; preservation of open vistas, wooded areas and scenic roadways; and availability of
297 and reliance on minimal public services. King County is committed to maintaining these features as well, and
298 the policies in this chapter call for continuing and expanding upon these efforts.

299
300 **R-203** ~~((King County’s))~~ **The Rural Area geography is considered to be permanent and**
301 **shall not be redesignated to ~~((an))~~ be in the Urban Growth Area ~~((until))~~ unless**
302 **reviewed pursuant to the Growth Management Act (Revised Code of Washington**
303 **36.70A.130~~((3))~~) and the Countywide Planning Policies.**

305 **~~((B-))~~ Forestry and Agriculture in the Rural ~~((King County))~~ Area Geography**

306 The Rural Area includes working farms and forests. These contribute to rural character; the diversity and
307 self-sufficiency of local economies; and open space, wildlife habitat, flood hazard management, ~~((and))~~
308 environmental protection, water quality, carbon sequestration, and climate resiliency. However, Rural Area
309 land in farm and forest use has diminished since 1985, mostly through the conversion of these lands to
310 residential uses. Pressures to convert from resource use include the high land value for alternative uses and the
311 encroachment of residential and other development that conflicts with the resource use.

312

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

319

320 **R-204** **Farming and forestry are vital to the preservation of rural King County and**
321 **should be encouraged throughout the Rural Area. King County should**
322 **encourage the retention of existing and establishment of new rural**
323 **resource-based uses, with appropriate site management that protects habitat**
324 **resources. King County’s regulation of farming~~((, keeping of livestock,))~~ and**
325 **forestry in the Rural Area should be consistent with these guiding principles:**
326 a. **Homeowner covenants for new subdivisions and short subdivisions in**
327 **the Rural Area should not restrict farming and forestry;**
328 b. **Development regulations for resource-based activities should be tailored**
329 **to support the resource use and its level of impact;**
330 c. **Agricultural and silvicultural management practices should not be**
331 **construed as public nuisances when carried on in compliance with**
332 **applicable regulations, even though they may impact nearby residences;**
333 **and**
334 d. **County environmental standards for forestry and agriculture should**
335 **protect environmental quality, especially in relation to water and**
336 **fisheries resources, while encouraging forestry and farming.**

337

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

343

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

347

348 ~~The importance of farming and forestry to the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands was first emphasized in~~
349 ~~the 1994 Comprehensive Plan. Subsequently, the county took steps to encourage the continuation of farm and~~
350 ~~forestry practices in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, including developing a *Farm and Forest Report*~~
351 ~~in 1996. The report recommended a series of actions to protect the rural farm and forest land base as well as the~~
352 ~~practices of farming and forestry, including the provision of technical assistance to aid property owners in land~~

353 management, outreach to owners of properties vulnerable to development, creating opportunities for property
354 owners to sell their development rights, and seeking funding for public acquisition of rural properties that had an
355 existing resource based use. The report also recommended the continuation of the King County Agriculture
356 Commission and the appointment of a Rural Forest Commission to review the impact of proposed regulations
357 on rural forestry and recommend incentive programs.))

358

359 **((1.)) Forestry**

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

- 364 a. ((Promote forest stewardship through education and technical assistance programs, such as the
365 Washington State University Extension Forest Stewardship Programs
- 366 b. ~~Provide technical assistance and information to landowner groups and community associations
367 seeking to implement land/water stewardship, management of stormwater runoff, habitat
368 restoration and management plans;~~
- 369 e. ~~Create opportunities and incentives for voluntary, cooperative management of woodlots and open
370 space currently in separate ownership;~~
- 371 d. ~~Offer technical assistance and information to landowners who are interested in managing their
372 forest for non-timber specialty forest products;~~
- 373 e. ~~Explore opportunities for providing relief from special levies and assessments;~~
- 374 f. ~~Conduct projects on King County park lands to demonstrate sustainable forestry practices,))
375 improve forest health and climate resiliency, reduce wildfire risk, control stormwater runoff, and
376 improve wildlife habitat; and~~
- 377 ((g.)) b. ((Provide education and assistance in the control of)) Controls noxious and invasive weeds,
378 including ((information on)) integrated pest management and protection of pollinators in
379 accordance with the best management practices established by the Environmental Protection
380 Agency and Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, and as implemented by the King
381 County Noxious Weeds Program.

382

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

388

**((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)) TBD**

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

399

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

402

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

410

411 ~~((The Forestry Program will))~~ King County continues to evaluate additional ways to conserve rural forest lands
412 and encourage forestry. For example, King County is implementing the Land Conservation Initiative, which is a
413 regional collaboration between King County, cities, businesspeople, farmers, environmental partners, and others
414 to conserve the last, most important natural lands and urban green spaces in King County between 2016 and
415 2050. It calls for a series of accelerated actions to address rapidly shrinking open spaces and climbing land
416 prices, which is estimated to save \$15 billion over what it would take under previous land conservation trajectory
417 and will protect many of these lands before they are lost. The initiative has identified approximately 20,000
418 acres of forestland that are high priorities for conservation, either through easement or fee title acquisition, or
419 through one of the Current Use Taxation programs. ~~((In addition, King County has identified properties for~~
420 ~~acquisition, and has worked))~~ King County will work in partnership with other jurisdictions and ~~((stakeholder~~
421 ~~groups))~~ community partners to match high priority sites with funding sources for permanent conservation.

422

423 Another strategy is the 30-Year Forest Plan, which was developed in partnership with Indian tribes, nonprofits,
424 municipalities, forestland owners and managers, and community members as a strategy to expand and enhance
425 rural and urban forest cover and forest health between 2021 and 2051. Additionally, King County owns and
426 manages approximately ((26,000)) 30,000 acres of forestland. Of this, ((3,850)) 4,300 acres (14 percent) are
427 designated as working forests ~~((: Taylor Mountain Forest, Ring Hill, Sugarloaf, Island Center, Dockton, Mitchell~~
428 ~~Hill, Tokul Creek and Preston Ridge forests. The county has extended its forest stewardship program to~~

429 ~~implement active management for forest health on other forested open space properties.))~~ In support of the goals
430 outlined in the Strategic Climate Action Plan and 30-year Forest Plan, the County is accelerating development
431 and implementation of forest stewardship plans for County-owned forestland to improve forest health, enhance
432 climate resilience, reduce wildfire risk, and increase potential to sequester carbon. The ~~((e))~~County has also
433 conserved more than 142,000 acres of forested properties by purchasing the development rights and over 230,000
434 acres of privately-owned forestland through the Current Use Taxation programs. ~~((These properties remain in~~
435 ~~either private ownership or under Washington State Department of Natural Resources ownership.))~~

436
437 Although economic incentive programs and technical assistance are available to all property owners of forestland
438 in the Rural Area ~~((interested in pursuing small scale forestry)),~~ special efforts to maintain forest cover and the
439 practice of sustainable forestry are warranted where there are opportunities to sustain large, contiguous blocks of
440 rural forest adjacent to or in close proximity of the Forest Production District. The Agricultural and Forest
441 Lands map ~~((identifies))~~ such areas as Rural Forest Focus Areas and notes the locations and boundaries of each
442 focus area.

443
444 **R-207** **Rural Forest Focus Areas ~~((are identified))~~ shall be designated geographic areas**
445 **where special efforts are necessary and feasible to maintain forest cover and the**
446 **practice of sustainable forestry. King County shall continue to target funding,**
447 **when available, ~~((new))~~ economic incentive programs, regulatory actions, fee and**
448 **easement acquisition strategies and ~~((additional))~~ technical assistance to the**
449 **Rural Forest Focus Areas. ~~((Strategies specific to each Rural Forest Focus Area~~**
450 **shall be developed, employing the combination of incentive and technical**
451 **assistance programs best suited to each focus area.))**

452
453 **R-208** **The Rural Forest Focus Areas should be maintained in parcels of 20 acres or**
454 **more ~~((in order))~~ to retain large, contiguous blocks of rural forest. Regulations**
455 **and/or incentives should seek to achieve a maximum density of one home per 20**
456 **acres.**

457
458 **((2.)) Farming**

459 ~~((The 1996 Farm and Forest Report provided a series of strategies for conserving farmland and sustaining farming~~
460 ~~both within the designated Agricultural Production District where some of the County's best agricultural soils are~~
461 ~~found and outside the Agricultural Production District, where there continues to be a significant amount of~~
462 ~~farming. A 2013 aerial photo survey identified about 12,000 acres of Rural Area land in active agriculture, much~~
463 ~~of it in livestock production.))~~ The King County Local Food Initiative is a strategy that aims to build a stronger
464 farm-to-plate pipeline by setting targets and taking bold steps to better connect local farms to consumers, increase
465 access to healthy and affordable foods in underserved areas, support farmers and protect farmland, and create a
466 sustainable food system that is more resilient to the effects of climate change. King County has a long history of
467 conserving and sustaining farmland both within and outside of Agricultural Production Districts and continues
468 to adapt strategies in expanding our local food economy to ensure job growth, economic viability, and climate

469 resiliency for King County food businesses and farms. Although most active farmland in King County is found
470 within Agricultural Production Districts, approximately 40 percent of the County’s farmland is located in the
471 Rural Area.

472

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

479

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

483

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

489

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

491

492 **~~C.)~~ Equestrian Activities**

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

501

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

508

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

513

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

518

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

526

527 ~~The following policies address the need to continue to support trails for equestrian, multi use, and existing trail
528 linkage purposes.))~~

529

530 **R-212 King County should support equestrian use trails throughout the Rural Area and
531 in the Agricultural and Forest Production Districts, as appropriate, by:**

- 532 a. Working with local communities to identify and protect multiple-use
533 trails and key linkages that support equestrian travel;
- 534 b. Maintaining equestrian links, including multiple-use trails, where
535 appropriate;
- 536 c. Ensuring parking areas serving multiple-use trails are designed and
537 constructed, whenever possible to handle parking for horse trailers; and
- 538 d. Constructing and maintaining equestrian trails under County ownership
539 or management consistent with King County Backcountry Trail or
540 Regional Trail Standards whenever possible.

541

542 **R-213 Soft-surface multiple-use trails in corridors separate from road rights-of-way are
543 the preferred option for equestrian travel for safety reasons and to avoid
544 conflicts with residential activities associated with the street. Existing off-road
545 trails should be preserved during site development, with relocation as
546 appropriate to accommodate development while maintaining trail connections.
547 The King County Road Design and Construction Standards ((will)) shall**

548 accommodate safe equestrian travel within road rights-of-way. Where
549 appropriate, capital improvement programs for transportation and park facilities
550 shall also enable the use of new facilities by equestrians. Construction
551 standards for multiple-use (~~nonmotorized~~) trails to be established in road
552 rights-of-way within the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands should assure a
553 minimum eight-foot-wide gravel shoulder on arterial roads and 4.0 foot gravel
554 shoulder on local access roads, or provide a trail separated from the driving
555 lanes by a ditch or other barrier. Construction standards for soft-surface
556 multiple-use (~~nonmotorized~~) trails in corridors separate from road rights-of-way
557 shall be consistent with current trail construction and maintenance practices as
558 promulgated by the U.S. Forest Service.

560 **R-214** King County’s land use regulations should protect rural equestrian community
561 trails by supporting preservation of equestrian trail links in the Rural Area and
562 within the Agricultural and Forest Production District. Representatives of the
563 equestrian community should be given the opportunity to review and monitor
564 regulatory and policy actions by King County, such as Rural Area development
565 regulations, that have the potential to affect equestrian trails.

566 **R-215** Property owners in the Agricultural and Forest Production Districts are
567 encouraged to voluntarily allow continued equestrian access to existing trails or
568 alternative access if the existing trail impedes future use of their property.

571 **R-216** Equestrian trails should be a category in the ~~((e))~~County’s Public Benefit Rating
572 System, so that a landowner who provides trail access may qualify for a tax
573 reduction under the program.

575 **R-217** County departments negotiating trades or sales of ~~((e))~~County-owned land shall
576 determine whether any historically established trails exist on the property, and,
577 when economically feasible, ensure that those trails are retained or replaced and
578 are not lost as a condition of the trade or sale. Trails that provide key linkages,
579 for either multi-use or equestrian trails, shall be considered to have strategic
580 value to the county’s trail network and shall be retained or replaced whenever
581 possible.

583 ~~((H.))~~ Rural Densities and Development

584 ~~((A.))~~ Rural Growth Forecast

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

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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))~~ 2021, the ~~((Growth Management Planning Council adopted))~~ Countywide Planning Policies established new urban area targets to accommodate the most recent countywide population projections supplied by the state. Consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy in VISION, ((These urban)) the targets assume((∅)) growth in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands ((forecast of fewer than 6,000)) of approximately 4,200 additional housing units during the period ~~((2006 to 2034))~~ 2019 to 2044. No attempt has been made to allocate ~~((this))~~ the assumed rural ~~((forecast))~~ growth to subareas of rural King County. ~~((As targets will not be updated until approximately 2019, these assumptions remain unchanged.))~~

~~((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, Rural Areas 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.

~~((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. ((∅))Comply with the State Growth Management Act((,));**
 - c. ((continue preventing)) Prevent sprawl, the conversion of rural land, and the overburdening of rural services((,));**

- 627 ~~d. _____((f))Reduce the need for capital expenditures for rural roads((,));~~
- 628 ~~e. _____((m))Maintain rural character((,));~~
- 629 ~~f. _____((p))Protect the environment; and~~
- 630 ~~g. _____((f))Reduce ((transportation-related)) greenhouse gas emissions. ((All~~
- 631 ~~possible tools may be used to limit growth in the Rural Area.~~
- 632 ~~Appropriate tools include land use designations, development~~
- 633 ~~regulations, level of service standards and incentives.~~

635 **B.)) Residential Densities**

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

643
644 ~~((These policies and implementing regulations could allow 14,000 to 24,000 more housing units at ultimate
645 buildout in addition to the roughly 45,000 residences existing in the designated Rural Area in 2000. The
646 Transfer of Development Rights Program will help reduce development capacity in the Rural Area, and King
647 County should continue to seek other programs that provide economic incentives for property owners to
648 voluntarily limit residential development of their land.))~~

- 650 **R-302 Residential development in the Rural Area should only occur ((as follows)):**
- 651 a. **In Rural Towns at a variety of densities and housing types as services an**
 - 652 **infrastructure allows, compatible with ~~((maintenance))~~ protection of**
 - 653 **historic resources and community character; and**
 - 654 b. **Outside Rural Towns at low densities compatible with traditional rural**
 - 655 **character and uses((,)); farming, forestry, and mining; and rural service**
 - 656 **levels.**

657
658 ~~((The use of land and the density of development (measured as the number of homes or other structures per acre
659 or per square mile of land) are)) Residential densities are a key determinant((s)) and contributor((s)) to the
660 character of the Rural Area((, as described above in Section A. Although human settlement of King County's)),
661 Although the Rural Area has a wide variety of uses and densities, ~~((both the historical and desirable))~~ the range
662 of uses and densities defined here are necessarily narrower and less intense than that found in the Urban Growth
663 Area. ((Residential development at very low densities (including the land for accessory uses, on-site sewage
664 disposal and local water supply) consumes or will consume most of the land in the Rural Area.)) Residential~~

665 density may be the single, most important factor in protecting or destroying rural character that can be
666 influenced by government policies and regulations.

667

668 Low overall densities in the Rural Area (~~(will be)~~) are achieved through very large minimum lot sizes or limited
669 clustering at the same average densities when facilities and services permit (~~((for example, soil conditions allow
670 on-site sewage disposal on smaller lots))~~). The Rural Area cannot be a significant source of affordable housing
671 for King County residents, but it will contain diverse housing opportunities (~~((through a mix of large lots,
672 clustering, existing smaller lots))~~), and higher densities are offered in Cities in the Rural Area and Rural
673 Towns(~~(,)~~) (as services and infrastructure permits).

674

675 **R-303 Rural Area zoned properties should have low residential densities that can be**
676 **sustained by minimal infrastructure improvements such as septic systems and**
677 **rural roads, should cause minimal environmental degradation and impacts to**
678 **significant historic resources, and ~~((that))~~ will not cumulatively create the future**
679 **necessity or expectation of urban levels of services.**

680

681 **R-304 Rural Area zoned residential densities shall be applied in accordance with R-305**
682 **– R-309. Individual zone reclassifications are discouraged and should not be**
683 **allowed in the Rural Area. ~~((Property owners seeking i))~~ Individual zone**
684 **reclassifications ~~((should))~~ shall demonstrate compliance with R-305 – R-309.**

685

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

692

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

698

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

701

702

703

704

- 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))~~

- 705 b. The lands contain significant environmentally constrained areas as
706 defined by county (~~ordinance, policy or federal or~~), state, or federal law,
707 or regionally significant resource areas or substantial critical habitat as
708 determined by legislatively approved (~~basin plans or~~) Watershed
709 Resource Inventory Area Plans; ((and)) or
710 c. (~~The predominant lot size is greater than or equal to 10 acres in size~~) A
711 residential density of one home per five acres would harm or diminish
712 the surrounding area, burden infrastructure, increase development
713 pressure, or be inconsistent with the development patterns promoted by
714 the Comprehensive Plan.

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

- 718 a. The lands are more than one-quarter mile away from designated Natural
719 Resource Lands;
720 b. The lands ((is)) are physically suitable for development with minimal;
721 environmentally sensitive features as defined by county, state, or federal
722 law; regionally significant resource areas; or critical habitat as
723 determined by legislatively ((adopted watershed based)) approved
724 Watershed Resource Inventory Area plans; and
725 ~~(b. Development can be supported by rural services;~~
726 ~~c. The land does not meet the criteria in this plan for lower density~~
727 ~~designations; and~~
728 ~~d. The predominant lot size is less than 10 acres.)~~
729 c. This residential density would not harm or diminish the surrounding
730 area, burden infrastructure, increase development pressure, and be
731 inconsistent with the development patterns promoted by the
732 Comprehensive Plan.

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

743 **R-309** **The RA-2.5 zone has generally been applied to Rural Areas with an existing**
744 **pattern of lots below five acres in size that were created prior to the adoption of**
745

746 the 1994 Comprehensive Plan. These smaller lots may still be developed
747 individually or combined, provided that applicable standards for sewage
748 disposal, environmental protection, water supply, roads, and rural fire protection
749 can be met. A subdivision at a density of one home per 2.5 acres shall only be
750 permitted through the Transfer of Development Rights from property in the
751 designated Rural Forest Focus Areas. The site receiving the density must be
752 approved as a Transfer of Development Rights receiving site in accordance with
753 the King County Code. Properties on Vashon-Maury Island shall not be eligible
754 as receiving sites.
755

756 Accessory dwelling units provide opportunities for affordable housing, on-site housing for workers and
757 caretakers, housing for extended family members, and rental income for landowners. However, detached
758 accessory dwelling units function similarly to separate homes on separate lots and should be treated as such.
759 When a subdivision is proposed for a property that already has a house and a detached accessory dwelling unit,
760 the house and accessory dwelling unit shall count as two units. For example, on an RA-5 zoned 20((-))-acre
761 parcel, which could be subdivided into four lots, the existing primary dwelling and the accessory unit in a
762 separate building shall count as two of the four units allowed on the site.
763

764 **R-310** Accessory dwelling units in structures detached from the primary dwelling shall
765 be counted as a separate dwelling unit for the purpose of lot calculations under
766 the zoning in place at the time of a proposed subdivision.
767

768 **R-311** The King County ~~((Residential Density Incentive))~~ Inclusionary Housing Program
769 shall not be available for development in the Rural Area zones.
770

771 **((C.)) Transfer of Development Rights Program**

772 The Growth Management Act encourages the use of innovative techniques for land use management. King
773 County has a long tradition of using such techniques, including programs promoting transfers of development
774 rights, to achieve its land management goals. Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands face increasing
775 development pressure, yet the County must simultaneously plan for, and allow, future residential growth. This
776 tension makes it incumbent on the County to strengthen its transfer of development rights efforts. For this
777 reason, King County seeks to increase the number of development rights transfers via its Transfer of
778 Development Rights Program to reduce and redirect rural development potential into urban areas.
779

780 To that end, King County promotes the transfer of development rights from land ~~((valuable to the public as~~
781 ~~undeveloped)) with conservation values whose protection creates public benefit (“sending sites”), to land better
782 able to accommodate growth (“receiving sites”). The Transfer of Development Rights Program is a voluntary
783 program that allows sending site landowners to achieve an economic return on their property while maintaining~~

((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)) TBD

784 it in forestry, farming, habitat, ~~((parks,))~~ or open space in perpetuity. It also increases housing opportunities in
785 Urban Area receiving sites where urban services and infrastructure can accommodate additional growth.

786

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

793

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

802

803 **R-312** ~~((As an innovative means to))~~ **King County shall continue to operate an effective**
804 **Transfer of Development Rights Program to:**

805 **a. _____((p))Permanently ((preserve)) conserve private lands with countywide**
806 **public benefit((,));**

807 **b. _____((to e))Encourage higher densities in urban areas; ((and))**

808 **c. _____((f))Reduce residential development capacity in Rural Area and Natural**
809 **Resource Lands;**

810 **d. _____ Incentivize establishment of parks and open space in urban areas((, King**
811 **County shall continue to operate an effective Transfer of Development**
812 **Rights Program)); and**

813 **e. _____ Support the County's climate resilience goals.**

814

815 **R-313** **The purpose of the Transfer of Development Rights Program is to reduce**
816 **development potential in the Rural Area, ((and)) on designated Natural Resource**
817 **Lands, and on urban open space lands acquired using conservation futures tax**
818 **funding. ((its)) The Program's priority is to encourage the transfer of**
819 **development rights from private rural and resource properties into the Urban**
820 **Growth Area to protect natural resources while preserving housing potential and**
821 **incentivizing development in locations best suited for growth.**

822

823 R-314 King County supports and shall work actively to facilitate the transfer of Rural
824 Area and Natural Resource Lands development rights to:
825 a. ~~((Preserve))~~ Conserve the rural environment, encourage retention of
826 resource-based uses and reduce service demands;
827 b. Provide permanent protection to significant natural resources;
828 c. Increase the regional open space system;
829 d. Maintain low density development in the Rural Area and Natural
830 Resource Lands;
831 e. Steer development growth inside the Urban Growth Area in ways that
832 promote quality urban neighborhoods where residents want to work and
833 live; and
834 f. ~~((Provide mitigation for the impacts of urban development on global
835 climate change by simultaneously reducing transportation-related
836 greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon through retention
837 of forest cover and conserving agricultural lands))~~ Contribute to climate
838 change benefits.
839

840 R-315 To promote transfers of development rights, King County shall:
841 a. Facilitate transfers from private property owners with sending sites to
842 property owners with receiving sites;
843 b. Operate the King County Transfer of Development Rights Bank to
844 facilitate the Transfer of Development Rights market, maintain supply to
845 the extent practicable, and bridge the time gap between willing sellers
846 and buyers of Transferrable Development Rights through buying,
847 holding, and selling Transferable Development Rights;
848 c. Work with cities to develop interlocal agreements that encourage
849 transfers of development rights from Rural Areas and Natural Resource
850 Lands into cities;
851 d. Work with cities regarding annexation areas where Transferrable
852 Development Rights are likely to be used;
853 e. Work with communities and seek funding and other means to provide
854 public amenities to enhance the livability of incorporated and
855 unincorporated area neighborhoods accepting increased densities
856 through the Transfer of Development Rights Program; ~~((and))~~
857 f. Work with the Washington State Department of Commerce, Puget Sound
858 Regional Council, and King County cities to implement Washington State
859 Regional Transfer of Development Rights legislation; and
860 g. Explore new opportunities to increase Transfer of Development Right
861 demand, prioritizing new receiving sites or Transfer of Development
862 Right use within urban areas.
863

864 ~~((1. — Sending and Receiving Sites))~~

865 R-316 Eligible sending sites shall be lands designated on the King County Comprehensive
866 Plan land use map as: Rural Area (with RA-2.5, RA-5, or RA-10 zoning), Agriculture
867 (with A zoning), Forestry (with F zoning), Urban Separator (with R-1 zoning), or Urban
868 Residential Medium or Urban Residential High (with R-4, R-6, R-8, R-12, R-18, R-24 or
869 R-48 zoning) and that are approved for Conservation Futures Tax funding(()). These
870 sites shall provide permanent land ~~((protection))~~ conservation to create a significant
871 public benefit. ~~((Priority-s))~~ Sending sites ~~((are))~~ shall include, but not be limited to:
872 a. Lands in Rural Forest Focus Areas;
873 b. Lands adjacent to the Urban Growth Area boundary;
874 c. Lands contributing to the protection of endangered and threatened species;
875 d. Lands that are suitable for inclusion in and provide important links to the
876 regional open space system;
877 e. Agricultural and Forest Production District lands;
878 f. Intact shorelines of Puget Sound;
879 g. Lands ~~((identified as important according to the Washington State
880 Department of Ecology's Watershed Characterization analyses))~~ in the RA
881 zone with conservation values related to farming, forestry, carbon
882 sequestration, or open space; or
883 h. Lands contributing open space or strengthening protection of critical area
884 function and values in urban unincorporated areas.
885

886 ~~((R-317 — For Transfer of Development Rights purposes only, qualified sending sites are
887 allocated development rights as follows:
888 a. — Sending sites in the Rural Area zoned RA 2.5 shall be allocated one
889 Transferrable Development Right for every two and one-half acres of gross
890 land area;
891 b. — Sending sites in the Rural Area zoned RA 5 or RA 10 or Agricultural zoning
892 shall be allocated one Transferrable Development Right for every five acres
893 of gross land area;
894 c. — Sending sites with Forest zoning shall be allocated one Transferrable
895 Development Right for every eighty acres of gross land area;
896 d. — Sending sites with Urban Separator land use designation shall be allocated
897 four Transferrable Development Rights for every one acre of gross land area;
898 e. — Sending sites with an Urban Residential, Medium or Urban Residential, High
899 land use designation shall be allocated Transferrable Development Rights
900 equivalent to the zoning base density for every one acre of gross land area;
901 f. — If a sending site has an existing dwelling or retains one or more development
902 rights for future use, the gross acreage shall be reduced in accordance with
903 the site's zoning base density for the purposes of Transferrable Development
904 Right allocation; and~~

- 905 g. ~~King County shall provide bonus Transferrable Development Rights to~~
906 ~~sending sites in the Rural Area as follows:~~
- 907 1. ~~The sending site is a vacant RA zoned property and is no larger~~
908 ~~than one-half the size requirement of the base density for the~~
909 ~~zone; and~~
 - 910 2. ~~The sending site is a RA zoned property and is located on a~~
911 ~~shoreline of the state and has a shoreline designation of~~
912 ~~conservancy or natural.)~~

913

914 **R-318** ~~((Prior to the county’s allocation of Transferable Development Rights to a~~
915 ~~sending site landowner, the landowner shall record and place on title of sending~~
916 ~~site parcel a conservation easement documenting the development restrictions.~~
917 ~~If development rights are being retained for future development, the subsequent~~
918 ~~development must be clustered, and the tract preserved with a permanent~~
919 ~~conservation easement shall be larger than the developed portion. In the case of~~
920 ~~lands within the Rural Forest Focus Areas, no more than one dwelling unit per 20~~
921 ~~acres shall be retained, and the tract preserved with a conservation easement~~
922 ~~shall be at least 15 acres in size.)) Transfer of Development Right sending sites
923 shall be permanently protected with a conservation easement or similar
924 encumbrance to ensure perpetual conservation benefit.~~

- 925
- 926 ~~((R-319~~ ~~Transferrable Development Rights may be used on receiving sites in the~~
927 ~~following order of preference as follows:~~
- 928 a. ~~Incorporated Cities. Transfers into incorporated areas shall be detailed~~
929 ~~in an interlocal agreement between the city receiving the development~~
930 ~~rights and the county;~~
 - 931 b. ~~Unincorporated urban commercial centers;~~
 - 932 c. ~~Other unincorporated urban areas; and~~
 - 933 d. ~~Rural Areas zoned RA-2.5, unless they are on Vashon-Maury Island, may~~
934 ~~receive transfers of development rights, but only from the Rural Forest~~
935 ~~Focus Areas.~~

936

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

941

942 **R-319** King County should prioritize Transferable Development Rights uses for
943 residential density in urban areas. King County may also allow Transferrable
944 Development Rights:
945 a. In limited instances for development in the Rural Area, except for
946 Vashon-Maury Island; and
947 b. To provide incentives to developers for uses other than additional
948 residential density.
949

950 **R-320** King County should seek other public funding and private-public partnerships for
951 incorporated and unincorporated urban area amenities to strengthen the Transfer
952 of Development Rights Program ~~((and facilitate the transfer of development~~
953 ~~rights from Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands into the King County Urban~~
954 ~~Growth Area to preserve the rural environment, encourage retention of rural and~~
955 ~~resource based uses, and avoid urban service demands in the Rural Area and~~
956 ~~Natural Resource Lands)).~~
957

958 **R-320a** King County shall provide amenities to urban unincorporated Transferrable
959 Development Right receiving areas to improve the livability of the receiving area.
960 Amenities should be provided at levels commensurate with the number of
961 Transferrable Development Rights used in the receiving area. The type, timing,
962 and location of amenities provided to urban unincorporated Transferrable
963 Development Right receiving areas should be informed by a public engagement
964 process including members of the affected receiving area and the city affiliated
965 with annexation.
966

967 ~~((R-321~~ King County should pursue public funding and public-private partnerships, and
968 ~~bond or levy proposals, for additional Transfer of Development Rights Bank~~
969 ~~funding to target threatened private Rural Areas or Natural Resource Lands.~~
970 ~~Development rights purchased through such a program should be sold into any~~
971 ~~appropriate urban location.~~
972

973 **~~2. Rural and Resource Land Preservation Transfer of Development Rights~~**
974 **~~Program~~**

975 ~~Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands face increasing development pressure, yet the county must~~
976 ~~simultaneously plan for, and allow, future development growth. This tension makes it incumbent on the county~~
977 ~~to strengthen its Transfer of Development Rights efforts. For this reason, King County seeks to increase the~~
978 ~~number of development right transfers and adopt an expanded Rural and Resource Land Preservation Transfer~~
979 ~~of Development Rights Program to reduce and redirect rural development potential into the urban areas.~~
980

981 ~~**R-322**~~ ~~The goals of the Rural and Resource Land Preservation Transfer of Development~~
982 ~~Rights Program are to: (1) reduce the development potential in Rural Area and~~

983 ~~Natural Resource Lands by 25%; (2) increase activity in the Transfer of~~
984 ~~Development Rights market; (3) bolster demand for Transferrable Development~~
985 ~~Rights; (4) offer Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands property owners access~~
986 ~~to incentive programs; (5) protect low-density Rural Areas from encroaching~~
987 ~~urban development; and (6) reduce greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing~~
988 ~~vehicle miles traveled from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and by~~
989 ~~sequestering carbon.~~

990

991 ~~R-323~~ ~~The Rural and Resource Land Preservation Transfer of Development Rights~~
992 ~~Program shall include, but is not limited to, the following:~~

993 ~~a. In addition to the density that is allowed on a receiving site in the urban~~
994 ~~growth area from the purchase of Transferrable Development Rights, the~~
995 ~~county shall evaluate the climate change benefits achieved by reducing~~
996 ~~transportation related greenhouse gas emissions that result from the~~
997 ~~transfer of development rights from the sending site, provided that such~~
998 ~~consideration is not precluded by administrative rules promulgated by~~
999 ~~the state;~~

1000 ~~b. In order to satisfy transportation concurrency requirements in the Rural~~
1001 ~~Area in a transportation concurrency travel shed that is non-concurrent,~~
1002 ~~a development proposal for a short subdivision creating up to four lots~~
1003 ~~may purchase Transferrable Development Rights from other Rural Area~~
1004 ~~or Natural Resource Land properties in the same travel shed; allowing~~
1005 ~~this is intended to reduce overall traffic impacts in rural travel sheds by~~
1006 ~~permanently removing development potential. The transfer shall not~~
1007 ~~result in an increase in allowable density on the receiving site. A short~~
1008 ~~subdivision creating two lots where the property has been owned by the~~
1009 ~~applicant for five or more years and where the property has not been~~
1010 ~~subdivided in the last ten years shall satisfy the transportation~~
1011 ~~concurrency requirements without having to purchase Transferrable~~
1012 ~~Development Rights;~~

1013 ~~c. King County shall provide an added density bonus of up to a 100%~~
1014 ~~increase above the base density allowed in K.C. Code 21A.12.030, when~~
1015 ~~Transferrable Development Rights are used for projects within any~~
1016 ~~designated commercial center or activity center within the Urban Growth~~
1017 ~~Area that provides enhanced walkability design and incorporates transit~~
1018 ~~oriented development, and may provide an added density when~~
1019 ~~Transferrable Development Rights are used for projects that provide~~
1020 ~~affordable housing in the R-4 through R-48 zones;~~

1021 ~~d. King County may allow accessory dwelling units in the Rural Area that~~
1022 ~~are greater than one thousand square feet, but less than 1,500 square~~
1023 ~~feet, if the property owner purchases one Transferrable Development~~
1024 ~~Right from the Rural Area, Agriculture or Forestry designations; ((and))~~

1025 e. ~~King County may allow a detached accessory dwelling unit on a RA-5~~
1026 ~~zoned lot that is two and one-half acres or greater and less than three~~
1027 ~~and three-quarters acres if the property owner purchases one~~
1028 ~~Transferrable Development Right from the Rural Area, Agriculture or~~
1029 ~~Forestry designations.~~
1030

1031 **D.) Nonresidential Uses**

1032 Although low-density residential development, farming and forestry are the primary uses in the Rural Area,
1033 some compatible public and private uses are appropriate and contribute to rural character. Compatible uses
1034 might include small, neighborhood ~~((churches))~~ places of worship, feed and grain stores, produce stands, forest
1035 product sales and home occupations such as woodcrafters, small day care facilities or veterinary services. In
1036 addition, it may be necessary to locate some public facilities in the Rural Area, such as utility installations that
1037 serve rural homes. Any allowed nonresidential uses should be designed to blend with rural residential
1038 development and resource uses.
1039

1040 **R-324 Nonresidential uses in the Rural Area shall be limited to those that:**
1041 a. **Provide convenient local products and services for nearby residents;**
1042 b. **Require location in a Rural Area;**
1043 c. **Support natural resource-based industries;**
1044 d. **Provide adaptive reuse of significant historic resources; or**
1045 e. **Provide recreational ~~((and))~~ or tourism opportunities that are compatible**
1046 **with the surrounding Rural Area.**
1047

1048 **R-324a ~~((These))~~ Nonresidential uses in the Rural Area shall be sited, sized and**
1049 **landscaped to complement rural character as defined in policy R-101 and R-201,**
1050 **prevent impacts to the environment and function with rural services, including**
1051 **on-site wastewater disposal.**
1052

1053 **R-325 Golf facilities shall be permitted as a conditional use in the RA-2.5 and RA-5**
1054 **zones and when located outside of Rural Forest Focus Areas, Regionally**
1055 **Significant Resource Areas and Locally Significant Resource Areas~~((, as a~~**
1056 **conditional use, in the RA-2.5 and RA-5 zones)).**
1057

1058 In 2011, a School Siting Task Force was convened at the request of the Growth Management Planning Council
1059 to examine the issue of siting schools in Rural Areas, including whether they may be served by sewers. The Task
1060 Force examined undeveloped rural properties owned by school districts and made recommendations as to their
1061 use or disposition. In its final report, the Task Force recommended that all future school siting be consistent
1062 with the policies in *VISION 2040*. Placing schools in cities in the Rural Area, or in Rural Towns, reduces
1063 transportation and environmental impacts, protects rural character, and allows schools to be served with
1064 urban-level utilities and fire protection and used efficiently for other community activities.

- 1065
1066 **R-326** Except as provided in R-327:
- 1067 a. New schools and institutions primarily serving rural residents shall be
1068 located in neighboring cities and rural towns;
- 1069 b. New schools, institutions, and other community facilities primarily
1070 serving urban residents shall be located within the Urban Growth Area;
1071 and
- 1072 c. New community facilities and services that primarily serve rural
1073 residents shall be located in neighboring cities and rural towns, with
1074 limited exceptions when their use is dependent on a rural location and
1075 their size and scale supports rural character.
1076
- 1077 **R-327** Consistent with the recommendations of the School Siting Task Force, included
1078 as Appendix ((Q)) E, in the Rural Area:
- 1079 a. Except as otherwise provided in subsections d. and e. of this policy, an
1080 existing elementary, middle, or junior high school may be modified or
1081 expanded but shall not be converted to a high school;
- 1082 b. An existing high school may be modified or expanded or converted to an
1083 elementary, middle, or junior high school;
- 1084 c. Snoqualmie Valley 1: parcel number 1823099046, as shown on the King
1085 County Department of Assessments map as of March 31, 2012, may
1086 develop as a new school;
- 1087 d. Lake Washington 4: parcel numbers 0825069008 and 0825069056, as
1088 shown on the King County Department of Assessments map as of March
1089 31, 2012, may develop as a new school and convert an existing school
1090 on the site to a high school use;
- 1091 e. Tahoma 1: parcel number 2622069047, as shown on the King County
1092 Department of Assessments map as of March 31, 2012, may develop as a
1093 new school and convert an existing school on the site to a high school
1094 use only if no feasible alternative site can be located within the Urban
1095 Growth Area;
- 1096 f. Lake Washington 2: parcel numbers 3326069010 and 3326069009, as
1097 shown on the King County Department of Assessments map as of March
1098 31, 2012, may develop as a new school only if no feasible alternative site
1099 can be located within the Urban Growth Area, in which case it may be
1100 incorporated into the Urban Growth Area; and
- 1101 g. Enumclaw A and D: the rural portions of parcel numbers 2321069064,
1102 2321069063, and 2321069062, as shown on the King County Department
1103 of Assessments map as of March 31, 2012, may develop as ballfields or
1104 recreational playfields only, for a school located on the urban portions of
1105 the parcels.
1106

1107 **R-328** Small airfields beyond those already established in the Rural Area should not be
1108 permitted, due to their cumulative impacts on air traffic and nearby uses.

1109
1110 **R-329** Library services for the Rural Area should be provided by bookmobiles, or by
1111 libraries in Rural Towns or Cities in the Rural Area or may be allowed as an
1112 accessory use to a park or in a historic building in the Rural Area.

1113
1114 ~~((R-634))~~ **R-329a** No master planned resorts as defined in Chapter 36.70A Revised Code of
1115 Washington shall be permitted in ~~((the Forest Production District))~~
1116 unincorporated King County.

1117

1118 ~~((E.))~~ **Character and Development Standards**

1119 The aesthetic qualities and character of the Rural Area depend on a combination of factors, including low
1120 densities; a high ratio of undeveloped or undisturbed soil and natural or crop vegetation to development
1121 (impervious surfaces), such as roads and structures; historic buildings and landscapes; and minimal development
1122 standards, public facilities, and services beyond those needed for environmental protection and basic public
1123 health and safety.

1124

1125 **R-330** New subdivisions in the Rural Area should strive to maintain the size and scale
1126 of traditional development patterns and rural character.

1127

1128 **R-331** New subdivisions in the Rural Area should be designed and developed to
1129 maximize conservation of existing forest cover and native vegetation, and to
1130 minimize impervious surfaces within individual lots and in the subdivision as a
1131 whole. ~~((King County shall develop additional site design standards for new
1132 subdivisions that further reduce the impacts of new homes in the Rural Area on
1133 the natural environment, resource uses and other adjacent land uses.))~~

1134

1135 **R-332** Site design standards for new subdivisions in the Rural Area should include:
1136 minimization of impervious surfaces; maximizing retention of native soil and
1137 vegetation; supporting green stormwater infrastructure; site layout and
1138 landscaping that minimizes wildfire risk; limitations on entrance signage;
1139 preservation of natural contours, existing meadows and opportunities for
1140 keeping of horses; and other standards to limit features typical of urban or
1141 suburban development.

1142

1143 **R-333** Rural residential development adjacent to Agricultural and Forest Production
1144 Districts shall be sited to minimize interference with activities related to resource
1145 uses. Residences next to the Forest Production District shall be built with

1146 greater setbacks from the Forest Production District boundaries for safety and to
1147 reduce nuisance complaints.
1148

1149 ~~((ED-502))~~ **R-333a** In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County shall provide
1150 assistance through development of customized stewardship plans for individual
1151 properties, to help property owners understand their properties' characteristics
1152 and the potential impacts of their actions, and to make sustainable land
1153 management choices that protect natural resources.
1154

1155 **R-334** To maintain traditional rural development patterns and assure continued
1156 opportunities for resource activities in the Rural Area, large lot development is
1157 preferred in the Rural Area. Clustering of lots is permitted when:
1158 a. The development provides equal or greater protection of the natural
1159 environment, natural resource lands, historic resources, or
1160 archaeological sites;
1161 b. Clusters are limited in size to be compatible with surrounding large lots
1162 or nearby agricultural and forestry uses;
1163 c. The clustered development is offset with a permanent resource land
1164 tract preserved for forestry or agriculture, as designated by the owner at
1165 time of subdivision or short subdivision, or a permanent open space
1166 tract. Under no circumstances shall the tract be reserved for future
1167 development; and
1168 d. The development can be served by rural facilities and service levels
1169 (such as on-site sewage disposal and fire protection).
1170

1171 ~~((Resource and open space tracts often require stewardship over time to control stormwater runoff and associated
1172 pollutants, prevent or control invasive species encroachment and to restore forest health, species diversity, and
1173 wildlife habitat structure.))~~

1174
1175 **R-335** When a resource or open space tract is created as part of a plat, the ~~((c))~~ County
1176 should require a stewardship plan to ensure appropriate management of the
1177 tract.
1178

1179 Low-density development in the Rural Area ~~((will have))~~ has different residential street needs from those in the
1180 Urban Growth Area. ~~((Travel demand is generally lower on rural roads and road maintenance is a
1181 proportionately greater per capita cost than in the Urban Growth Area.~~

1182
1183 ~~))~~Rural streets and roads outside Rural Towns generally will have no more than two travel lanes, no curbs or
1184 sidewalks and feature unpaved shoulders and open drainage ditches. Local access streets for residential
1185 subdivisions will constitute a significant proportion of the site disturbance and impervious surface associated

1186 with new development in the Rural Area and therefore must take the environment into consideration equally
1187 with traffic flow and vehicular access.

1188

1189 **R-336** King County shall continue to support the rural development standards that have
1190 been established to protect the natural environment by addressing seasonal and
1191 maximum clearing limits, impervious surface limits and resource-based
1192 practices. Stormwater management practices should be implemented that
1193 emphasize preservation of natural drainage systems(~~(, protect))~~ and protection of
1194 water quality and natural hydrology of surface waters and groundwater. Rural
1195 development standards should also, where feasible, incorporate and encourage
1196 ~~((L))low ((H))high~~ ~~((D))design~~ principles for managing stormwater onsite by
1197 minimizing impervious surfaces, preserving onsite hydrology, retaining native
1198 vegetation and forest cover, capturing and reusing rainwater, controlling
1199 pollution at the source, and protecting groundwater. King County shall take care
1200 that requirements for onsite stormwater management complement requirements
1201 for onsite wastewater management.

1202

1203 **R-336a** To help achieve the goal of reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
1204 associated with new construction, King County should adopt and implement
1205 green building codes that are appropriate, ambitious and achievable.

1206

1207 **R-336b** ~~((Adoption of such codes may result in an increased use of r))~~ Renewable energy
1208 technologies ~~((that))~~ may be sited in the Rural Areas and Natural Resource
1209 Lands, as appropriate. Development standards ~~((will seek to))~~ should ensure that
1210 the siting, scale, and design of these facilities respect and support rural
1211 character.

1212

1213 ~~((IV.))~~ Rural Public Facilities and Services

1214 ~~((The policies below set forth King County's general approach to providing services and setting facility standards
1215 for the Rural Area and provide guidance for siting those facilities that require Rural Area locations. See Chapter
1216 8, Transportation, and Chapter 9, Services, Facilities and Utilities, for more detailed policies on specific facilities
1217 and services such as roads, on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems and water supply.))~~

1218

1219 ~~((In order t))~~To focus growth within the Urban Growth Area, financial resources must be prioritized to develop
1220 and maintain sufficient urban infrastructure and services in the Urban Growth Area to accommodate that
1221 growth. Further, the presence of a high level of public infrastructure and services has been demonstrated to
1222 create pressure for new growth. To use financial resources efficiently and reduce growth pressure in the Rural
1223 Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County will not provide an urban level of infrastructure and services to
1224 the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Chapter 8, Transportation, and Chapter 9, Services, Facilities, and

1225 Utilities, clarify King County’s priorities for transportation and other facility improvements in the Rural Area
1226 and Natural Resource Lands. The policies below set forth King County’s general approach to providing services
1227 and setting facility standards for the Rural Area and provide guidance for siting those facilities that require Rural
1228 Area locations.

1229
1230 **R-401** King County shall work with cities and other agencies providing services to the
1231 Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands to adopt standards for facilities and
1232 services in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands that:
1233 a. ~~_____((p))Protect ((basic)) public health and safety and the environment((,~~
1234 ~~but));~~
1235 b. ~~_____((a))Are financially supportable at appropriate densities;~~
1236 c. ~~_____ Are appropriate size and scale; and~~
1237 d. ~~_____((d))Do not encourage urban development.~~

1238
1239 **R-402** Public spending priorities for facilities and services within the Rural Area and
1240 Natural Resource Lands should be as follows:
1241 a. First, to maintain existing facilities and services that protect public
1242 health and safety;
1243 b. Second, to upgrade facilities and services when needed to correct ~~((level~~
1244 ~~of-service)) level-of-service~~ deficiencies without unnecessarily creating
1245 additional capacity for new growth; and
1246 c. Third, to support sustainable economic development that is sized and
1247 scaled at levels appropriate for Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands
1248 and does not foster urbanization.

1249
1250 ~~((In 2014, King County adopted an update to the Rural Economic Strategies Plan, through Ordinance 17956;~~
1251 ~~this ordinance provides guidance to economic development activities in the Rural Area, as well as on Natural~~
1252 ~~Resource Lands, and is described in more detail in Chapter 10, Economic Development.))~~

1253
1254 **R-403** In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, standards and plans for utility
1255 service should be consistent with long-term, low-density development and
1256 resource industries. Utility facilities that serve the Urban Growth Area but must
1257 be located in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands (for example, a
1258 pipeline from a municipal watershed) should be designed and scaled to serve
1259 primarily the Urban Growth Area. Sewers needed to serve previously established
1260 urban “islands,” Cities in the Rural Area, Rural Towns, or new or existing schools
1261 pursuant to R-327 and ~~((F-264)) F-262a~~ shall be tightlined and have access
1262 restrictions precluding service to other lands in the Rural Area and Natural
1263 Resource Lands.

1264

1265 ~~((V.))~~ **Rural Commercial Centers**

1266 ~~((This section addresses Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, Rural Towns, Cities in the Rural Area,~~
1267 ~~industrial uses in the Rural Area, and promoting public health in the Rural Area.))~~

1268
1269 The Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, Rural Towns, the Cities in the Rural Area, and non-resource
1270 industrial uses located in rural King County contribute to the vitality of the rural economy. Additionally, the
1271 Cities in the Rural Area and Rural Towns provide variety in development patterns and housing choices and
1272 provide employment opportunities, retail shopping, and other services to nearby residents. These cities and
1273 towns also contain a significant portion of King County’s historic architecture and are the primary locations for
1274 nonresidential uses in the Rural Area. The Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, Rural Towns, and Cities
1275 in the Rural Area provide limited, local convenience shopping, restaurants, and services to meet the daily needs
1276 of rural residents.

1277

1278 ~~((A.))~~ **Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center(s) Designation**

1279 ~~The Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center((s are)) land use designation is used to recognize existing small~~
1280 ~~pockets of commercial development((s)), or in some cases, historic ((towns)) communities or buildings, that are~~
1281 ~~too small to provide more than convenience shopping and services to surrounding residents. They generally do~~
1282 ~~not have infrastructure or services such as water supply or sewage disposal systems any different from those~~
1283 ~~-serving the surrounding area. ((Examples of Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers include the store at~~
1284 ~~Stillwater on the Carnation Duvall Road, the town of Cumberland on the Enumclaw Plateau, and Preston. The~~
1285 ~~county is implementing projects and exploring new options to ensure the continuation of the character and~~
1286 ~~businesses in these important rural centers.))~~

1287

1288 The locations of existing nodes of lands designated as Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers are:

1289

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1290 <u>Bear Creek/Sammamish:</u> | <u>Cottage Lake and Redmond-Fall City Road/236th NE</u> |
| 1291 <u>Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain:</u> | <u>Issaquah-Hobart Road/Cedar Grove Road SE, SE Renton-</u> |
| 1292 | <u>Issaquah Road and 164th Avenue SE, and SE 128th Street/164th</u> |
| 1293 | <u>Avenue SE</u> |
| 1294 <u>Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River:</u> | <u>Renton-Maple Valley Road SE/State Route 18, Ravensdale,</u> |
| 1295 | <u>Hobart, Kangley, and Kanasket</u> |
| 1296 <u>Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County:</u> | <u>Preston, Timberlane Village, Baring</u> |
| 1297 <u>Southeast King County:</u> | <u>Enumclaw-Black Diamond Road SE/SE Green Valley Road,</u> |
| 1298 | <u>Cumberland, Krain’s Corner, Newaukem, 228th Ave SE/State</u> |
| 1299 | <u>Route 164</u> |

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1300 Vashon-Maury Island: Burton, Dockton, Tahlequah, Portage, Heights Dock, Jack’s
1301 Corner, Valley Center, Vashon Service Center, Vashon Heights
1302 and Maury Island Service Center

1303
1304 **R-501** **The range of uses allowed on lands with the Rural Neighborhood Commercial**
1305 **Center(~~(s) designated on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map are~~) land use**
1306 **designation shall be scaled to be small(~~(-scale business areas)) businesses that~~**
1307 **((should)) provide convenience shopping and services for ((the surrounding**
1308 **community)) surrounding Rural Area and Natural Resource land residents, such**
1309 **as retail, community and human services, and personal services.**

1310
1311 **R-501a** **No new nodes of lands shall be designated as Rural Neighborhood Commercial**
1312 **Center(~~(s) are needed to serve the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands~~)).**

1313
1314 **R-501b** **((Expansion of the boundaries of the)) Adding the Rural Neighborhood**
1315 **Commercial Center land use designation to land adjacent to an existing Rural**
1316 **Neighborhood Commercial Center(~~(s)~~) shall not be ((permitted)) allowed except**
1317 **through a subarea plan or area zoning and land use study.**

1318
1319 ~~((The designated Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers shown on the Land Use map are:~~

1320 **Bear Creek:** Cottage Lake and Redmond-Fall City Road/236th NE

1321 **East King County:** Greenwater, Baring and Timberlane Village

1322 **Enumclaw:** Cumberland, Krain’s Corner and Newaukum

1323 **Newcastle:** Coalfield and East Renton Plateau

1324 **Snoqualmie:** Preston and Stillwater

1325 **Tahoma/Raven Heights:** Maple Valley, Hobart, Ravensdale and North Cedar Grove Road

1326 **Vashon:** Burton, Dockton, Tahlequah, Portage, Heights Dock, Jack’s Corner, Valley
1327 Center, Vashon Service Center, Vashon Heights and Maury Island Service
1328 Center

1329
1330 ~~The policies in this section are based on a recognition of the limited size of most Rural Neighborhood~~
1331 ~~Commercial Centers, the limited utilities and other services available to them, and a desire to preserve their~~
1332 ~~existing character and relationship to the surrounding rural community.~~

1333
1334 **R-502** **Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers should accommodate only small-scale**
1335 **retail, community and human services, and personal service uses that provide**

1336 ~~convenience shopping and services to nearby Rural Area and Natural Resource~~
1337 ~~Lands residents.))~~

1338
1339 **R-503** King County commercial development standards for Rural Neighborhood
1340 Commercial Center(~~s~~) lands should facilitate economic reuse of existing
1341 structures, minimize increases in impervious surfaces, and encourage retention
1342 of historic character and scale. Urban-level parking, landscaping, and street
1343 improvement standards are not appropriate for Rural Neighborhood Commercial
1344 Centers except as demonstrated as being needed to address the safety of the
1345 public.

1346
1347 **R-503a** ~~((Where appropriate,))~~ King County should allow the use of existing
1348 structures/parcels to accommodate Farmers Markets ~~((within))~~ on Rural
1349 Neighborhood Commercial Center(~~s~~) lands.

1351 **~~((B-))~~ Rural Towns**

1352 Rural Towns are unincorporated towns governed directly by King County(~~, but may provide a focal point for~~
1353 ~~community groups such as chambers of commerce or community councils to participate in public affairs)).~~

1354
1355 The purposes of the Rural Town designation are to recognize existing concentrations of higher density and
1356 economic activity in the Rural Area, whether by virtue of historical rural settlements or redesignation of an
1357 urban commercial center; provide a physical focus for the historic identity of rural communities; and allow for
1358 modest growth of residential and economic uses within these designations if supported by the community and
1359 adequate utilities and other public services are available. ~~((At the present time, t))~~ The Rural Towns designated
1360 by the Comprehensive Plan are Fall City, Snoqualmie Pass, and ~~((the Town of))~~ Vashon ~~((and are recognized as~~
1361 ~~such within the Comprehensive Plan)).~~ The ~~((e))~~ County supports the economic vitality of these communities
1362 and is offering programs and working with the businesses and residents in and near these communities to help
1363 ensure their continued economic health.

1364
1365 Although higher-density development in Rural Towns may require public sewers, applying the full range of
1366 urban development standards ~~((e.g.))~~ such as for street improvements or landscaping) may not be necessary, and
1367 may not be consistent with the historic character of these communities. Although Rural Towns also may in
1368 some circumstances develop at densities similar to those in the Urban Growth Area or in Cities in the Rural
1369 Area when appropriate infrastructure is available, they are considered part of the Rural Area for purposes of the
1370 Growth Management Act, do not provide significant growth capacity, and are not subject to the growth targets
1371 adopted for the Urban Growth Area.

1372
1373 **~~((R-507))~~ R-503b** Rural Towns serve as activity centers for the Rural Area and Natural Resource
1374 Lands and may be served by a range of utilities and services, and may include

1375 several or all of the following land uses, if supported by necessary utilities and
1376 other services and if scaled and designed to protect rural character:
1377 a. Retail, commercial, and industrial uses to serve the surrounding Rural
1378 Area and Natural Resource Lands population;
1379 b. Residential development, including single~~((family))~~ detached housing
1380 on small lots, as well as multifamily housing and mixed-use
1381 developments;
1382 c. Other retail, commercial, and industrial uses, such as resource
1383 industries, tourism, commercial recreation, and light industry; and
1384 d. Public facilities and services such as community services, parks,
1385 ~~((churches))~~ places of worship, schools, and fire stations.
1386

1387 **R-504** King County designates the Rural Towns of Fall City, Snoqualmie Pass, and the
1388 ~~((Town of))~~ Vashon as unincorporated Rural Towns. These historical settlements
1389 in unincorporated King County should provide services and a range of housing
1390 choices for Rural Area residents. The boundaries of the designated Rural Towns
1391 are shown on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map. Adjustments to these
1392 boundaries shall only occur through a subarea plan or area zoning and land use
1393 study, and shall not allow significant increases in development potential or
1394 environmental impacts. No new Rural Towns ~~((are needed to serve the Rural~~
1395 ~~Area))~~ shall be created.
1396

1397 **R-505** Commercial and industrial development that provides employment, shopping,
1398 and community and human services that strengthen the fiscal and economic
1399 health of rural communities should locate in Rural Towns if utilities and other
1400 services permit. Urban-level parking~~((, landscaping,))~~ and street improvement
1401 standards are not appropriate for Rural Towns. Sidewalks and other pedestrian
1402 safety measures should be provided to serve ~~((the))~~ Rural Towns.
1403

1404 **R-506** Rural Towns may contain higher-density housing than permitted in the
1405 surrounding Rural Area, and should provide affordable and resource-worker
1406 housing ~~((if utilities and other services permit))~~. Development density in Rural
1407 Towns may approach that achieved in Cities in the Rural Area, when appropriate
1408 infrastructure is available.
1409

1410 ~~((The policies in this section apply only to the unincorporated Rural Towns. King County encourages Cities in~~
1411 ~~the Rural Area to adopt land use policies and development standards that protect and enhance their historical~~
1412 ~~character.~~

1413
1414 ~~**R-507** Rural Towns serve as activity centers for the Rural Area and Natural Resource~~
1415 ~~Lands and may be served by a range of utilities and services, and may include~~

1416 ~~several or all of the following land uses, if supported by necessary utilities and~~
1417 ~~other services and if scaled and designed to protect rural character:~~
1418 ~~a. — Retail, commercial, and industrial uses to serve the surrounding Rural~~
1419 ~~Area and Natural Resource Lands population;~~
1420 ~~b. — Residential development, including single-family housing on small lots~~
1421 ~~as well as multifamily housing and mixed-use developments;~~
1422 ~~c. — Other retail, commercial, and industrial uses, such as resource~~
1423 ~~industries, tourism, commercial recreation, and light industry; and~~
1424 ~~d. — Public facilities and services such as community services, churches,~~
1425 ~~schools, and fire stations.))~~

1427 **R-508** Sewers may be allowed in Rural Towns if necessary to solve existing water
1428 quality and public health problems ~~((which))~~ that cannot be addressed by other
1429 methods, provided that any extension of sewer mains from urban areas to serve
1430 a Rural Town shall be tightlined systems designed to not serve any intervening
1431 lands. All alternatives shall be exhausted before sewers may be allowed. Rural
1432 Towns shall not be enlarged to facilitate provision of sewers.

1433
1434 ~~((Rural and urban residents alike value the historic character of King County’s Rural Towns. New development~~
1435 ~~can enhance the character and valuable features of Rural Towns through careful design and location.))~~

1437 **R-509** Rural Towns should be compact, promoting ~~((pedestrian and nonmotorized~~
1438 ~~travel))~~ active transportation while ~~((permitting automobile))~~ allowing vehicle
1439 access to most commercial and industrial uses. New development should be
1440 designed to strengthen the desirable characteristics and the historic character of
1441 the town, be supported by necessary public facilities and services, and be
1442 compatible with historic resources and nearby Rural Area or Natural Resource
1443 Land uses. New industrial uses should locate where they do not disrupt
1444 pedestrian or bicycle traffic in established retail areas of town or conflict with
1445 residential uses.

1447 ~~((€))~~ **Cities in the Rural Area**

1448 ~~((The cities in King County’s rural area))~~ Cities in the Rural Area are incorporated areas substantively
1449 surrounded by the Rural Area and whose local governments are involved in the region’s planning processes on
1450 an equal legal basis with the suburban cities, Bellevue, and Seattle. The ~~((€))~~Cities in the Rural Area are Black
1451 Diamond, Carnation, Duvall, Enumclaw, North Bend, Skykomish and Snoqualmie.

1452
1453 The Growth Management Act stipulates that Cities in the Rural Area and their Potential Annexation Areas are
1454 to be treated as part of the Urban Growth Area. The Countywide Planning Policies also provide for urban land
1455 uses and densities and urban services in those locations. Excessive growth in Cities in the Rural Area and in

1456 Rural Towns, however, may create pressure for extending urban services (for example, sewers) across the Rural
1457 Area or Resource Lands, may increase conversion pressure on nearby Resource Lands and adversely affect rural
1458 character. Therefore, King County views Cities in the Rural Area as qualitatively different from the Urban
1459 Growth Area as a whole, even though they may provide significant opportunities for residential or employment
1460 growth within their boundaries.

1461

1462 King County has worked with the Cities in the Rural Area to establish Potential Annexation Areas to
1463 accommodate growth. These areas are shown as part of the Urban Growth Area on the Comprehensive Plan
1464 Land Use Map at the end of Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning. ~~((Additionally, the county is
1465 working with these cities on individual economic development strategies and options, as well as regional
1466 economic and tourism opportunities.))~~

1467

1468 **R-510** ~~((The Cities in the Rural Area and their Potential Annexation Areas are part of the
1469 overall Urban Growth Area for purposes of planning land uses and facility
1470 needs.))~~ King County should work with Cities in the Rural Area to:

- 1471 **a.** ~~((e))~~ Encourage the provision of affordable housing ~~((, to))~~;
- 1472 **b.** ~~((m))~~ Minimize the impacts of new development on the surrounding Rural
1473 Areas and Natural Resource Lands;
- 1474 **c.** Avoid the conversion of rural lands into commercial uses and the
1475 creation of pressure to extend or expand urban services, infrastructure,
1476 and facilities, such as roads or sewer, across or into the Rural Area and
1477 Natural Resource Lands; and
- 1478 **d.** ~~((p))~~ Plan for growth consistent with long-term protection of significant
1479 historic resources ~~((,))~~ and the surrounding Rural Area and Natural
1480 Resource Lands.

1481

1482 **R-511** Within Potential Annexation Areas of Cities in the Rural Area the following uses
1483 shall be permitted until the area annexes to the city:

- 1484 **a.** Residential development at a density of one home per five acres or less
1485 with mandatory clustering; and
- 1486 **b.** Nonresidential development such as commercial and industrial as
1487 determined through ~~((previous))~~ subarea plans.

1488

1489 ~~((D-))~~ **Non-Resource Industrial Uses and Development Standards in the** 1490 **Rural Area**

1491 There are ~~((three))~~ five existing industrial areas in the Rural Area containing multiple industrial uses on several
1492 sites ~~((One is located within the southwest portion of the Town of Vashon. The second is a designated industrial
1493 area adjacent to the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center of Preston. The Preston Industrial Area
1494 recognizes an existing concentration of industrial uses that contributes to the economic diversity of the Rural~~

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1495 ~~Area, but expansion of this industrial area beyond the identified boundaries is not permitted (see Policy CP-547).~~
1496 ~~The third industrial area is located along State Route 169 on lands that have been and continue to be used as for~~
1497 ~~industrial purposes and have a designation as a King County Historic Site.))~~ in the following locations:

- 1498 • within the southwest portion of Vashon Rural Town;
- 1499 • the Preston Industrial Area;
- 1500 • along State Route 169 on lands that have been and continue to be used as for industrial purposes;
- 1501 • between Covington and Auburn and contains a regional motor sports facility; and
- 1502 • east of Enumclaw along State Route 410 and contains an assortment of warehousing and industrial
1503 uses.

1504
1505 **R-512** **The creation of new Industrial-zoned lands in the Rural Area shall be limited to**
1506 **those that have long been used for industrial purposes, do not have potential for**
1507 **conversion to residential use due to a historic designation and that may be**
1508 **accessed directly from State Route 169.**

1509
1510 **R-513** **Rural Public Infrastructure Maintenance Facilities, and agriculture and forestry**
1511 **product processing should be allowed in the Rural Area. Other new industrial**
1512 **uses in the Rural Area shall be permitted only on existing Industrial zoned**
1513 **properties in Rural Towns and ~~((in the designated industrial area adjacent to the~~**
1514 **~~Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center of))~~ the Preston Industrial Area.**

1515
1516 ~~((In order to))~~ To preserve rural character and protect sensitive natural features, new rural industrial development
1517 in the Rural Area needs to be of a scale and nature that is distinct from urban industrial development. The scale
1518 and intensity and many of the uses allowed in urban industrial development are not appropriate for rural
1519 industrial areas. The following policy applies to all new industrial development in the Rural Area.

1520
1521 **R-514** **Development regulations for new industrial development in the Rural Area shall**
1522 **require the following:**
1523 a. **Greater setbacks, and reduced building height, floor/lot ratios, and**
1524 **maximum impervious surface percentage standards in comparison to**
1525 **standards for urban industrial development;**
1526 b. **Maximum protection of sensitive natural features, especially salmonid**
1527 **habitat and water quality;**
1528 c. **Building and landscape design that respects the aesthetic qualities and**
1529 **character of the Rural Area, and provides substantial buffering from the**
1530 **adjoining uses and scenic vistas;**
1531 d. ~~((Building colors and materials that are muted, s))~~ Signs that are not
1532 internally illuminated, and site and building lighting that is held to the
1533 minimum necessary for safety;

- 1534 e. Prohibition of ((H))heavier industrial uses, new industrial uses producing
- 1535 substantial waste byproducts or wastewater discharge, or new paper,
- 1536 chemical and allied products manufacturing uses allowed in the urban
- 1537 industrial zone ((shall be prohibited)); and
- 1538 f. Industrial uses ((requiring)) be sized to not require substantial
- 1539 investments in infrastructure, such as water, sewers, or transportation
- 1540 facilities, or facilities that generate substantial volumes of heavy-gross
- 1541 weight truck trips((, shall be reduced in size to avoid the need for public
- 1542 funding of the infrastructure)).
- 1543

1544 The intent of this policy is to preclude expansion of the industrial area beyond the identified boundaries and to
1545 ensure that new development (not previously constructed or vested) in the industrial area meets rural character
1546 standards. Site design, landscaping, design, and construction of internal and access roads and building scale
1547 should reinforce the set boundaries and rural nature of the industrial area to further discourage future industrial
1548 expansion beyond the industrial boundary.

1549
1550 There are also existing, isolated industrial sites in the Rural Area that are recognized, but are not appropriate for
1551 new industrial uses. Further expansion of these isolated industrial uses is not encouraged, and therefore they are
1552 not zoned Industrial.

1553
1554 **R-515** Existing industrial uses in the Rural Area outside of Rural Towns(~~(, the industrial~~
1555 ~~area on the King County designated historic site along State Route 169 or the~~
1556 ~~designated industrial area adjacent to the Rural Neighborhood Commercial~~
1557 ~~Center of Preston)) without Industrial zoning currently shall be zoned rural
1558 ~~((residential))~~ area but may continue if they qualify as legal, conforming and/or
1559 nonconforming uses.~~

1561 ~~((E.)) Promoting Public Health in the Rural Area for All~~

1562 Planning for and features of the built environment are important in providing healthy, safe places for people
1563 regardless of whether the setting is rural or urban. The built environment refers to various physical features, such
1564 as buildings, parks, and roadways, and their spatial arrangement in neighborhoods and communities. These
1565 features influence public health through the range of choices provided for engaging in various activities. For
1566 example, well designed roads can enhance the safety and walkability of neighborhoods, while having a park or
1567 other gathering place to come together with family, friends, or community members can strengthen social and
1568 mental health and increase community cohesiveness. People with access to places to play are twice as likely to
1569 reach recommended levels of physical activity than those who have little or no access. (~~((See Chapter 2, Urban~~
1570 ~~Communities, for additional information on the linkages between the built environment and various aspects of~~
1571 ~~health.))~~)

1572

1573 Many locations in King County’s Cities in the Rural Area(~~(,)~~) and Rural Towns(~~(, and Rural Neighborhood~~
1574 ~~Commercial Centers))~~ function as important hubs for their respective communities because they provide shops
1575 and services. Parks, schools, or other public services within walking distance of these community hubs cannot
1576 always be safely or conveniently reached without a car. Opportunities for daily physical activity can be
1577 increased by establishing safe walking and bicycling connections to and within these rural hubs.

1578
1579 In addition to physical activity, another major determinant of health is what people eat. Everything from quality
1580 and location of food retail outlets and restaurants to food cost to school food choices influence the food choices
1581 of rural residents. ~~((According to data from national surveys, adults in the United States consume on average~~
1582 ~~only 1.1 and 1.7 servings of fruits and vegetables daily.))~~ There are people in every community for whom hunger
1583 is a daily issue. Land use planning can play a role in providing and improving access to healthy foods. Garden
1584 plots located in neighborhoods, parks, vacant lots, surplus public rights-of-way, and public utility lands in various
1585 communities can be used as places to grow fruits and vegetables, build community, and address hunger. Similar
1586 locations in the Rural Area of King County should be explored for this purpose.

1587
1588 **R-516** ~~((Within Rural Towns and larger Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers,~~
1589 ~~non-motorized connectivity, where consistent with rural character,))~~
1590 **Connectivity for active transportation uses should be encouraged in Rural**
1591 **Towns, where consistent with rural character, to promote ((walking and**
1592 **bicycling)) physical activity and to improve public health.**

1593
1594 **R-517** King County should explore ways of creating and supporting community
1595 gardens, Farmers Markets, produce stands and other similar community(~~(-))~~-
1596 based food growing projects to provide and improve access to healthy,
1597 affordable food for all rural residents.

1598
1599 **R-517a** King County shall promote children’s health by encouraging and supporting land
1600 uses in the environment surrounding a school and on travel routes to schools that
1601 complement and strengthen other formal programs, such as Safe Routes to School,
1602 at a size and scale appropriate to the Rural Area.

1603

1604 ~~((VI.))~~ **Natural Resource Lands**

1605 ~~((A.))~~ **Ensuring Conservation and Sustainable Use of Resource Lands**

1606 This section contains King County’s strategy for conservation of valuable resource lands and for encouraging
1607 their productive and sustainable management. The strategy consists of policies to guide planning, incentives,
1608 education, and regulation. Although this section focuses on the designated Natural Resource Lands of long-term
1609 commercial significance, many of the policies are applicable to farm, forest and mineral lands in the Rural Area
1610 as well.

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1611 King County’s Natural Resource Lands contribute to the economic prosperity of the region. They are the lands
1612 with long-term commercial significance for farming, forestry, and mineral extraction. Businesses that rely on
1613 resource lands provide jobs and products, such as food, wood, and gravel. They also are an important part of the
1614 cultural heritage. Conservation and responsible stewardship of working farm and forest lands also produces
1615 multiple environmental benefits, such as:

- 1616 • Stream and salmon protection;
- 1617 • Clean air and water;
- 1618 • Wildlife habitat;
- 1619 • Flood risk reduction;
- 1620 • Groundwater recharge and protection; and
- 1621 • Carbon sequestration and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

1622
1623 For mineral extraction, responsible stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and site remediation
1624 can help to mitigate many of the impacts while providing local sources of materials such as sand and gravel.

1625
1626 King County has taken major steps to conserve ~~((and manage agricultural soils and activities,))~~ farmland and
1627 forestland to support commercial agriculture and forestry ((and)), while also allowing for regulated extraction of
1628 minerals ((extraction opportunities)). Natural Resource Lands and the industries they support are conserved by
1629 encouraging development to occur primarily in the Urban Growth Area as directed by the Growth Management
1630 Act. Under this Comprehensive Plan, Resource Lands, including designated Agricultural Production Districts,
1631 the Forest Production District, and sites of long-term commercial significance for mineral resource uses, will
1632 have minimal new residential and commercial development. New development that does occur will be designed
1633 to be compatible with active resource-based uses.

1634
1635 ~~((This chapter contains King County's strategy for conservation of these valuable Resource Lands and for
1636 encouraging their productive and sustainable management. The strategy consists of policies to guide planning,
1637 incentives, education, regulation and purchase or transfer of development rights.))~~

1638
1639 Forest, agriculture and mineral resource lands are not King County's only natural resources. Many other
1640 resource-based industries, such as the recreational and commercial fisheries ~~((industry))~~ industries, are influenced
1641 by King County's land use and planning policies. Policies for the protection and enhancement of fisheries, as
1642 well as air, water, vegetation, wildlife and other natural resources, can be found in Chapter 5, Environment.

1643
1644 ~~((The Rural Forest Commission was established in 1997 to represent the diversity of forest interests in King
1645 County. The Commission reviews the development and implementation of strategies, programs, policies and
1646 regulations that benefit forestry and advises the county on ways to preserve rural forests and promote rural
1647 forestry.))~~

1648

1649 **R-601**

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 support rural forest landowners. King County shall continue to support the Rural Forest Commission with staff and other resources.

1655

1656

~~((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.))~~

1660

1661 **R-602**

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 underserved communities, and contribute to a strong local food system. King County shall continue to support the Agriculture Commission with staff and other resources.

1673

1674 **~~((B-))~~ Resource Conservation Strategy**

1675

~~((In 1985, the King County Comprehensive Plan designated the county's initial Forest Production District and five Agricultural Production Districts. Subsequent)) The Growth Management Act requires designation of agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance. 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 established 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~~~~

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1686 long-term commercial significance are designated as the Forest Production District as shown on the Agricultural
1687 and Forest Lands Map.))

1688
1689 The Growth Management Act also requires designation of mineral resource lands that are primarily devoted to
1690 the extraction of minerals or that have known or potential long-term commercial significance for the extraction
1691 of minerals. Minerals include, but are not limited to, gravel, sand, and valuable metallic substances. Coal is not
1692 considered a mineral resource in King County. Such lands are shown as Designated Mineral Resource Sites on
1693 the Mineral Resources Map in this chapter. ~~((The role of the Forest Production District in the conservation of
1694 mineral resources is also explained below.))~~

1695
1696 ~~((R-606))~~ **R-603** Farm lands, forest lands and mineral resources shall be conserved for productive
1697 use through the use of Designated Agricultural and Forest Production Districts
1698 and Designated Mineral Resource Sites where the principal ~~((and preferred))~~ land
1699 uses ~~((will))~~ shall be commercial resource management activities~~((, and by the
1700 designation of appropriate compatible uses on adjacent Rural Area and urban
1701 lands))~~.

1702
1703 **R-604** King County shall promote and support commercially viable and environmentally
1704 sustainable forestry, agriculture, and other resource-based industries as a part of
1705 a diverse and regional economy.

1706
1707 **R-604a** King County shall support ~~((and designate))~~ mineral resource lands of long-term
1708 commercial significance and promote policies, environmental reviews, and
1709 management practices that minimize conflicts with neighboring land uses and
1710 mitigate environmental impacts.

1711
1712 ~~((R-605))~~ ~~Forestry and agriculture best management practices are encouraged because of
1713 their multiple benefits, including natural resource preservation and protection.~~

1714
1715 ~~R-606~~ ~~Farm lands, forest lands and mineral resources shall be conserved for productive
1716 use through the use of Designated Agricultural and Forest Production Districts
1717 and Designated Mineral Resource Sites where the principal and preferred land
1718 uses will be commercial resource management activities, and by the designation
1719 of appropriate compatible uses on adjacent Rural Area and urban lands.))~~

1720
1721
1722 **R-607** Land uses, utilities, and transportation facilities within and adjacent to
1723 Designated Agricultural and Forest Production Districts and Designated Mineral
1724 Resource Sites, shall be sited and designed to ensure compatibility with
1725 resource management.

1726

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1727 **R-608** King County should encourage infrastructure and services that support resource
1728 lands management and resource-based businesses. These should be sited ((in
1729 ~~close proximity~~)) close to designated Agricultural and Forest Production Districts
1730 and Designated Mineral Resource Sites ((when)) where potential adverse impacts
1731 and incompatibilities can effectively be mitigated.

1732
1733 ~~((King County recognizes that maintaining viable resource based businesses is challenging. Owners of resource
1734 lands make substantial investments in managing their land. Market uncertainties, labor costs, vandalism, taxes
1735 and fees can affect the profitability of resource based industries.~~

1736
1737 ~~Conflicts with surrounding land uses and environmental problems can arise even with the best of precautions.
1738 Resource based industries need reasonable certainty that policies are in place to help avoid such conflicts and
1739 operations can continue if activities are performed in an environmentally sound manner.))~~

1740
1741 The ~~((Forest Lands))~~ Designated Forestland Program (Chapter 84.33 Revised Code of Washington ((84.33))),
1742 ~~((and the Open Space Taxation Program, which includes the Timberland))~~-Farm and Agriculture Program
1743 Chapter 84.34 Revised Code of Washington and Public Benefit Rating System ~~((p))~~Program(s) (Chapter 84.34
1744 Revised Code of Washington ((84.34))) are property tax incentives that encourage continued farm and forest
1745 management both within and outside the Forest Production District and Agricultural Production Districts.

1746
1747 **R-609** King County should expand access to property tax incentive programs to
1748 encourage landowners to continue ~~((practicing))~~ and expand farming and forestry
1749 and to help ensure retention of the resource land base. These programs should
1750 be publicized and marketed to ensure equitable access to program benefits.

1751
1752 ~~((R-610) King County shall employ a variety of innovative programs and incentives to help
1753 maintain and enhance resource-based industries.~~

1754
1755 ~~Examples of such programs include technical assistance and education for sustainable land management,
1756 education for urban and suburban residents, purchases of land or development rights, transfer of development
1757 rights, the purchase of scenic easements and other less than fee ownership interests that conserve resource uses,
1758 establishment of buffers and setbacks for adjacent properties, and relief from special levies and local
1759 improvement district fees.))~~

1760
1761 When urban development occurs near Resource Lands, conflicts can result. Examples of such conflicts are
1762 greater risk of forest fires; vandalism to logging, farm and mining equipment; destruction of young trees; and
1763 increased mixing of heavy truck and residential traffic, which presents safety problems. Increased development
1764 near resource lands also results in increased encroachment of noxious weeds into forests and farmland. It is
1765 important for neighboring property owners to understand the value of resource industries and what kinds of
1766 resource activities are likely to occur.

1767

- 1768 **R-611** King County should develop and employ effective means to inform affected
1769 property owners about nearby resource management activities. This may
1770 include, but not be limited to:
- 1771 a. Notice on title, and notification on recorded subdivisions, short
1772 subdivision maps, and issued development permits for properties within
1773 five hundred feet of designated agriculture, forestry, and mineral
1774 resource lands;
 - 1775 b. Signage; and
 - 1776 c. Community meetings and other public notification tools.
- 1777

1778 Successful Resource Land conservation requires a regional perspective and intergovernmental cooperation.
1779 Although the designated Resource Lands are located in unincorporated King County, they benefit nearby cities
1780 and can be affected by activities in those cities. Furthermore, some Resource Lands in King County are owned
1781 or managed by city, county, state and federal agencies and Indian tribes. A regional perspective is also important
1782 because many resource activities are regulated or supported by state and federal programs.

1783

- 1784 **R-612** King County shall work cooperatively with cities, Indian tribes, other public
1785 agencies, private utilities, resource managers, land((-)owners, and residents to
1786 conserve public and private Resource Lands for long-term productivity and
1787 environmental protection in a consistent and predictable manner.

1788

- 1789 **R-613** Designated Forest and Agricultural Production District lands shall not be
1790 annexed by cities except as allowed in Policies R-656 and R-656a.

1791

- 1792 **R-614** King County should establish written agreements with agencies, Indian tribes
1793 and other affected parties whose close coordination and collaboration are
1794 essential to effective implementation of resource management programs. Such
1795 agreements should serve to establish consensus and commitment to achieving
1796 specific resource management goals and to define the specific roles and
1797 responsibilities of each agency.

1798

- 1799 ~~**(R-615** King County should avoid duplication of federal and state regulations that apply
1800 to resource-based industries. However, King County reserves the authority to
1801 address issues of local concern with regard to resource-based activities and
1802 operations.))~~

1803

1804 As the population in the Puget Sound area continues to grow, the protection of resource lands and the continued
1805 success of commercial agriculture and forestry is a regional challenge. Many of the issues facing King County's
1806 resource industries are also faced by neighboring counties. Furthermore, some of the infrastructure and support
1807 businesses necessary to sustain agriculture and forestry may serve more than a single county. Therefore, King

1808 County’s efforts to retain healthy resource economies will be more successful if the ((e))County collaborates with
1809 other agencies and agriculture and forestry interest groups in the region. These efforts may include policy
1810 development, training for service providers and outreach that is supportive of commercial agriculture and timber
1811 production and encourages the purchase of local food and local wood.

1812

1813 **R-615a King County should work with other jurisdictions, agencies and agriculture and**
1814 **forestry interest groups to help maintain and enhance commercial agriculture**
1815 **and forestry production by addressing challenges common across the region.**

1816

1817 Resource management strategies that protect the environment are necessary to maintain the long-term
1818 productivity of the resource. Chapter 5, Environment, describes the value of using an integrated,
1819 ecosystem-based approach to natural resource and environmental planning and management. This approach,
1820 along with sound operational practices by resource-based industries, may be able to prevent or minimize
1821 environmental impacts associated with common agricultural and forest practices and mineral extraction while
1822 maximizing co-benefits.

1823

1824 **R-616 Resource-based industries should use practices that:**
1825 **a. Protect the long-term integrity of the built environment, adjacent land**
1826 **uses, and cultural resources;**
1827 **b. Maintain the long-term productivity of the resource base; and**
1828 **c. Result in maintenance of ecosystem health and habitat.**

1829

1830 **R-617 Habitat protection requirements should not fall disproportionately on land**
1831 **maintained in agriculture or forestry, and the costs of such protection shall not**
1832 **be disproportionately placed on the owners of such land.**

1833

1834 **R-618 King County shall be a leader in resource management by demonstrating**
1835 **environmentally sound agriculture and forestry on ((e))County-owned land.**

1836

1837 **R-619 King County shall include resource education through its signs on trail systems**
1838 **that are linked with working farms, forests, and mines. ((Interpretation should:**
1839 **a. Provide historical perspective;**
1840 **b. Demonstrate current adaptive resource management practices (forestry,**
1841 **fisheries, wildlife, agriculture); and**
1842 **c. Explain economics of various resource uses.**

1843

1844

6.) Forestry

1845 King County forestlands provide local, regional and national benefits that are basic to quality of life. In addition
1846 to supplying a variety of wood and other products, forests emit oxygen, filter water, reduce risks from flooding
1847 and soil erosion, enhance groundwater recharge, provide habitat for innumerable plant and animal species,

1848 capture carbon, and offer scenic vistas and recreational opportunities. Conservation of the extensive forests in
1849 the county saves the region millions of dollars by reducing the need for costly infrastructure for stormwater and
1850 flood control, water treatment, and air quality remediation. King County's forests provide employment in
1851 forestry, wood products, ((paper)) recreation, and tourism industries. In sum, properly managed forests are
1852 fundamental to a healthy, diverse economy and environment.

1853

1854 The growth in human population has resulted in the loss of forestlands through conversion to non-forest uses.
1855 Increasing demands are being placed upon the remaining forest land base to provide goods, recreational
1856 opportunities and ecological functions. Climate change has the potential to put additional stress on forestlands
1857 due to changes in seasonal temperature fluctuations, rainfall patterns, and distribution of insect populations. In
1858 the next 10 to 20 years, Pacific Northwest forests are expected to face increasing drought mortality, difficulty in
1859 getting seedlings established, and severity of forest fires.

1860

1861 To address these challenges, forest managers are embracing more broad-based management methods and
1862 strategies that encompass ecosystems, landscapes and watersheds, while continually incorporating new scientific
1863 information to improve these approaches. Their efforts, together with the collective foresight and dedication of
1864 landowners, interest groups, Indian tribes, residents, and agencies, are needed to ensure that King County's
1865 forests continue to contribute to a sustainable way of life for present and future generations.

1866

1867 ~~((The first step to maintain and enhance commercial forestry is to protect the forest land base. The second step is
1868 to encourage an ecosystem approach to forest management that provides for long term ecosystem health and
1869 productivity and addresses cumulative impacts on non timber resources. The third step is to minimize land use
1870 conflicts and offer incentives for the retention of commercial forestry and the forest land base.~~

1871

1872 **1.) Protecting Forest Lands**

1873 The purpose of the Forest Production District is to conserve large blocks of commercially valuable forestland for
1874 the long term. The designation and zoning is designed to prevent intrusion of incompatible uses, manage
1875 adjacent land uses to minimize land use conflicts, and prevent or discourage conversion from forestry to other
1876 uses. ~~((A comparison of the area of forestland converted since 1987 inside the Forest Production District with
1877 the area converted outside the District indicates that designation and zoning of commercial forest lands help to
1878 discourage subdivision and conversion.)) Recent studies indicate that total forest cover within the Forest
1879 Production District has remained stable in recent decades, but has declined marginally in other Rural Areas, and
1880 declined significantly in the Urban Growth Area and cities. Taken as a whole, forest cover in in King County
1881 has declined slightly, with 98.9 percent of the area supporting forest cover in 1992 still forested in 2016.~~

1882

1883 Sixty percent of the land area in King County is within the designated Forest Production District. The Forest
1884 Production District comprises 1,300 square miles (825,000 acres) of forestland in east King County. Most of this
1885 land is held in large blocks of contiguous ownership. At this larger scale, it is easier to manage for multiple
1886 purposes such as habitat and long-term forest health.

1887

1888 ((Although it has declined from its height in the late 1980s, e)) Commercial timber harvest remains a significant
1889 economic activity in King County. At the same time, forest management strategies have become more diverse
1890 and may include objectives for forest health, biodiversity, and fish and wildlife habitat, instead of timber
1891 production alone. Likewise, economic activity related to recreation, traditional cultural practices, and aesthetics
1892 may be included in commercial forestry activities.

1893

1894 **R-620** **The Forest Production District shall remain in large blocks of contiguous forest**
1895 **lands where the primary land use is commercial forestry. Other resource**
1896 **((industry)) uses, such as mineral extraction and agriculture, should be permitted**
1897 **within the Forest Production District when managed to be compatible with**
1898 **forestry.**

1899

1900 **R-621** **The Forest Production District is a long-term designation. Lands may be**
1901 **removed from the Forest Production District only through a subarea plan or area**
1902 **zoning and land use study, and only to recognize areas with historical retail**
1903 **commercial uses.**

1904

1905 About 70((%)) percent of the Forest Production District is in public ownership, including parts of the Mt.
1906 Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, ((including)) wilderness areas, state and county parks, Washington State
1907 Department of Natural Resources lands, and watersheds for the cities of Seattle and Tacoma. Public land
1908 management affects the region’s economy, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, forest health, stream flows, water
1909 supply, flood control, and climate change mitigation capabilities. The ((e)) County should take advantage of
1910 opportunities to collaborate with other public land managers ((such as the U.S. Forest Service at Mt. Baker-
1911 Snoqualmie National Forest,)) and other ((stakeholders,)) partners to manage forests for multiple public values.

1912

1913 ((For example, in the last two decades, there have been significant changes in how forest lands in the Mt.
1914 Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest are managed. In King County, more than 350,000 acres are within the
1915 National Forest. Management emphasis has shifted from commodity timber production (in the 1960s, 70s and
1916 80s) to management with an emphasis on ecological values and public use. The U.S. Forest Service has
1917 struggled to keep pace with the increasing demand for recreation infrastructure and to maintain access roads.))

1918

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1919 While timber harvest levels have declined significantly from those in the 1980s, the supply of forest products
1920 from ~~((the national forest))~~ public and private forestland remains important to the regional viability of the
1921 forestry industry. ~~((Forest fire suppression since the early 1900s resulted in abnormally high fuel levels on the
1922 forest floor, which can increase the severity of wildfires. More r))~~ Recent federal, state, and county policies have
1923 placed emphasis on projects ~~((to))~~ that enhance forest ecosystems, ~~((restore and))~~ improve ~~((land health and))~~
1924 water quality, ~~((address fuel levels, and improve the maintenance of existing facilities within national forests))~~
1925 recover endangered species, improve opportunities for recreation, and enhance climate resiliency, all of which
1926 may alter the types and volumes of timber product.

1927
1928 ~~((Much of the 116,790 acres of forestland managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources
1929 in King County are trust lands that generate income from the sale of timber and other resources for the
1930 beneficiaries, such as schools, universities and counties. These lands also provide wildlife habitat and are heavily
1931 used for recreation. In January 1997 the Washington State Department of Natural Resources made a
1932 far reaching commitment to protect native animal and fish species through a federally approved Habitat
1933 Conservation Plan that covers about 1.6 million acres of Washington State Department of Natural
1934 Resources managed trust land forests—mostly in Western Washington. In 2007, the Washington State
1935 Department of Natural Resources initiated Forest Stewardship Council certification on state forest land located
1936 in the South Puget Sound Region, including part of Tiger Mountain near Issaquah and state owned forestland
1937 near Enumelaw in King County.))~~

1938
1939 **R-622** **King County recognizes the many values provided by the public forestland in the**
1940 **county, and encourages continued responsible forest management on these**
1941 **lands. King County should collaborate with other public land managers in**
1942 **planning for the restoration, conservation, use, and management of forest**
1943 **resources on public lands for multiple public values such as sustainable supply**
1944 **of timber, carbon storage and sequestration, and other ecosystem benefits.**

1945
1946 The Forest Production District includes approximately ~~((220,000))~~ 186,000 acres in private ownership, most of
1947 which is commercial forestland. County policies are intended to maintain and facilitate commercial forestry in
1948 the Forest Production District. The policies in this section allow for very limited residential uses in the
1949 designated Forest Production District, consistent with the objective of continuing forestry as the primary land
1950 use. For example, residences may be appropriate to permit forest managers to live on their land. King County
1951 zoning and subdivision regulations establish a large parcel size to promote efficient forest operations and to
1952 reduce incompatible residential development. Although the zoning ~~((calls for))~~ requires an 80-acre minimum lot
1953 size, many smaller lots were created prior to application of the zoning. Proliferation of residences in the Forest
1954 Production District makes commercial forestry less viable.

1955
1956 **R-623** **King County is committed to maintaining working forestland in the Forest**
1957 **Production District, and shall continue to work with landowners and other**

1958 ~~((stakeholders))~~ **partners** to promote forestry, reduce uses and activities that
1959 conflict with resource uses, and recognize forestland values.

1960
1961 **R-624** To reduce conflicts with resource uses and wildfire risks, a forest management
1962 plan shall be required as a condition of development for any residential uses in
1963 the Forest Production District. Accessory dwelling units shall not be allowed in
1964 the Forest Production District.

1965
1966 **R-625** Structures within the Forest Production District should be sited to maintain the
1967 productivity of the district. Site plan requirements should limit impervious
1968 surface, provide for fire control, protect domestic water supply, and prevent
1969 conflicts with forest management.

1970
1971 ~~((In 2004, King County purchased the development rights on the 90,000 acre Snoqualmie Forest. This purchase
1972 conserves the forest land base for the long term while supporting the continuation of commercial forest
1973 production. It is important that the county consider its responsibility to protect the long term commercial
1974 significance of the Forest Production District in its efforts to conserve land within the District.))~~

1975 **R-626** King County should conserve working forests and should encourage continued
1976 private forestry through the acquisition or transfer of development rights in the
1977 Forest Production District. Land acquisition proposals that would remove lands
1978 from forest management should be evaluated to ensure that the long-term
1979 commercial significance of the Forest Production District is not compromised.

1980
1981
1982 ~~((Although there is considerable acreage in commercial forestry in King County, there are no major lumber mills
1983 still in operation in the county. There are a few small mills in the county, but they have limited capacity. As a
1984 result, small landowners have few options for marketing their logs, and usually have a long haul to the closest
1985 mill. The county should work with forest landowners and forestry business to better understand and address the
1986 barriers to local wood processing.))~~

1987
1988 **R-627** King County should promote and support production, harvest, utilization, and
1989 marketing of wood products grown in the county's Rural Area and forest areas.
1990 King County should ensure that regulations applying to Rural Area and forest
1991 areas do not discourage the establishment of sawmills and other wood product
1992 businesses and services.

1993
1994 ~~((King County can further protect commercial forestlands and prevent conflicts by working with other public
1995 agencies and service providers to consolidate lands and to locate infrastructure facilities to prevent or minimize
1996 intrusions. Such actions can also improve the owner's capacity to protect fish and wildlife habitat and other
1997 natural resources.))~~

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R-628 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 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 Resource 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 Public and private forest owners are encouraged to provide for recreational, educational, and cultural uses when compatible with forest protection.

~~Recreational and institutional 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)) can adversely affect the Forest Production District because they reduce the forest land base and conflict with other resource management goals.~~

R-631 ~~((No master planned resorts shall be permitted in the Forest Production District.))~~
New or expansion of existing recreational or institutional uses, including destination resorts, in the Forest Production District may be permitted 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

2038 development, the ((e))County has jurisdiction, and the ((e))County’s development regulations must be followed.
2039 On rural properties, it is typical that a landowner will combine a long-term forest use on one part of the property
2040 with a residence on another part of the property. It is in the interest of the county to ensure that development
2041 regulations are followed for the permanent clearing for development, but also to regulate the long-term forest
2042 parts of the property with regulations appropriate for forest harvest.

2043

2044 **R-632** King County should continue to work with all affected parties and the
2045 Washington State Department of Natural Resources to improve the clarity of
2046 jurisdictional responsibilities for proposed timber harvests and associated
2047 enforcement of forest practice regulations ((in the Rural Area)), and to ensure
2048 that landowners comply with county regulations when they are converting
2049 portions of a site to a non-forest use. ((Harvesting of forest lands for the purpose
2050 of converting to non-forest uses shall meet all applicable county standards for
2051 clearing and critical areas management, and the loss of carbon sequestration
2052 capacity resulting from such forest conversions should be fully mitigated.
2053 Landowners opting to conduct forest management activities under state
2054 approved forest practices permits should be restricted from developing these
2055 areas for non-resource purposes for six years from the date of forest practice
2056 approval. Recognizing that some landowners combine the development of a
2057 residence or an agricultural activity on a portion of the property with long-term
2058 forestry on the rest, the county should provide flexibility in its regulations to
2059 address the residential development and agricultural activity differently from the
2060 forest management.))

2061

2062 **R-633** King County should ensure that regulations applying to forest practices do not
2063 discourage forest management on properties in long-term forestry(~~Forestry~~
2064 ~~should be regulated consistent with best management practices in)), consistent
2065 with the Forest Practices Act. The ((e))County should work to simplify its
2066 regulatory processes related to forest management.~~

2067

2068 **R-634** King County should promote public understanding of the benefits of commercial
2069 timber production and encourage the use of local wood.

2070

2071 ((King County has worked with state, federal, and private landowners on multiparty resource plans, such as the
2072 Middle Fork Snoqualmie Plan, the plan for Rattlesnake Ridge, and numerous watershed planning efforts. There
2073 will continue to be opportunities for interagency cross-ownership cooperation, which will result in improved
2074 resource management and conservation.))

2075

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2076 **R-635** Working with public and private forest land managers, King County shall
2077 encourage long-term forest productivity and the protection of land and water
2078 resources by participating in collaborative, multi-ownership planning efforts.
2079

2080 **R-636** King County promotes forest management that achieves long-term forest health;
2081 protection of watersheds, critical areas and habitat to support fish and wildlife
2082 populations; protection of threatened and endangered species; management of
2083 stormwater runoff and associated pollutants; conservation and economic
2084 viability of working forests; wildfire risk reduction; recreation; carbon storage
2085 and sequestration ((and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions)); and
2086 adaptation to climate change.
2087

2088 ~~((In 2005, King County worked with the Tolt Triangle community near Carnation, assisting with the formation
2089 of Tolt Triangle Fire Council and the development of their comprehensive community wildfire protection plan.
2090 The 500 rural residences on 5,800 acres covered by the plan became the first area in King County to earn the
2091 status of “Firewise Community” from the national Firewise® Program. Since 2005, additional communities in
2092 forested areas have adopted wildfire protection plans. The county provides training and technical assistance
2093 regarding fire planning and best management practices for implementing wildfire protection throughout forested
2094 areas of King County with a focus in the foothill areas prone to east winds.~~

2095
2096 ~~**R-637** King County should encourage community fire planning so that residents are
2097 aware of the dangers of forest fires and take steps to make their properties less
2098 vulnerable. King County should support neighborhood-based efforts to manage
2099 forests to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildfire.))~~

2100
2101 **R-638** King County shall encourage the development of private/public partnerships that
2102 provide incentives for landowners to practice innovative, fish-friendly forestry
2103 and that can help ensure retention of the forest resource land base in perpetuity.
2104

2105 ~~((An example of such a partnership is the Mountains to Sound Greenway Biosolids Forestry Program, which
2106 includes King County, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the Greenway Trust, the University
2107 of Washington and Hancock Forest Management. One of the elements of this program involves the acquisition
2108 of forestlands that are vulnerable to residential and commercial development. Lands are acquired by a
2109 combination of county funds and federal Forest Legacy funds and then transferred to the Washington State
2110 Department of Natural Resources for management. By deed, these lands stay in forest resource use in perpetuity
2111 and are managed according to the state's Habitat Conservation Plan. Seventy-five percent of all revenues
2112 generated are returned to King County. The lands that have been acquired help to form the block of public
2113 ownership along I-90, providing wildlife corridors, opportunities for trails and recreation, and the water quality
2114 protection provided by forest cover.~~

2115

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2116 In addition to landscape level planning and analysis, resource managers should identify specific areas in their
2117 forest ownership that are degraded or negatively impacting aquatic resources. Examples of such areas are
2118 logging roads or gravel mines no longer needed and scheduled to be abandoned or riparian zones that are not
2119 sufficiently vegetated. Organic soil amendments, when properly used, can greatly enhance vegetative growth
2120 and restore productivity to these sites, thus protecting fish and other aquatic resources. The use of recycled
2121 organic wastes generated in King County closes the recycling "loop" and helps sustain the productivity of
2122 resource lands.))

2123

2124 **R-639** King County encourages the use of recycled, organic-based soil amendments,
2125 such as biosolids, and fertilizers in forest ecosystems, which can help reduce
2126 erosion and sedimentation into streams, increase water-holding capacity of soils,
2127 stimulate the growth of trees and other vegetation, capture carbon, and enhance
2128 fish and wildlife habitat. King County shall work with the general public and
2129 private and public forestland owners to encourage the selective and appropriate
2130 use of these materials for ecosystem enhancement and restoration.

2131

2132 ((One of the most successful efforts is the use of the county's biosolids to fertilize public and private forests.
2133 Annually, about 1,400 acres of forestland in east King County are fertilized with Loop® biosolids.

2134

2135 Maintaining land in long term forest use offsets greenhouse gas emissions through sequestration of carbon in
2136 growing trees and in forest soils. In addition to providing plant nutrients, organic soil amendments such as Loop
2137 can significantly increase carbon storage in forests and help soils retain moisture. Efforts to conserve forests and
2138 encourage forest management for health and resilience are a major means of implementing King County's
2139 climate change policies. Even with these and other efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, forests in the
2140 Pacific Northwest face potential impacts from climate change. In the coming decades, mortality of trees and
2141 plants is projected to increase due to insects and pathogens, increased temperature, and lack of groundwater in
2142 the summer. Climate change also is projected to affect the composition and density of plant and animal species
2143 and the severity and frequency of forest fires. All of these potential impacts underscore the need for monitoring
2144 of climate induced changes and active management of forest health.

2145

2146 **R-640** ~~King County should continue to collaborate with the University of Washington,
2147 Washington State University including Extension, state and federal agencies, and
2148 forest landowners to monitor and evaluate impacts of climate change on forests
2149 in King County.)~~

2150

2151 **Wildfire Risk Reduction**

2152 King County's extensive forest lands provide a wide range of economic and ecological benefits. Under the right
2153 conditions, however, these same forests are also vulnerable to wildfire, creating potentially significant risks for
2154 communities in the wildland-urban interface.

2155

2156 Climate change is increasing the potential for wildfire in western Washington. Warmer seasonal temperatures
2157 and drier summers create conditions more favorable for wildfire for longer periods of time. Climate change may
2158 also lead to changes in insect and pathogens that can leave forests more vulnerable to drought and fire. The
2159 potential for large, fast-moving fires is greatest when these conditions coincide with strong east wind events.
2160 Population growth and development in areas within and in proximity to forested areas (the wildland-urban
2161 interface) are also important factors increasing the potential for wildfire in western Washington, as well as the
2162 human and economic costs of wildfire.

2163

2164 Planning for wildfire can help reduce wildfire risks to residents, communities, and infrastructure. King County
2165 has three strategic priorities for wildfire risk reduction in King County: (1) increasing forest resilience to wildfire;
2166 (2) reducing risks to communities and infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface; and (3) strengthening
2167 emergency response.

2168

2169 **Promoting Forest Resilience**

2170 Forests with a diversity of tree species (conifer, deciduous, mixed-species) and development stages (young, mid-
2171 age, mature/old-growth) are more resilient to disturbances such as wildfire and have greater capacity to maintain
2172 and recover ecological functions following disturbance. Forests with species and structural diversity also provide
2173 important ecosystem and community benefits such as habitat for fish and wildlife, improved air and water
2174 quality, carbon sequestration, recreation opportunities, and cultural resources. Proactive steps that support forest
2175 diversity include retaining larger trees that are more fire resistant, managing forests to promote a broad range of
2176 native tree species, planting trees sourced from a wider range of seed zones, managing density, and reducing
2177 invasive species.

2178

2179 **R-641** **King County ((~~should~~)) shall consider climate change impacts and take steps to**
2180 **improve forest health ((~~and resilience to climate change impacts through its~~**
2181 **technical assistance to forest land owners, management of county-owned forest**
2182 **lands, and support of neighborhood-based efforts to reduce risks from wildfires))**
2183 **and wildfire resilience on County-owned forest lands.**

2184

2185 **Reducing Risk in the Wildland-Urban Interface**

2186 In 2021, the Washington Department of Natural Resources updated maps of the wildland-urban interface in
2187 Washington State. The new maps significantly expanded the boundaries of the wildland-urban interface and the
2188 number of communities that should be planning for wildfire. This includes Vashon-Maury Island and areas of
2189 east King County, such as in the Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain, Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County, and
2190 Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Community Service Areas.

2191

2192 Proactive steps that can benefit wildfire risk reduction in the wildland-urban interface include outreach and
2193 technical assistance to forest landowners and residents on best management practices for reducing wildfire risk;

2194 developing wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery plans; controlling for invasive species that can act as an
2195 accelerant for fire; evacuation planning; and building strong partnerships that support effective planning and
2196 response. Vegetation management around homes and critical infrastructure is also an important tool for
2197 reducing risk and should be pursued in ways that avoid impacts to critical areas.

2198
2199 **R-641a** **King County shall take steps to plan for and reduce wildfire risk in the wildland-**
2200 **urban interface in unincorporated King County including wildfire risk assessment**
2201 **and planning, amending codes to align with best practices for wildfire risk**
2202 **reduction, and public education.**

2203
2204 **R-641b** **King County shall encourage wildfire preparedness, including wildfire risk**
2205 **assessment and planning, in cities and towns located in the wildland-urban**
2206 **interface in King County.**

2207
2208 **((R-637)) R-641c** **King County ((should)) shall encourage community ((fire planning)) wildfire**
2209 **preparedness so that residents are aware of the dangers of forest fires and take**
2210 **steps to make their properties less vulnerable. ((King County should support**
2211 **neighborhood based efforts to manage forests to improve forest health and reduce**
2212 **the risk of wildfire.))**

2213
2214 **R-641d** **King County wildfire risk reduction activities shall prioritize the needs of**
2215 **residents whose ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfire**
2216 **impacts may be limited by income, health, mobility, or other disparities.**

2217
2218 **R-641dd** **King County should adopt regulations that do not require permits for vegetation**
2219 **management in areas outside of critical areas and their buffers if implementing**
2220 **approved best management practices for wildfire risk reduction or as included**
2221 **within an approved forest stewardship plan that includes wildfire best**
2222 **management practices.**

2223
2224 **Regional Collaboration on Wildfire Risk Reduction**
2225 Wildfire risk reduction benefits from ongoing opportunities to leverage resources and partnerships that support
2226 action around shared priorities and promote learning between organizations and subject matter experts. Partners
2227 includes local planners, first responders, natural resource managers, emergency management officials, and
2228 researchers.

2229
2230 Collaboration with small forest landowners and residents is also important. King County works in partnership
2231 with King Conservation District and Washington State University Extension Forestry to provide technical
2232 assistance to small forest landowners and residents related to wildfire mitigation. This includes providing
2233 education and technical training about forest management, working with forest landowners to develop and

2234 implement forest stewardship plans that account for climate change and wildfire risk, increasing access to cost-
2235 share programs that incentivize forest management, and hosting neighborhood-based workshops focused on
2236 identifying and acting on wildfire risks and community wildfire planning.

2237

2238 **((R-640)) R-641e** King County ~~((should continue to))~~ **shall collaborate with key partners, such as**
2239 **the University of Washington, Washington State University including Extension,**
2240 **state and federal agencies, cities, first responders, Indian tribes, and ((forest))**
2241 **landowners, ((to)) on activities that improve forest resilience and reduce wildfire**
2242 **risks, including the following:**

2243 **a. _____ ((monitor)) Monitoring and ((evaluate)) evaluating impacts of climate**
2244 **change on forests and wildfire potential in King County**

2245 **b. _____ Promoting species and structural diversity within and across forest**
2246 **stands in King County;**

2247 **c. _____ Providing educational and technical assistance for small forest**
2248 **landowners;**

2249 **d. _____ Leveraging partnerships to increase funding for landowner incentive**
2250 **cost-share programs;**

2251 **e. _____ Expanding and enhancing opportunities for building public awareness**
2252 **and promoting shared learning about wildfire preparedness and risk**
2253 **reduction in King County;**

2254 **f. _____ Reducing landslide and flooding risks resulting from wildfire damage**
2255 **and associated impacts; and**

2256 **g. _____ Supporting the recovery of natural systems and communities affected by**
2257 **wildfire.**

2258

2259 ~~((King County's 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan calls for the county to manage and restore its forested parks~~
2260 ~~and natural lands in ways that maximize biological carbon storage and sequestration, and increase resilience to~~
2261 ~~changing climate conditions. To help guide forest management activities, in 2012 the Parks Division completed~~
2262 ~~an initial assessment of the forest types on all of Parks' forested acreage. Additional assessment will continue to~~
2263 ~~be conducted on newly acquired forested properties as well. Parks will develop and implement stewardship~~
2264 ~~plans on all forested properties of 200 acres or more in size, which will result in healthier and forests that are~~
2265 ~~more resilient to climate change. The Parks and Water and Land Resources Divisions will also continue to~~
2266 ~~develop opportunities for volunteers to plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species from~~
2267 ~~County-owned lands and have established an ambitious goal for the planting of new trees in the county.~~

2268

2269 **D.)) Agriculture**

2270 Land suitable for farming is an irreplaceable natural resource. Agricultural lands and farming provide many
2271 benefits to the residents of King County including a connection to its cultural heritage, fresh local foods, and a
2272 diverse economy. In ~~((2012))~~ 2017, farmers in King County produced over ~~((120))~~ \$135 million in agricultural
2273 sales. Farmlands are an intrinsic component of the varied open space landscape of the region. Farmland

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2274 provides scenic vistas and low-density separation between rural communities. Many farms in the county include
2275 an educational experience through U-Pick operations, harvest tours, and demonstrations of agricultural
2276 practices. Agricultural lands also provide environmental benefits, including the temporary storage and
2277 conveyance of floodwaters, habitat for birds and other wildlife, large areas without impervious surfaces, and
2278 opportunities for providing riparian vegetation along rivers and streams. Farming and growing food is also an
2279 essential source of fresh food for communities across the county that supports resilience, healthy eating, and
2280 cultural identity.

2281
2282 ~~((The concern about the loss of farmland in King County in the 1970s resulted in adoption of an agricultural~~
2283 ~~lands policy framework through Ordinance 3064 in 1977 that called for the County to designate certain areas~~
2284 ~~within King County as agricultural lands and then to develop an agricultural land protection program based~~
2285 ~~upon both land use regulations and compensation to protect existing agricultural lands and private property. This~~
2286 ~~led to the successful Farmland Preservation Program bond issue in 1979, which has funded the purchase of~~
2287 ~~farmland development rights.~~

2288
2289 ~~In 1985, the county first designated its Agricultural Production Districts, which have remained stable since then~~
2290 ~~at more than 41,000 acres. However, despite the land conservation accomplished through the Farmland~~
2291 ~~Preservation Program and the designation of the Agricultural Production Districts, not all of this land is farmed.~~
2292 ~~Based on surveys, approximately 27,000 acres of the Agricultural Production Districts are farmable, the rest~~
2293 ~~being forested, farm building, water bodies or other non farmable areas. About 25,000 areas are being actively~~
2294 ~~farmed. In addition, there are 13,000 acres in active agriculture outside the Agricultural Production Districts on~~
2295 ~~Rural Area and in urban areas.))~~

2296
2297 This section focuses on the ((e))County’s efforts to maintain and enhance commercial agriculture for the value of
2298 local produce, dairy products, specialty horticultural and energy crops, keeping livestock, and for scenic and
2299 historic values. To meet the Growth Management Act requirement to maintain and enhance agriculture, a
2300 variety of methods and programs continue to be necessary.

2301
2302 The policies call for King County to:

- 2303 • Protect productive farmland by designation and zoning;
- 2304 • Limit development to appropriately-scaled uses that are necessary to support commercial agriculture;
- 2305 • Prevent or minimize land use conflicts between farming operations and adjacent land uses;
- 2306 • Encourage and allow necessary infrastructure and services (markets, water, affordable housing, supply
2307 stores, technical services, tax incentives) that support commercial agriculture and contribute to growing,
2308 storing, processing, and distributing a local food supply and other horticultural and livestock activities;
- 2309 • Support the economic development of the local food economy and improve access to healthy,
2310 affordable food;

- 2311 • Continue to preserve farmland and develop additional mechanisms to maintain the affordability of
2312 farmland, with a focus on supporting farmland access for historically underserved populations; and
- 2313 • Encourage farming practices that conserve soils and protect water quality, fisheries, and wildlife.

2314
2315 King County’s Local Food Initiative includes targets and recommendations to expand the local food economy to
2316 ensure job growth and economic viability for King County food businesses and farms.

2317
2318 The Local Food Initiative(~~(’s production targets are to add 400 net new acres in food production and 25 new~~
2319 ~~food farmers per year over the next ten years)) includes strategies and actions to increase land in food production
2320 and support the development of new farmers. Success (~~(in meeting the targets))~~ will require protection of
2321 existing farmland, keeping it farmed, addressing problems that impair farming, and enhancing programs that
2322 provide technical assistance to farmers and expand markets for local farm products. To (~~(meet this target))~~
2323 support these goals, the County should also pursue feasible opportunities to return formerly farmed land into
2324 production(~~(, such as the recent purchase of Tall Chief Golf Course in the Snoqualmie Valley which will be~~
2325 ~~returned to agricultural use)). In advancing this initiative, King County ((will)) encourages Best Management
2326 Practices and sustainable farming activities and ((will)) prioritizes farming operations that have minimal adverse
2327 impacts on the environment.~~~~

2328

2329 **~~((L))~~ Protecting Agricultural Lands**

2330 In 1979, voters approved a \$50 million ballot measure to protect farmland threatened by development. The
2331 Farmland Preservation Program became the first voter-approved measure in the nation to protect farmland in a
2332 metropolitan area. By purchasing the development rights, the Farmland Preservation Program keeps farmland
2333 open and available through covenants that restrict development and limit the uses of the property to agriculture
2334 and open space. The covenants remain with the land in perpetuity so the land is protected regardless of
2335 ownership. Under the Farmland Preservation Program, the ((e))County holds the development rights in trust
2336 while the land remains in private ownership. By law, the ((e))County cannot sell or remove its interest in
2337 Farmland Preservation Program lands, with the exception of conveying public road or utility easements.

2338

2339 In 1995, the county approved an additional \$3 million for the purchase of additional development rights under
2340 the Farmland Preservation Program, and continues to add to the program with a variety of grant funding and use
2341 of the Transfer of Development Rights Program. To date, the Farmland Preservation Program and Transfer of
2342 Development Rights Program has succeeded in preserving more than ((14,000)) 16,000 acres of farmland.

2343

2344

2345 **R-642 King County shall continue to implement the objectives of the Farmland**
2346 **Preservation Program. Protection of property purchased under the Farmland**
2347 **Preservation Program shall be a high priority when balancing conflicting**
2348 **interests such as locating transportation, active recreation, utility facilities, or**
2349 **other uses that could have an adverse impact on farm operations. King County**

2350 shall use the Transfer of Development Rights Program as another tool to
2351 preserve farmland.

2352
2353 Even farmland in the Farmland Preservation Program is challenged by pressures from adjacent development, the
2354 need to maintain drainage and irrigation systems, non-farmer ownership, and high real estate costs. To protect
2355 the farmland for the long term, investments in improving the farmability and managing the easements to ensure
2356 compliance are necessary.

2357
2358 In 2016, King County launched the Land Conservation Initiative, which calls for working with regional partners
2359 a series of accelerated actions to protect 65,000 acres protect 65,000 acres of the last, most important natural
2360 lands, including farmlands, and urban greenspaces by 2050.

2361
2362 **R-642a King County should develop a long((-)-term strategy for financing protection of**
2363 **sufficient farmland to significantly expand and retain food production, including**
2364 **improving the farmability of protected farmland, and ensuring that the easements**
2365 **are well-managed for the long((-)term.**

2366
2367 **R-642b Farmers conducting work on property on which King County owns a Farmland**
2368 **Preservation Program easement or farmers leasing properties owned by King**
2369 **County should be limited to predominantly agricultural activities and**
2370 **agricultural((-supportive activities)) support services.**

2371
2372 Agriculture is most productive in agricultural communities where neighbors support agriculture, where parcels
2373 are large enough for commercial agriculture and where labor, supplies and markets for farm products are
2374 available. King County's farm soils and most profitable farms are usually found in contiguous blocks with few
2375 nonagricultural uses. ~~((In 1985, King County established Agricultural Production Districts with large lot zoning~~
2376 ~~and agriculture as the preferred use.))~~

2377
2378 The Agricultural Production Districts, shown on the Agriculture and Forest Lands Map in this chapter, present
2379 the least number of land use conflicts for agriculture, contain agricultural support ~~((activities))~~ services and
2380 provide the best environment for farming in King County. The five Agricultural Production Districts are
2381 Sammamish Valley, Snoqualmie Valley, Lower Green River Valley, Upper Green River Valley, and Enumclaw
2382 Plateau. Most of the farmlands preserved under the Farmland Preservation Program are found in these
2383 Agricultural Production Districts.

2384
2385 **R-643 Agricultural Production Districts ~~((are))~~ shall be blocks of contiguous farmlands**
2386 **where agriculture is supported through the protection of agricultural soils and**
2387 **related support services and activities. Roads and natural features ~~((are))~~ should**

2388 **be appropriate boundaries for Agricultural Production Districts to reduce the**
2389 **possibility of conflicts with adjacent land uses.**

2390
2391 **R-644 King County should continue to seek funding and purchase additional**
2392 **development rights to farmland in the Agricultural Production Districts.**
2393

2394 Livestock, dairy and large-scale commercial row-crop operations require large parcels of land to allow for
2395 production that is profitable and sustainable. Generally, at least 35 acres is needed for full-time wholesale
2396 commercial production of such products. Specialty agricultural products, products that are direct-marketed, and
2397 part-time farming enterprises generally do not need as much acreage to be profitable.

2398
2399 **R-645 All parcels within the boundaries of an Agricultural Production District should be**
2400 **zoned Agricultural, either A-10 or A-35.**

2401
2402 **R-646 Lands within Agricultural Production Districts ~~((should))~~ shall remain in parcels**
2403 **large enough for commercial agriculture. A maximum residential density of one**
2404 **home per 35 acres shall be applied where the predominant lot size of agricultural-**
2405 **zoned parcels in the surrounding area is 35 acres or larger, and a maximum**
2406 **residential density of one home per 10 acres shall be applied where the**
2407 **predominant lot size of agricultural-zoned parcels in the surrounding area is**
2408 **smaller than 35 acres.**

2409
2410 **R-647 Agriculture should be the principal land use in the Agricultural Production**
2411 **Districts. Permanent new construction within districts shall be sited to prevent**
2412 **conflicts with commercial farming or other agricultural uses, and nonagricultural**
2413 **uses shall be limited. New development shall not disrupt agriculture operations**
2414 **and shall have a scale compatible with an active farming district.**

2415
2416 **R-648 On-site housing for farm employees shall be allowed where this can be**
2417 **accomplished without unnecessarily removing land from agricultural use or**
2418 **conflicting with other public interests. King County should address the**
2419 **regulatory constraints that make it difficult for farmers to offer housing for farm**
2420 **employees.**

2421
2422 The river valleys in King County are ~~((critical locations))~~ important natural resource areas for agriculture,
2423 salmon habitat and natural floodplain processes. In compliance with the ((g))Growth ((m))Management Act,
2424 portions of several of these valleys were designated as Agricultural Production Districts to protect ~~((the~~
2425 ~~diminishing farmland))~~ land for long-term commercial ~~((agriculture))~~ agricultural uses, ~~((thereby preventing their~~
2426 ~~conversion to other uses that are often incompatible with habitat protection or that would require expensive~~
2427 ~~flood risk reduction projects))~~ including the highest quality soils for food production, and to limit conversion of

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2428 the land uses to those that would be incompatible with viable, long-term, commercial agriculture. Because many
2429 areas of farmland within Agricultural Production Districts are within floodplains, floodways, or other low-lying
2430 areas, the ability to manage drainage and infrastructure to support farming is an important aspect of retaining
2431 farmable land and supporting continued agricultural uses within the Agricultural Production Districts.

2432
2433 The same geography covered by Agricultural Production Districts also provides salmon habitat restoration
2434 opportunities of importance to King County, Indian tribes, and other regional partners. Some of both the highest
2435 quality ((of)) and most degraded salmon habitat in King County is ((found within)) in and adjacent to rivers and
2436 streams flowing through the Agricultural Production Districts. ((As a result of federal listing of Chinook salmon
2437 as a threatened species, King County is obligated to take actions for protection of Chinook habitat in the
2438 county's watersheds. Such actions include restoration of habitat in portions of each of the county's rivers and,
2439 because many sections of the county's river systems are in a highly altered state, those reaches within
2440 Agricultural Production Districts offer some of the most promising opportunities for habitat restoration critical to
2441 salmon recovery. Each of the Water Resources Inventory Area Salmon Recovery Plans has recommended
2442 additional protection or restoration of critical habitat within the Agricultural Production Districts. At the same
2443 time, King County is committed to the preservation of productive agricultural soils and local agricultural
2444 production and protection of public safety in flood-prone areas through the restoration of floodplain processes.))
2445 King County continues to work diligently to restore habitat and advance recovery of depleted salmon stocks, and
2446 strives to protect and enhance fish stocks, ecological functions and aquatic habitat in all county waterbodies and
2447 floodplain areas, including in floodplains, rivers, streams, and wetlands in Agricultural Production Districts.
2448 Furthermore, King County continues to work toward recovery of all salmonid species given the nexus of
2449 salmonid populations and honoring and sustaining the rights held by the State of Washington and Indian tribes
2450 as sovereign trustees for fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources.

2451
2452 ((The farmers in the county support fish protection and fish recovery through many regulated and voluntary
2453 actions. King County recognizes that fish, flood management, and farm interests must work together in a
2454 collaborative manner. It is essential that farmers and other property owners in each watershed be directly
2455 included in planning and in the review of integrated, watershed-wide strategies that support the needs of
2456 agriculture, fish recovery, and flood risk reduction and floodplain management. Specific habitat protection rules
2457 should not jeopardize the agricultural productivity within the Agricultural Production Districts.)) Some of King
2458 County's Agricultural Production Districts have vast areas of designated and mapped floodways and 100-year
2459 floodplains. King County is committed to restoring floodplain processes and mitigating flood risks to ensure
2460 human health and protect public safety, reduce the risk of property damage, maintain critical infrastructure
2461 supporting residents and businesses, and to reduce public and private economic impacts of flood events. As
2462 climate change results in more frequent and more damaging floods, agriculture businesses and homes will need
2463 increased support for home and agricultural building elevations. Maintaining land use rules that prevent
2464 conversions of agricultural land to other uses other than habitat restoration or flood protection will have a co-
2465 benefit of limiting new development that may be at increased risk of damage from floods.

2466

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2467 King County supports ongoing viability of agriculture, restoration and enhancement of salmon habitat, and
2468 actions to reduce flood risks and enhance ecological functions of floodplains, all of which combine to create a
2469 resilient landscape in the face of climate change and pressures of population growth. However, because current
2470 or proposed land uses supporting one goal may affect advancement of other goals, decision-making about the
2471 size and location of habitat and floodplain restoration and agricultural infrastructure projects can be challenging.
2472 The 2012 Comprehensive Plan update added policy R-650 that directed the County to ((convene a collaborative
2473 watershed planning process)) develop an approach to improving and balancing the interests of agricultural
2474 production, ecological function and habitat quality for salmon, and flood risk reduction and floodplain
2475 restoration within each of the Agricultural Production Districts. In response, ((F))the County ((choose to start
2476 the process in)) and partners piloted a planning effort focused on the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production
2477 District((, where the County has undertaken a number of habitat restoration projects, to develop an approach to
2478 improving and balancing the interests of agricultural production, ecological function and habitat quality for
2479 salmon, and flood risk reduction and floodplain restoration)) by convening the Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm,
2480 and Flood Advisory Committee with the goal of understanding context and improving balance in King County's
2481 work to advance multiple objectives. As a result of the ongoing efforts of the Snoqualmie farm, fish, flood
2482 process, the County has begun to operationalize recommendations, including recommendations for a revised
2483 administrative process for reviewing proposed County project and programmatic actions in locations where
2484 agriculture, fish habitat, and floodplains intersect.

2485
2486 ((In response to this, the Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee was formed in 2013, and the group of
2487 stakeholders representing agriculture, salmon recovery and flood management interests have been meeting
2488 regularly for the past three years. In 2016 the Advisory Committee developed a final report and a set of
2489 recommendations that balances near term actions as well as program and policy recommendations for all three
2490 resource interests. The Advisory Committee also recommended the formation of three task forces to undertake
2491 more detailed analyses of specific policy areas. Together the final recommendations and the work of the three
2492 task forces will form the foundation of a watershed planning approach in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural
2493 Production District to sustain agriculture production, salmon recovery, and flood risk reduction.

2494
2495 The Fish, Farm and Flood Advisory Committee participants recognize the importance of salmon recovery
2496 efforts, a vibrant agricultural economy and protecting agricultural soils in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural
2497 Production District, and the importance of protecting the public in flood prone areas. To address inherent
2498 conflicts between these three overlapping interests, the Advisory Committee recommended a suite of near term
2499 actions to address critical needs for all three resource areas, and the creation of three task forces)) The revised
2500 administrative review process will occur in a watershed context by considering information from a variety of
2501 sources, including the following four task forces convened based on recommendations of the Snoqualmie fish,
2502 farm, flood effort:

- 2503 • Buffers Task Force((, with the goal of developing a science based riparian buffer planting
- 2504 implementation strategy for the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District that strikes a
- 2505 balance between increasing ecological function of waterways and maintaining the agricultural viability

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2506 of the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District)) and Buffers Implementation Task Force,
2507 created to evaluate use of King County funds to implement voluntary, science-based, variable-width
2508 riparian plantings.

2509 • Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District Strategic Plan Task Force(~~((, with the goal of)),~~
2510 created to consider strategies to ((improving)) improve the long-term productivity of farmland, bring
2511 more acres into production, especially food production, and ~~((increasing))~~ increase opportunities for
2512 farmers to develop the necessary infrastructure to support or increase their farm businesses in the
2513 Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District. ~~((This task force will conduct an assessment of~~
2514 ~~specific farmland resource property needs and assets in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production~~
2515 ~~District and create an implementation plan for project improvements to land (e.g., drainage) and water~~
2516 ~~access. It will complement other related efforts, such as King County’s Local Food Initiative which is~~
2517 ~~an economic development and marketing plan for food and agriculture in the region.))~~

2518 • Regulatory Task Force(~~((, with the goal of evaluating regulations and recommending process~~
2519 ~~improvements or possibly statutory changes, as appropriate, pertaining to key regulatory issues~~
2520 ~~identified by the Fish, Farm and Flood agricultural stakeholders. The goal of the task force is to identify~~
2521 ~~changes that will reduce compliance costs and increase predictability without diminishing the overall~~
2522 ~~level of environmental protection or the level of flood protection that regulations are intended to assure.~~
2523 ~~Initial areas of focus for the task force include:)),~~ created to evaluate and recommend improvements to
2524 regulations to promote a viable agricultural economy and maintain and enhance habitat protection and
2525 healthy ecosystems.

2526 ◦ ~~((Drainage regulations that make maintenance expensive or time consuming or otherwise~~
2527 ~~restrict the ability to improve drainage of farm fields.~~

2528 ◦ ~~Flood regulations related to constructing farm pads, buildings and other farm improvements.~~

2529 ◦ ~~Mitigation required when farmers maintain drainage ditches or build a farm pad or other~~
2530 ~~structure in a wetland or a buffer of a wetland or stream.~~

2531
2532 ~~Those recommendations are reflected in a new policy R-650a.))~~

2533
2534 While these task forces were developed with a specific focus on the Snoqualmie Agricultural Production District,
2535 the lessons learned have helped to inform principles that guide how the County strives toward achieving multiple
2536 benefits through projects and programmatic action implemented in other Agricultural Production Districts and
2537 all areas of unincorporated King County where agriculture, salmon habitat, and floodplains converge.

2538
2539 Using recommendations from the Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee, King County
2540 has revised the process for reviewing projects in a watershed context, which is described in revised policy R-650.
2541 This process will apply to habitat and flood projects sponsored by the Water and Land Resources Division in all
2542 Agricultural Production Districts. Revised policy R-650 outlines the minimum required elements of an

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2543 administrative review process for habitat and floodplain restoration capital projects and programs sponsored by
2544 the King County water and land resources division where fish, farm, and flood interests intersect.

2545
2546 Policies in this section also reflect the importance of facilitating infrastructure and drainage improvement
2547 projects on privately owned farmland to support continued long-term commercial agricultural uses within
2548 Agricultural Production Districts, and the review process may also be conducted for projects sponsored by
2549 entities other than the Water and Land Resources Division.

2550
2551 The Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee process and associated planning work has
2552 been instrumental in King County and partners learning how to balance needs of agriculture, salmon recovery,
2553 and floodplain management in a collaborative manner considering watershed context in ways that are directly
2554 applicable to other Agricultural Production Districts. As a result, the original goal – of implementing targeted
2555 planning efforts in all Agricultural Production Districts – is no longer necessary. However, King County will
2556 continue to support the Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee until the level of
2557 progress envisioned at the formation of the committee is substantially complete, and King County will consider
2558 supporting similar collaborative efforts in other geographies when residents and partners request a localized
2559 planning effort, where appropriate.

2560

2561 **R-649** **Agriculture ((~~must~~)) shall remain the predominant use in any Agricultural**
2562 **Production District and aquatic habitat or floodplain restoration projects((~~, as~~**
2563 **~~well as, King County~~)) and mitigation reserves program projects shall not reduce**
2564 **the ability to farm in the Agricultural Production District. ((~~Therefore, until the~~**
2565 **~~county implements the watershed planning process described in R-650, such~~**
2566 **~~projects are allowed only when supported by owners of the land where the~~**
2567 **~~proposed project is to be sited. Criteria to be considered:~~**
2568 **a. ~~For a project proposed to be sited on lands that are unsuitable for direct~~**
2569 **~~agricultural production purposes, such as portions of property that have~~**
2570 **~~not historically been farmed due to soil conditions or frequent flooding,~~**
2571 **~~and which cannot be returned to productivity by drainage maintenance,~~**
2572 **~~or~~**
2573 **b. ~~For a project proposed to be sited on lands suitable for direct~~**
2574 **~~agricultural production:~~**
2575 **~~(1) there are no unsuitable lands available that meet the technical or~~**
2576 **~~locational needs of the proposed project, and~~**
2577 **~~(2) the project is included in, or consistent with, an approved Water~~**
2578 **~~Resources Inventory Area Salmon Recovery Plan, Farm Management~~**
2579 **~~Plan, Flood Hazard Management Plan or other similar watershed-scale~~**
2580 **~~plan; or the project would not reduce the baseline agricultural~~**
2581 **~~productivity within the Agricultural Production District.)) King County,~~**
2582 **through implementation of projects and programs, shall ensure**
2583 **sufficient land within Agricultural Production Districts remain available**

2584 to support long term viability of commercial agriculture and that its
2585 programmatic and project actions support the maintenance or
2586 improvement of drainage and other agricultural support infrastructure.
2587 To the maximum extent practicable, King County should tailor measures
2588 to protect threatened or endangered species to support continued
2589 operation of working farms within the Agricultural Production Districts
2590 and should strive for outcomes consistent with goals King County may
2591 establish for optimal area of productive agricultural lands within the
2592 Agricultural Production Districts.
2593

2594 **R-650** ~~((Aquatic habitat restoration projects, floodplain restoration projects and projects~~
2595 ~~under King County's mitigation reserves program in an Agricultural Production~~
2596 ~~District shall be evaluated through a collaborative watershed planning process~~
2597 ~~with the goal of maintaining and improving agricultural viability, improving~~
2598 ~~ecological function and habitat quality, and restoring floodplains through~~
2599 ~~integrated, watershed-wide strategies. A watershed planning process shall be~~
2600 ~~established for an agricultural production district because of the number of~~
2601 ~~potential restoration projects and shall:~~
2602 ~~a. ensure that agricultural viability in the Agricultural Production District is~~
2603 ~~not reduced as the result of actions taken and that agriculture remains~~
2604 ~~the predominant use in the agricultural production district;~~
2605 ~~b. evaluate and recommend actions at all scales across the affected~~
2606 ~~watershed to maintain and improve agricultural viability, restore~~
2607 ~~ecological functions and aquatic habitat and restore floodplains,~~
2608 ~~including voluntary actions taken by landowners;~~
2609 ~~c. be a collaborative effort among affected land owners, interested~~
2610 ~~stakeholders, and King County and shall be updated on a periodic basis;~~
2611 ~~and~~
2612 ~~d. identify and recommend actions that King County should take or ensure~~
2613 ~~are taken to maintain and improve agricultural viability in the Agricultural~~
2614 ~~Production District and address any impacts to agriculture from aquatic~~
2615 ~~habitat restoration projects, floodplain restoration projects and projects~~
2616 ~~under King County's mitigation reserves program constructed in the~~
2617 ~~Agricultural Production District.))~~

2618 The County shall administer a collaborative review process considering
2619 watershed context for projects sponsored by the King County Department of
2620 Natural Resources and Parks, Water and Land Resources Division, in the
2621 unincorporated area where a habitat or floodplain restoration project may result
2622 in reducing the amount of land available for farming in Agricultural Production
2623 Districts. The review process shall be administered by the Division and strive for
2624 balance in outcomes that achieve co-equal goals of maintaining and improving

- 2625 suitability of land for agricultural productivity, increasing habitat quality, and
- 2626 restoring floodplains and ecological function. The review process should:
- 2627 a. Occur early in the planning process for projects, and at regular intervals
- 2628 for ongoing programs;
- 2629 b. Consider guidance from relevant plans relating to agriculture, salmon
- 2630 recovery, and floodplain management;
- 2631 c. Consider efforts for advancing multiple resource interests;
- 2632 d. Track on-the-ground changes in land cover relative to acreage targets
- 2633 for farmland and habitat restoration areas, focused on impacts to
- 2634 agricultural lands and fish populations;
- 2635 e. Consider input and recommendations resulting from engagement and
- 2636 input from external partners and subject matter experts; and
- 2637 f. Identify and address barriers to efficient implementation of the process.

2638

2639 The review process may also be offered for projects and programs sponsored by

2640 King County agencies aside from the Water and Land Resources Division and/or

2641 for projects and programs sponsored by external entities.

2642

2643 **R-650a** ~~((The Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District is the first Agricultural~~

2644 ~~Production District to undergo a watershed planning effort called for in R-650.~~

2645 ~~King County shall implement the recommendations of the Snoqualmie Fish, Farm~~

2646 ~~and Flood Advisory Committee. The recommendations of the task forces and~~

2647 ~~other actions identified in the final Advisory Committee Report and~~

2648 ~~Recommendations will form the basis for a watershed planning approach to~~

2649 ~~balance fish, farm and flood interests across the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural~~

2650 ~~Production District and an agreement on protecting a defined number of acres of~~

2651 ~~agricultural land. The Advisory Committee, or a successor committee, will~~

2652 ~~monitor progress of the task forces and will reconvene to evaluate the watershed~~

2653 ~~planning approach to balancing interests prior to the next Comprehensive Plan~~

2654 ~~update. The policy issues and recommendations outlined in the Snoqualmie~~

2655 ~~Fish, Farm, Flood Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations are largely~~

2656 ~~specific to the Snoqualmie Valley and are not intended to be applied broadly in~~

2657 ~~other Agricultural Production Districts. Future Fish, Farm, Flood efforts focused~~

2658 ~~in other Agricultural Production Districts will need to go through their own~~

2659 ~~processes to identify barriers to success for all stakeholders in these geographic~~

2660 ~~areas. R-649 continues to apply to the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural~~

2661 ~~Production District until the watershed planning effort outlined in the Fish, Farm~~

2662 ~~and Flood recommendations is complete. A policy reflecting the outcome of this~~

2663 ~~effort shall be included in the next eight-year update.)) The County shall continue~~

2664 to support the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District fish, farm, flood

2665 effort, as appropriate, through completion of the task forces and establishment of

2666 measurable goals for agriculture, habitat restoration, and floodplain restoration
2667 for the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District.

2668
2669 **R-650b** The County shall continue to document and consider the lessons learned from
2670 the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District fish, farm, flood effort to
2671 guide and refine the collaborative planning and review processes in a watershed
2672 context for projects and programs in other geographies with the co-equal goals
2673 of balancing farm, fish, and flood interests where farms, fish habitat and
2674 floodplains overlap, as well as strategies for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating
2675 losses of farmable land, floodplain functions, and habitat functions. The County
2676 should support planning efforts similar to the Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and
2677 Flood Advisory Committee in other geographies if and when the County and
2678 partners choose to pursue such efforts or if acute tensions among various
2679 interests arise in a particular Agricultural Production District or other area of the
2680 county.

2681
2682 ~~**(R-651** **Maintaining the viability of farmlands is a high priority for King County. Within**~~
2683 ~~**the Agricultural Production Districts, measures to protect threatened or**~~
2684 ~~**endangered species shall be tailored to ensure working farms can continue to**~~
2685 ~~**operate.))**~~

2686
2687 ((Two Agricultural Production Districts in or near urban areas, the Lower Green River Valley and Sammamish
2688 Valley, were designated in the 1985 Comprehensive Plan, and those designations have been retained. The
2689 development rights from many, but not all, of the parcels in these two districts have been purchased through the
2690 Farmland Preservation Program. The Lower Green River Agricultural Production District is completely
2691 surrounded by urban designated land and as such, functions as both prime agriculture land and urban
2692 separator.)) Each of the ((~~other~~)) Agricultural Production Districts and some Farmland Preservation Program
2693 lands outside of Agricultural Production Districts also share boundaries with cities. The challenges to agriculture
2694 from urban development include alterations to hydrology that result in flooded fields, increased traffic that
2695 interferes with farm vehicles on roads, increased lighting at night, complaints from urban neighbors about farm
2696 operations, and high land prices. The benefits of being located near urban areas include access to urban markets
2697 and consumers and increased recognition and appreciation of locally produced goods.

2698
2699 **R-652** **King County commits to preserve Agricultural Production District parcels in or near**
2700 **the Urban Growth Area because of their high production capabilities, their proximity**
2701 **to markets, and their value as open space. King County should work with cities**
2702 **adjacent to or near Agricultural Production Districts to minimize the operational and**
2703 **environmental impacts of urban development and public facilities and infrastructure**
2704 **on farming and farmland, and to promote activities, such as Farmers Markets and**
2705 **agriculture processing businesses, that benefit both the cities and the farms by**
2706 **improving access to locally grown agricultural products.**

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R-653 **The Lower Green River Agricultural Production District is a regionally designated resource that is to remain in unincorporated King County except as allowed in Policies R-656 and R-656a. 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 **Active recreational 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 **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, 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, 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))~~**

- 2747 c. In cases when King County concludes that regional public infrastructure
2748 cannot be located outside of, and must intrude into, Agricultural
2749 Production Districts, the County shall ensure that the infrastructure be
2750 built and located to minimize disruption of agricultural activity, and shall
2751 establish agreements with the relevant jurisdictions or agencies~~((-))~~; and
2752 d. If public services and utilities reduce total acreage in the Agricultural
2753 Production District, mitigation shall follow the criteria established in
2754 policy R-656a.

2755
2756 **R-656** King County may allow lands to be removed from the Agricultural Production
2757 Districts only when it can be demonstrated that:
2758 a.1. Removal of the land will not diminish the productivity of
2759 prime agricultural soils or the effectiveness of farming
2760 within the local Agricultural Production District boundaries;
2761 and
2762 ~~((b-))~~ 2. The land is determined to be no longer suitable for
2763 agricultural purposes; or
2764 ~~((e-))~~ b. The land is needed for public services or utilities as described in policy
2765 R-655.

2766
2767 **R-656a** King County may only approve the removal of land from the Agricultural
2768 Production District if it is, concurrently with removal of the land from the
2769 Agricultural Production District, mitigated through the replacement of
2770 agricultural land abutting the same Agricultural Production District that is, at a
2771 minimum, comparable in size, soil quality, and agricultural value. As alternative
2772 mitigation, the County may approve a combination of acquisition and restoration
2773 totaling three acres for every one acre removed as follows:
2774 a. A minimum of one acre ~~((must))~~ shall be added into another Agricultural
2775 Production District for every acre removed; and
2776 b. Up to two acres of unfarmed land in the same Agricultural Production
2777 District from which land is removed shall be restored for every acre
2778 removed.

2779
2780 Replacement land to comply with the requirements of this policy may be
2781 acquired added to the Agricultural Production District in advance of removal of
2782 land from the Agricultural Production District, rather than concurrently, if the
2783 criteria in R-656b are met.

2784
2785 **R-656b** Replacement land required under R-656a may be acquired and added to the
2786 Agricultural Production District in advance of removal as follows:
2787 a. The mitigation is for a public agency or utility project consistent with R-
2788 655;

- 2789 b. Property proposed to be added to the Agricultural Production District is
- 2790 approved by the Department of Natural Resources and Parks to ensure
- 2791 compliance with R-656a;
- 2792 c. The subsequent map amendment to remove the Agricultural Production
- 2793 District land identifies the previously added land being used for
- 2794 mitigation; and
- 2795 d. The Department of Natural Resources and Parks tracks the acreage of
- 2796 advance additions of replacement land and subsequent removals to
- 2797 ensure that the requirements of R-656a are met.
- 2798

2799 **~~((2.)) Sustaining Agriculture and Farming~~**

2800 King County has made a significant investment in preserving farmland for agriculture and, as a result, has also
2801 preserved the open space benefits of these lands. The ~~((e))~~County must ensure that this land continues to be
2802 farmed into the future by helping farmers maintain and operate their farms and by promoting local agricultural
2803 products through infrastructure and activities that improve access to locally grown agricultural products.

2804

2805 Farmers, especially new and beginning, have limited resources to access land and financing to begin production.
2806 Furthermore, all King County farmers, regardless of size and years of farming, have a great need for information
2807 on marketing and production strategies required to operate their farming businesses. The Local Food Initiative
2808 ~~((seeks to))~~ provides this information and assistance~~((Under the Local Food Initiative regulatory and technical~~
2809 ~~assistance will increase and be streamlined through a coordinated))~~ by coordinating economic development
2810 efforts by different ~~((e))~~County agencies and partner organizations that serve farmers. ~~((The team will provide~~
2811 ~~assistance with production, marketing, and business planning through a “one stop shop” available on line with a~~
2812 ~~possibility of physical co-location of services if necessary.))~~

2813

2814 **R-657 King County shall work with ~~((and provide support to))~~ Washington State**
2815 **University Extension and other technical service providers for ~~((its))~~ their**
2816 **research and education programs that assist small-scale commercial farmers.**

2817

2818 **R-658 King County shall work with other jurisdictions and non~~((-))~~profits to expand**
2819 **markets for farm products by supporting ~~((Puget Sound Fresh and other))~~**
2820 **programs that promote local food and connect buyers with producers.**

2821

2822 **R-659 King County should work with other jurisdictions, farm advocacy groups, and**
2823 **others to support ~~((Farmlink,))~~ farmer training and other programs that help new**
2824 **farmers get started, gain access to farmland and develop successful marketing**
2825 **methods.**

2826

((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)) TBD

2827 ((King County recognizes the value of Farmers Markets for their role in community building, their contribution
2828 to farmer success by providing a direct marketing opportunity, and for making the bounty of King County farms
2829 available to city residents.))

2830

2831 **R-660** King County should work with other jurisdictions to continue to provide support
2832 to Farmers Markets.

2833

2834 **R-661** King County should develop and encourage the use of incentives ((to
2835 encourage)) for food production on prime farmland. These incentives could
2836 include tax credits, expedited permit review, reduced permit fees, permit
2837 exemptions for activities complying with best management practices, or similar
2838 programs. The ((e))County should continue to work with community-based
2839 organizations that can assist farmers who are People of Color, immigrants, ((and
2840 minority farmers)) refugees, and other communities that have traditionally
2841 experienced access issues((;)) in gaining access to farmland.

2842

2843 **R-661a** To help make more farmland accessible to beginning, ((and)) low-income,
2844 historically underserved, and socially disadvantaged farmers, King County
2845 should expand its leasing of agricultural land to farmers and community
2846 organizations where appropriate and should encourage private farmland owners
2847 to lease unused land to farmers.

2848

2849 **R-661b** King County should expand representation of low income, ((and)) historically
2850 underserved, and socially disadvantaged farmers and community organizations
2851 within King County agricultural processes, such as the Agriculture Commission,
2852 advisory committees, task forces, and hiring.

2853

2854 ((King County recognizes the importance of adding value to and direct sales of agricultural products as a way to
2855 keep agriculture viable in an urban landscape. King County's agriculture program works with farmers to
2856 encourage them to add value to their products by processing, packaging, and selling them directly to the
2857 consumer.))

2858

2859 **R-662** Agricultural processing, packing and direct sales are considered agricultural
2860 activities and should be allowed at a size and scale appropriate to the zone in
2861 which they are operating. King County ((shall)) should work with local and state
2862 health departments to develop regulations supporting these activities and with
2863 local non((-))profits and academic institutions to educate farmers about safe food
2864 processing practices and compliance.

2865

2866 **R-663** King County supports the processing and packaging of farm products from
2867 crops and livestock, and ((with)) shall continue to work with farmers, ranchers,

2868 cities, neighboring counties, and other interested parties to address
2869 infrastructure and regulatory needs that promote sales to consumers,
2870 institutions, restaurants, and retail enterprises.

2871
2872 **R-664 King County supports innovative technologies to process waste from dairy and
2873 other livestock ((waste)) to reduce nutrients and to create other products such as
2874 energy and compost in areas that have Agriculture and Rural Area land use
2875 designations.**

2876
2877 ~~((King County's Agricultural Production Districts have some of the best soil and conditions for growing food in
2878 the country. There is an increasing awareness among farmers about the potential for expanding local food
2879 production compatible with a variety of sustainability goals. Concerned about multiple threats to future food
2880 production, King County farmers are working with others to promote voluntary incentives that will increase the
2881 community of those involved in the local production of food.))~~

2882
2883 **R-665 King County should develop incentives that support local food production and
2884 processing to increase food security; provide a healthy, affordable local food
2885 supply; and reduce energy use.**

2886
2887 Agricultural practices modify the natural environment ~~((in order))~~ to produce food or fiber or maintain livestock
2888 for human use. Ideally, practices that maintain the productivity of the lands also protect environmental quality
2889 ~~((and))~~, respect natural processes such as flooding and channel migration, and help mitigate the impacts of
2890 climate change. Farmers, technical advisors, floodplain managers, and environmental regulators must work
2891 together to understand the relationships between production practices, environmental protection, public safety,
2892 and profitability. These practices, referred to as best management practices, are designed to prevent erosion,
2893 maintain flood conveyance and flood storage, retain riparian vegetation, avoid stream bank collapse, properly
2894 dispose of animal wastes, safely use and dispose of pesticides ~~((and))~~, prevent excessive stormwater runoff,
2895 capture and reuse methane gas, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and retain access to local food. ~~((Best
2896 management practices planned and implemented through efforts such as farm management plans can control
2897 runoff volumes and prevent pollutants from being discharged into local waterways and groundwater. These
2898 practices, such as manure bins, paddock and grazing area designs, and stream exclusion fencing, can reduce or
2899 eliminate pollutants in stormwater runoff from agricultural activities.~~

2900
2901 ~~Climate change has the potential to affect farming in King County, with increased severity of winter flooding,
2902 higher summer temperatures, reduced availability of surface and groundwater for irrigation, increased pest risk,
2903 and changes in the types of crops suited to this area. At the same time, soil best management practices, including
2904 use of cover crops and modified tilling methods, and amendment with compost, biosolids or other organic
2905 matter can help to mitigate the impacts of climate change by retaining soil moisture, sequestering carbon, and
2906 reducing other greenhouse gas emissions. Consideration and investigation of alternative water supplies, such as
2907 recycled water, can also help to mitigate the impacts of climate change and help support local and sustainable~~

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2908 agriculture. Development of anaerobic digesters for dairy manure and other agricultural waste products can
2909 capture methane gas and convert it to usable energy. Having locally available produce can help to reduce
2910 greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

2911

2912 ~~King County's policies in this chapter to conserve farmland and encourage food production take on a greater~~
2913 ~~significance when considering that climate change may result in food shortages in other parts of the country and~~
2914 ~~world. The Puget Sound region may become even more valuable for food production than it already is if~~
2915 ~~producing food in other parts of the world becomes more difficult.))~~

2916

2917 **R-666 King County shall provide incentives, educational programs, and other methods**
2918 **to encourage agricultural practices and technological improvements that**
2919 **maintain water quality, protect public health, protect fish and wildlife habitat,**
2920 **protect historic resources, maintain flood conveyance and storage, reduce**
2921 **greenhouse gas emissions, control noxious weeds, ((and)) prevent erosion of**
2922 **valuable agricultural soils, and increase soil water holding capacity while**
2923 **maintaining the functions needed for agricultural production.**

2924

2925 ~~((In order to))~~To maintain and operate their farms, farmers need assistance in maintaining farm viability in the
2926 face of increasing urbanization, soil degradation, increased flooding and water scarcity caused by climate
2927 change, and the increased impacts of upslope development. The maintenance of drainage and irrigation systems
2928 is essential for commercial agriculture to succeed in the county.

2929

2930 **R-667 King County shall continue to support agriculture with an expedited review**
2931 **process and reduced fees for structures necessary for farm operations.**

2932

2933 **R-668 King County shall work with federal, state, local, and private agencies to improve**
2934 **the availability and efficiency of water for agriculture through use of tools such**
2935 **as: expanding the availability of recycled water to farms((,)); offering incentives**
2936 **for irrigation efficiency((,)); and supporting mechanisms for water rights banking**
2937 **and trading that will give farmers greater certainty for water rights while**
2938 **protecting instream flows. King County ((will)) shall encourage the maintenance**
2939 **and preservation of agriculture water rights for agriculture purposes.**
2940 **Assessments of future surface and groundwater availability for agriculture**
2941 **should consider projected impacts of climate change.**

2942

2943 **R-668a King County ((will)) shall continue to support drainage improvements through its**
2944 **Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program and actively seek new ways to make**
2945 **drainage projects less expensive and easier to implement and to improve**
2946 **drainage systems across property lines.**

2947

2948 **R-669** King County should continue to collaborate with the Washington State University
2949 Extension, the University of Washington, and King Conservation District to:
2950 a. ~~((d))~~Develop information on and analyze the ~~((likely))~~ current and future
2951 impacts of climate change on agriculture in King County~~((;))~~;
2952 b. ~~((and to d))~~Develop mitigation, resiliency, and adaptation strategies that
2953 are appropriate for King County’s soils and farm economy~~((–Research~~
2954 should address)), such as soil management, use of commercial
2955 compost, water storage, irrigation, alternative crops, integrated pest
2956 management, and nutrient management~~((–The information should be~~
2957 made available to)); and
2958 c. Share the information and strategies with farmers through technical
2959 assistance programs and farm planning.
2960

2961 **R-669a** Farmers conducting work on property on which King County owns a Farmland
2962 Preservation Program easement should use Agricultural Best Management
2963 Practices and other sustainable farming methods.
2964

2965 **R-670** King County should provide incentives for soil management practices that
2966 reduce greenhouse emissions through its Agricultural Best Management
2967 Practices Cost-Sharing Program.
2968

2969 An alluvial fan is a ~~((depositional landform along a watercourse))~~ is a fan-shaped deposit of sediment transported
2970 by flowing water, called alluvium, where there is an abrupt decrease in stream gradient ~~((and a resulting area of~~
2971 active sediment deposition)). ~~((Most a))~~Alluvial fans in King County ~~((form))~~ occur where steep tributary
2972 streams ~~((discharge))~~ transition at the base of hillsides onto ~~((nearly))~~ the level river floodplains on a valley floor.
2973 ~~((Since m))~~Much of the county’s farmland is located in valley floors, ~~((some))~~ and agricultural landowners
2974 frequently have properties on ~~((or containing))~~ active alluvial fans ~~((that are significantly affected by t))~~. The
2975 episodic deposits of ~~((upslope))~~ sediment and debris that ~~((accumulate on their land))~~ typically occur on alluvial
2976 fans can fill stream channels and wetlands and may cover fertile farmland. ~~((These events result in obstructed~~
2977 stream channels, filled wetlands, covered farmland, and disruptions in operations. Water is redirected into
2978 unexpected places. Permits, regulations, and the lack of approved management practices make it difficult to
2979 remedy the situation to regain operations and farm viability.)) Sudden shifts in the location of streams on
2980 alluvial fans can also flood agricultural buildings and farm residences. Obtaining permits allowing active
2981 management to remove the accumulated sediments and reestablish stream channels can be difficult given the
2982 regulations that apply to aquatic areas and floodplains.
2983

2984 **R-671** King County regulations should ~~((use pilot or demonstration projects and~~
2985 ~~multi-agency collaboration to develop a new suite of practices that will))~~ provide
2986 options to manage alluvial fans for landowners whose existing operations,
2987 residences, or infrastructure are affected by alluvial fan deposits. These should
2988 provide timely and cost-effective relief from debris and the associated changes

2989 **to the watercourse along with protection of ((intact)) functional fish habitat and**
2990 **restoration of degraded fish habitat within these areas.**

2991

2992 Agricultural lands have historically been located in floodplains. Agriculture coexists with flood storage and
2993 seasonal inundation; however, there is a growing concern that farmers cannot protect their investments from
2994 flooding. The federal, state and local flood hazard management standards are designed to ensure there is no
2995 adverse impact to upstream or downstream property owners from activities that are allowed within the
2996 floodplain. King County recognizes that most of the agriculture in the county is located in the floodplains
2997 because that is where the prime agricultural soils are located. In recent years, King County has provided
2998 extensive technical and financial support to farmers to build farm pads and raise homes and agricultural
2999 buildings in the Snoqualmie floodplain. This industry requires special consideration because it is tied to these
3000 agricultural soils, and can occur almost nowhere else in the county.

3001

3002 **R-672 King County should work with federal, state and local jurisdictions to reduce**
3003 **flood impacts to agricultural operations. The ((e))County ((will)) shall continue to**
3004 **investigate the needs of agriculture before, during and after flood events, to**
3005 **determine if and how losses can be reduced, and ((will)) shall use this**
3006 **information in designing its floodplain policies and regulations.**

3007

3008 The high cost of agricultural land continues to be a barrier for many farmers wishing to locate their farm
3009 businesses within King County. The steady rise in agricultural land values continues to hamper the ability of
3010 many potential and current farmers to enter or expand their operations.

3011

3012 **R-673 In addition to enhancing the Farmland Preservation Program, the ((e))County**
3013 **should develop more innovative solutions and incentives to keep agricultural**
3014 **land affordable and profitable for active farming.**

3015

3016 **((3.)) Agriculture and the Food System**

3017 King County has a year-round growing season, a strong farming tradition and local farming expertise, and
3018 proximity to major markets for local foods and food products. Many of the policies in the previous section are
3019 aimed at helping to overcome obstacles to successful farming in King County. With that direction and a focus
3020 on production of food, farmlands in King County could be even more instrumental in strengthening the food
3021 system for the benefit of all King County residents.

3022

3023 Agricultural lands, farming practices and activities, and farmers are part of the local and regional food system.
3024 In addition to the growing of food, the food system includes processing, distribution, food availability, and
3025 disposal. As more people move to this region, King County recognizes the importance of planning for the
3026 regional food system to be more sustainable and resilient.

3027

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3028 ~~((In order to))~~To do so, King County ~~((will))~~ focuses on developing a local food system that can:

- 3029 • Expand opportunities for local farms and enhance the rural economy;
- 3030 • Promote healthy eating to improve public health;
- 3031 • Improve access to healthy, safe, and affordable food, to all county residents; especially those
- 3032 with low incomes and/or that are historically underserved or socially disadvantaged;
- 3033 • Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; and
- 3034 • Divert food waste from landfills.

3035

3036 ~~((Studies have shown that 35% of garbage is food.))~~ Efforts to prevent food waste divert edible food to hunger
3037 programs and recycle food waste into compost could reduce what goes to the landfill, reduce methane generated
3038 by landfills, provide food for hungry people, and provide soil amendments.

3039

3040 Food and nutrition are major factors in public health. ~~((The USDA's 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans call for
3041 significant increases in daily consumption of fruit, vegetables, milk products and whole grains. In 2013, 13.4%
3042 of King County residents lacked access to enough food for an active, healthy life and 18.7% of King County
3043 children lived in food insecure households (Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2015), and 73% of King County
3044 middle and high school age youth do not consume recommended levels of fruits and vegetables (Healthy Youth
3045 Survey 2012). Thirty two percent of adults in King County consume less than one serving of fruits per day and 17
3046 percent less than one serving of vegetables daily, and there are significant differences across education levels for
3047 both fruit and vegetable consumption and across race and income groups for vegetable consumption
3048 (Communities Putting Prevention to Work, 2010 and 2012.))~~ Efforts to increase the availability of ~~((these foods))~~
3049 fruit, vegetables, milk products and whole grains to King County residents should include encouraging an
3050 increase in food production on King County farms. Although it is not realistic for King County farms and
3051 farmers to provide the full complement of recommended foods in public health guidelines, there is the potential
3052 to increase food production for local and regional consumption, particularly ~~((in the first three categories))~~ for
3053 fruit, vegetables, and milk products.

3054

3055 King County's Local Food Initiative works to strengthen the region's local food economy and prioritizes
3056 expanding affordability and accessibility of healthy foods. As the County works to address climate change and
3057 begin shifting to a more regenerative economy, supporting a just food economy will be critical to making this
3058 transition equitable.

3059

3060

3061 **R-674**

**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.**

3062

3063

3064

3065

3066 R-675 King County ~~((should))~~ shall prioritize its programs to help build and support a
3067 sustainable, reliable, equitable, and resilient local food system. King County
3068 ~~((should))~~ shall strive to ~~((make))~~ strengthen the local food system, ~~((accessible))~~
3069 increase accessibly to ~~((at))~~ to the local food supply, and strive to make access
3070 to the local food system culturally appropriate by:
3071 a. Expanding leadership and ownership of food production opportunities to
3072 low-income, historically underserved, and socially disadvantaged
3073 farmers; and
3074 b. Making locally grown, healthy, and culturally relevant foods available to
3075 and reflective of King County communities and low-income, historically
3076 underserved, and socially disadvantaged farmers.

3077
3078 R-676 King County should consider adopting procurement policies that would
3079 encourage purchases of locally grown fresh foods.

3080
3081 R-677 King County should promote and support local food production and local
3082 processing to strengthen a sustainable and climate resilient the local food
3083 system and reduce the distance that food must travel from farm to table.

3084
3085 R-677a King County should continue food waste programs for single ~~((family,))~~ detached
3086 and multifamily residences, businesses, and institutions, aimed at reducing
3087 generation, promoting donation and encouraging curbside collection for
3088 anaerobic digestion and composting.

3089
3090 ~~((R-677b))~~ ~~King County should prioritize the economic development of the food and~~
3091 ~~agriculture industries in order to build a more sustainable and resilient local food~~
3092 ~~system.~~

3093
3094 ~~Government funded food programs are increasingly relying on electronic cards for clients to purchase food. For~~
3095 ~~example, food stamps have been replaced with electronic benefits transfer cards. Grocery stores can easily adopt~~
3096 ~~new electronic technology to accept such cards. It is more challenging for Farmers Markets to do so as the~~
3097 ~~majority of them are open air events in parking lots without access to electricity or telephone connections. To~~
3098 ~~improve accessibility of Farmers Markets for low income shoppers, a concerted effort needs to be made to~~
3099 ~~develop the ability to easily accept electronic payment. This will help make fresh food more available to~~
3100 ~~low income shoppers as well as increase the customer base for farmers.))~~

3101
3102 R-677c King County should support low-income, historically underserved, and socially
3103 disadvantaged populations in efforts to improve equitable food access and food

3104 production goals, including support for alternative pathways for farmland access
3105 that meet their community's needs.

3106
3107 **R-678** King County should support and collaborate with ~~((other organizations to further~~
3108 ~~the development of))~~ food incentive program providers, with food providers,
3109 producers, and distributors, and with community-based organizations to further
3110 develop and expand programs that increase ((the ability of shoppers to)) access
3111 to affordable foods, increase the use of food assistance benefits, and increase
3112 the ability of farmers to accept electronic and other forms of payment at Farmers
3113 Markets and farm stands.

3114
3115 **~~(E.)~~ Mineral Resources**

3116 King County contains many valuable mineral resources, including deposits of sand, rock, gravel, silica, clay, and
3117 metallic ores. Mineral extraction and processing these deposits is an important part of King County’s economy,
3118 currently providing hundreds of jobs and producing materials used locally, regionally, and nationally. ~~((Mineral~~
3119 ~~extraction also has historic significance, in that it provided the impetus for past development in many parts of~~
3120 ~~King County, including Black Diamond and the Newcastle area.))~~

3121
3122 King County is required by the Growth Management Act to designate and conserve mineral resource lands and
3123 plan appropriately to protect them. In doing so the County must assure that land uses adjacent to mineral
3124 resource lands do not interfere with the continued use of mineral resource lands in their accustomed manner and
3125 in accordance with best management practices. ~~((The policies in this section explain the steps taken to designate~~
3126 ~~and conserve mineral resource lands and provide direction on the comprehensive review needed before~~
3127 ~~additional sites are designated for mineral resource extraction.~~

3128
3129 ~~Four main steps are necessary to support and maintain local availability of mineral resources. First, mineral~~
3130 ~~resource sites should be conserved through designation and zoning. Second, land use conflicts between mineral~~
3131 ~~extraction, processing and related operations and adjacent land uses should be prevented or minimized through~~
3132 ~~policies and assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts. Third, operational practices should protect~~
3133 ~~environmental quality, fisheries and wildlife, in balance with the needs of the industry. Finally, mineral~~
3134 ~~extraction areas need to be reclaimed in a timely and appropriate manner.))~~

3135
3136 The Mineral Resources Map identifies three different types of Mineral Resource Sites – Designated Mineral
3137 Resource Sites, Potential Surface Mineral Resources, and Nonconforming Mineral Resource Sites and Existing
3138 Mineral Resource Sites in the Forest Production District. The sites were identified in the 1994 King County
3139 Comprehensive Plan or in subsequent annual updates. Before the Mineral Resources Map is a table that
3140 contains information on each Mineral Resource Site parcel.

3141

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3142 ((The Designated Mineral Resources Sites on the Mineral Resources Map satisfy King County’s responsibility to
3143 designate and conserve mineral resources consistent with requirements of the Growth Management Act. All
3144 Designated Mineral Resources Sites have Mineral zoning. Most of the Designated Mineral Resources Sites
3145 shown on the map contain sand and/or gravel; however, a few contain other mineral resources such as silica,
3146 rock, stone, shale, and clay. The criteria used in the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan called for
3147 designation of properties that at the time were either zoned outright for mining or those operating under an
3148 approved Unclassified Use Permit.)) In addition to the designated Mineral Resources Sites, the Forest
3149 Production District and Forest (F) zone preserves the opportunity for mineral extraction. Mineral extraction is a
3150 permitted or conditional use in the F zone. Because forestry does not preclude future mineral extraction, King
3151 County considers the Forest Production District as part of its strategy to conserve mineral resources.

3152
3153 The Mineral Resources Map also shows Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites. These are sites where King
3154 County may allow some future surface mining to occur or where the owner or operator indicates an interest in
3155 future mineral extraction. ((The Potential Surface Mineral Resources Sites shown on the map do not indicate
3156 the material. Because of the geology of King County, most valuable metallic mineral resources are located in the
3157 Forest Production District, and are therefore already protected from urban development.)) Identification of
3158 Potential Surface Mineral Resources Sites satisfies the Growth Management Act requirements to not knowingly
3159 preclude opportunities for future mineral extraction and to inform nearby property owners of the potential for
3160 future mineral extraction use of these areas ((in order)) to prevent or minimize conflicts.

3161
3162 The Mineral Resources Map also shows Nonconforming Mineral Resources Sites. These are sites on which
3163 some mining operations predated King County zoning regulations without appropriate zoning or other land use
3164 approval. Mining for these sites has not been authorized through a land use designation or zoning classification.
3165 These sites are shown for informational purposes only. Mining can occur on an identified site only if mining has
3166 been approved as a nonconforming use by the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division, and mining
3167 activities have received all other necessary permit approvals. Because the sites have not undergone formal
3168 review to be designated on the Land Use Map or zoned for mining, the sites do not have long-term commercial
3169 significance. However, they can continue to serve mineral supply needs.

3170
3171 **R-679 King County shall identify existing and potential mineral extraction sites on the**
3172 **Mineral Resources Map ((in order)) to conserve mineral resources, promote**
3173 **compatibility with nearby land uses, protect environmental quality, maintain and**
3174 **enhance mineral resource industries, and serve to notify property owners of the**
3175 **potential for mineral extraction activities. The County shall identify(:(**
3176 **a. Sites with existing Mineral zoning as Designated Mineral Resource Sites;**
3177 **b. Sites where the landowner or operator has indicated an interest in**
3178 **mineral extraction, sites that as of the date of adoption of the 1994**
3179 **Comprehensive Plan had potential Quarrying/Mining zoning, or sites that**
3180 **the County determines might support future mineral extraction as**
3181 **Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites; and**

3182 c. ~~Sites where mining operations predate zoning regulations but without~~
3183 ~~zoning or other land use approvals as Nonconforming Mineral Resource~~
3184 ~~Site sites consistent with Washington State Department of Natural~~
3185 ~~Resources mineral resource mapping and in accordance with the~~
3186 ~~mineral resource lands evaluation and designation criteria established in~~
3187 ~~Chapter 36.70A Revised Code of Washington and applicable sections in~~
3188 ~~Washington Administrative Code.~~

3190 **R-680** King County shall designate as Mining on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map
3191 those sites that had Potential Mineral (M) zoning prior to the date of adoption of the
3192 1994 Comprehensive Plan and those sites that had Mineral zoning as of the date of
3193 the adoption of the 2000 King County Comprehensive Plan update.

3195 **A Mining designation on the Land Use Map shall not create a presumption that**
3196 **Mineral zoning will be approved for sites with Potential Mineral zoning. Potential**
3197 **Mineral zoning shall not be applied to additional sites.**

3199 ~~((Mineral extraction is an intense operation that may continue for many years. Mineral extraction operations~~
3200 ~~can significantly change the land being mined and have impacts on the environment and on nearby properties.~~
3201 ~~Beyond direct impacts to the mine site and nearby properties, mineral extraction and processing can contribute~~
3202 ~~to greenhouse gas emissions. In 2014, the County and cities updated the Countywide Planning Policies to set a~~
3203 ~~goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 at the county scale. The County's 2015 Strategic Climate~~
3204 ~~Action Plan includes the same overarching goal.))~~

3206 King County requires comprehensive review, including environmental analysis, prior to approving a Land Use
3207 Map and zoning change. Site-specific environmental review will also be required for a grading permit or any
3208 other permit that is necessary for a mineral extraction operation. Therefore, ~~((a))~~ comprehensive site-specific
3209 ~~((study))~~ analysis is required prior to any such approval.

3211 **R-681** King County may designate additional sites on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use
3212 Map as Mining only following a site-specific rezone to Mineral zoning. Upon approval
3213 of a rezone to Mineral zoning, the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map shall be
3214 amended to designate the site as Mining during the next Comprehensive Plan update.
3215 King County should approve applications for site-specific rezones to Mineral zoning
3216 and applications for permits that would authorize mineral extraction and processing
3217 only following site-specific environmental study~~((;))~~ and early and continuous public
3218 notice and comment opportunities, when:

- 3219 a. The proposed site contains rock, sand, gravel, or other mineral
- 3220 resources;
- 3221 b. The proposed site is large enough to confine or mitigate all operational
- 3222 impacts;

- 3223 c. The proposal will allow operation with limited conflicts with adjacent
- 3224 land uses when mitigating measures are applied;
- 3225 d. The proposal has been evaluated under the State Environmental Policy
- 3226 Act so that the County may approve, condition or deny applications
- 3227 consistent with the County's substantive State Environmental Policy Act
- 3228 authority, and ~~((in order))~~ to mitigate significant adverse environmental
- 3229 impacts.
- 3230 e. Roads or rail facilities serving or proposed to serve the site can safely
- 3231 and adequately handle transport of products and are in close proximity
- 3232 to the site.
- 3233

3234 ~~((If King County denies an application for a site specific Mineral rezone it should remove the Mining land use~~
3235 ~~designation from the Land Use map and the associated Potential Surface Resource Mineral site designation from~~
3236 ~~the Mineral Resources Map. If the County denies a permit that would authorize mineral extraction and/or~~
3237 ~~processing on a Designated Mineral Resources Site, the County should consider new information generated~~
3238 ~~during the permit review process to determine whether the site is not properly designated as mineral resource~~
3239 ~~land of long term commercial significance, the designation for the site on the Mineral Resources Map should be~~
3240 ~~changed from Designated Mineral Resources Site to Potential Surface Mineral Resource Site. In addition, the~~
3241 ~~Mining land use designation and the Mineral zoning classification for the site should be amended to be~~
3242 ~~compatible with the surrounding properties.))~~

3243

3244 **R-682 King County should remove the Mining land use designation on the**

3245 **Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map and associated Potential Mineral zone or**

3246 **Mineral zoning for any sites that have been denied a rezone to Mineral.**

3247

3248 **If a grading or other permit necessary for the extraction of mineral resources is**

3249 **denied on a Designated Mineral Resource Site, the County shall evaluate whether**

3250 **such mineral resource designation is appropriate. The re-evaluation process**

3251 **may occur as part of the annual update and information produced during the**

3252 **permit review process shall be used to evaluate the appropriateness of changing**

3253 **the existing designation. If the County determines that the site should not be**

3254 **designated as mineral resource land of long-term commercial significance as**

3255 **defined in the Growth Management Act, the County shall evaluate whether the**

3256 **site should remain on the Mineral Resource Map, and whether the land use**

3257 **designation and zoning classification should be changed, with consideration for**

3258 **compatibility with the surrounding properties.**

- 3259
- 3260 **R-683** King County may amend the Mineral Resources Map to identify additional
- 3261 Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites as part of the ~~((eight))~~ 10-year or
- 3262 midpoint update.
- 3263
- 3264 **R-684** The preferred adjacent land uses to sites designated as Mining on the Land Use
- 3265 Map are mineral extraction, industrial, open space, or forestry uses. Sites for
- 3266 newly proposed Mineral zones shall not be adjacent to or within Agricultural
- 3267 Production Districts. Agricultural lands and operations should be protected from
- 3268 significant impacts associated with nearby mineral extraction operations.
- 3269
- 3270 **R-685** Mineral extraction activities are permitted within the Forest Production District,
- 3271 consistent with policy R-620. However, a conditional use permit shall be required
- 3272 for mineral extraction activities in the Forest zone located within one-quarter mile
- 3273 of established residences or for proposals seeking to use local access streets
- 3274 where abutting lots are developed for residential use.
- 3275
- 3276 **R-686** ~~((In order to))~~To comprehensively assess the environmental impacts associated
- 3277 with a zoning change, conditional use, or operating approval for a mineral
- 3278 extraction proposal, the range of environmental impacts, including short-term
- 3279 and long-term effects arising or existing over the lifetime of the proposal, shall be
- 3280 assessed at the earliest possible stage. This should include the potential for
- 3281 phasing of future proposals for structures and operations related to mineral
- 3282 extraction, such as asphalt and concrete batch plants.
- 3283
- 3284 **R-687** King County should prevent or minimize conflicts with mineral extraction when
- 3285 planning land uses adjacent to Designated Mineral Resource Sites and Potential
- 3286 Surface Mineral Resource Sites. Subarea plans or area zoning and land use
- 3287 studies may indicate areas where Mining is an inappropriate land use
- 3288 designation. Designated Mineral Resource Sites and Potential Surface Mineral
- 3289 Resource Sites and Nonconforming Mineral Resource Sites should be shown on
- 3290 the Mineral Resources Map ~~((and subarea study maps in order))~~ to notify nearby
- 3291 property owners and residents of existing and prospective mineral extraction
- 3292 activities.
- 3293
- 3294 **R-688** The periodic review process for mineral extraction and processing operations
- 3295 shall include sufficient public notice and comment opportunities. The purpose of
- 3296 the periodic review process is to provide opportunities for public review and
- 3297 comment on the mineral resource facility's fulfillment of state and County
- 3298 regulations and implementation of industry-standard best management
- 3299 practices, and for King County to modify, add or remove conditions to address
- 3300 new circumstances and/or unanticipated project-generated impacts. The

3301 periodic review process is not intended to re-examine the appropriateness of the
3302 mineral resource use, or to consider expansion of operations beyond the scope
3303 of existing permitted operations since that review would be accomplished
3304 through the County’s permitting process. The periodic review is intended to be a
3305 part of King County’s ongoing enforcement and inspections of mineral resource
3306 sites, and not to be a part of the County’s permitting process.

3307
3308 **R-689** Conditions and mitigations for significant adverse environmental impacts
3309 associated with mineral extraction or mining operations and their associated
3310 structures or facilities should be required, especially in the following areas:
3311 a. Air quality, including greenhouse gas emissions from minerals extracted
3312 for energy production;
3313 b. Environmentally sensitive and critical areas, such as surface and
3314 groundwater quality and quantity, wetlands, fisheries and wildlife
3315 habitats, and aquatic habitats;
3316 c. Noise levels;
3317 d. Vibration;
3318 e. Light and glare;
3319 f. Vehicular access and safety;
3320 g. Land and shoreline uses;
3321 h. Traffic impacts;
3322 i. Visual impacts;
3323 j. Cultural and historic features and resources;
3324 k. Site security; and
3325 ~~l. ((Climate change impacts from minerals extracted for energy production;~~
3326 ~~and~~
3327 ~~m.))~~ Others unique to specific sites and proposals.

3328
3329 **R-690** Where mineral extraction or mining are subject to state or federal regulations,
3330 King County should work with the state and federal governments to ensure that
3331 proposals are reviewed with consideration of local land use and environmental
3332 requirements, regional impacts from transport, and assessment of climate
3333 change impacts from end((-))_use of minerals and mined materials.

3334
3335 **R-691** King County should work with the Washington State Department of Natural
3336 Resources to ensure that mining areas are reclaimed in a timely and appropriate
3337 manner. Reclamation of mineral extraction or mining sites in the Forest
3338 Production District should return the land to forestry. Where mineral extraction
3339 is completed in phases, reclamation also should be completed in phases as the
3340 resource is depleted. When reclamation of mineral extraction sites located
3341 outside of the Forest Production District is completed, the site should be

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3342 considered for redesignation to a land use designation and zoning classification
 3343 compatible with the surrounding properties.

3344
 3345 **R-692** King County shall encourage the removal of existing stockpiles of previously
 3346 mined material (~~(in order)~~) to promote and achieve reclamation of land to its
 3347 highest and best use.

3348
 3349 **R-693** King County shall prohibit the establishment of new coal mines and the
 3350 expansion of existing coal mines.

3351

3352 Mineral Resources Property Information for the Mineral Resources Map

DESIGNATED MINERAL RESOURCE SITES				
Map #	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
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	

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DESIGNATED MINERAL RESOURCE SITES

Map # Section-	Section- Township- Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Material*	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
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

3353

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

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POTENTIAL SURFACE MINERAL RESOURCE SITES

Map # Section-	Section- Township- Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
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
82		Cadman Black Diamond/Weyerhaeuser Co.	434
83		Weyerhaeuser Co.	925
55	02-20-07 12-20-07	Weyerhaeuser Co., State of Washington, Metro	634
56	10-20-07	Weyerhaeuser Co.	80
57	15-26-07	State of Washington	320
58	16-21-05	State of Washington	38
59	17-23-07	State of Washington	640
	18-23-07		
	19-23-07		
	20-23-07		
60	26-21-06	M & K Company	18
61	27-24-06	State of Washington	40
62	30-20-08	Weyerhaeuser Co.	141
63	30-21-07	State of Washington and Palmer Coking Coal	60
64	30-21-08	State of Washington	168
65	34-24-06	State of Washington	32
66	35-24-06	State of Washington	20
67	36-20-06	State of Washington	79
68	36-20-06	State of Washington	40
69	36-21-06	State of Washington	152
70	36-21-07	State of Washington	640
71	36-23-06	State of Washington	115
72	04-21-07	Weyerhaeuser Co.	173
73	03-25-09	Weyerhaeuser Co.	3079

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POTENTIAL SURFACE MINERAL RESOURCE SITES

Map # Section-	Section- Township- Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
	04-25-09		
	05-25-09		
	10-25-09		
	33-25-09		
	34-26-09		
	28-20-07		
84	32-20-07 33-20-07	Weyerhaeuser Co.	669
	04-19-07		
85	05-19-07 32-20-07	Weyerhaeuser Co.	1572
86	34-25-07	L.A. Welcome	24
87	36-21-05	Sparling/King Co.	41
88	21-24-07	Raging River/King Co.	40
89	32-22-07	Lake Retreat/King Co	82
90	35-22-02	Sprowls/King Co.	40
91			
92	23-26-07	Swan Quarry/King Co.	76
93	31-23-07	Route 18 Fill Project/Plumb Creek Timber Co.	40

3354

3355

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.)
21	01-19-07	Hardie/Weyerhaeuser	S	625
94	29-20-07	Jensen Sand & Gravel/Jensen	SG	13
95	29-20-07	Corliss/Weyerhaeuser	SG	60
103	34-22-06	Summit/King County	SG	176
104	13-20-06	Enumclaw Quarry/Pierotti	RS	14
110	31-21-07	Hyde Pit/Palmer Coking Coal Co	SG	20
	19-23-09			
113	20-23-09 29-23-09	Cadman North Bend/Weyerhaeuser	SG	300

**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.)
114	33-20-07	White River/Weyerhaeuser	RS	175

3356

***KEY FOR ALL SITES**

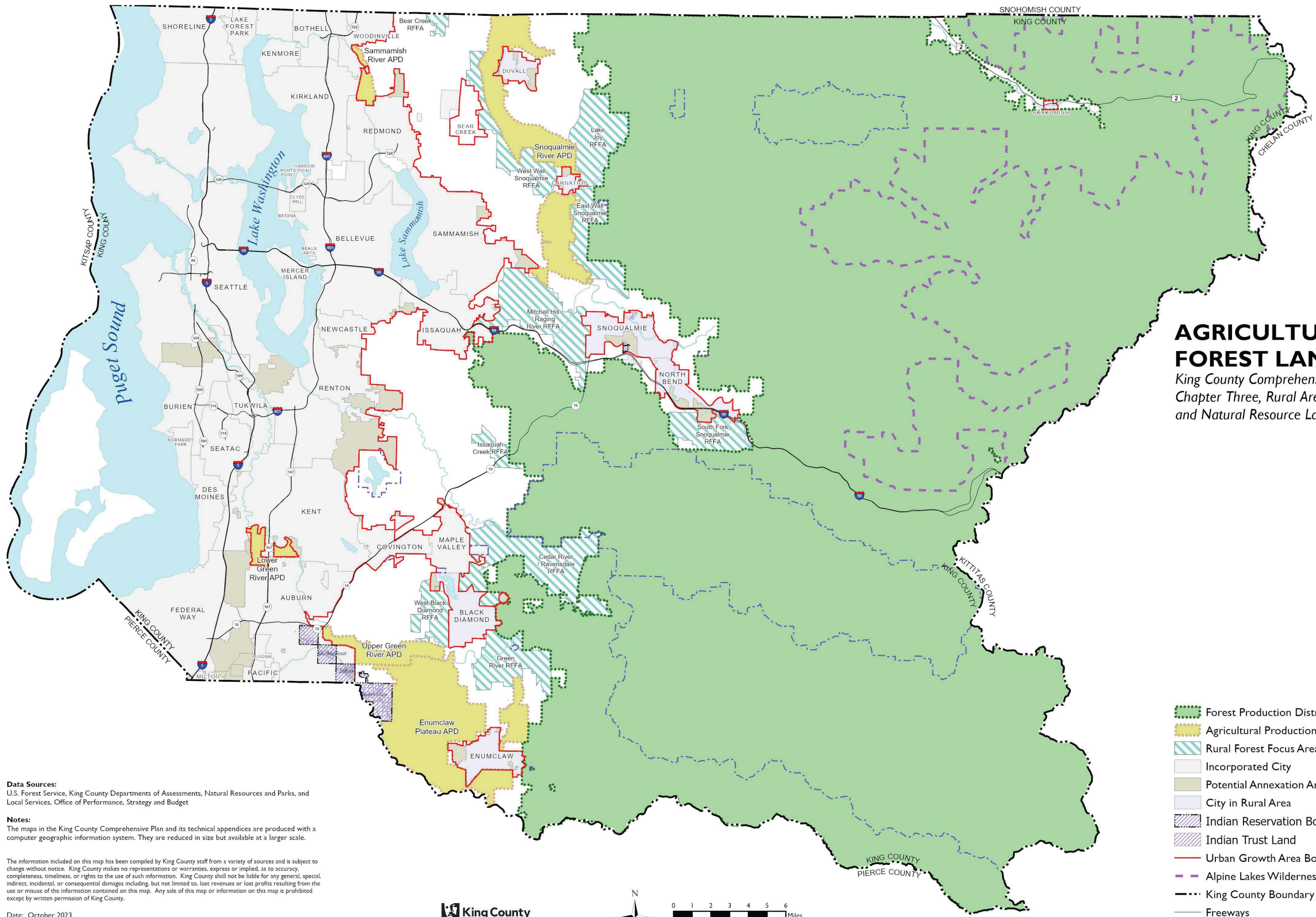
SG	=	Sand & Gravel
RS	=	Rock & Stone
R	=	Rock
ShCl	=	Shale & Clay
Cl	=	Clay
S	=	Silica

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.

3357

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AGRICULTURE AND FOREST LANDS 2024

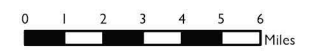
King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024
Chapter Three, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands

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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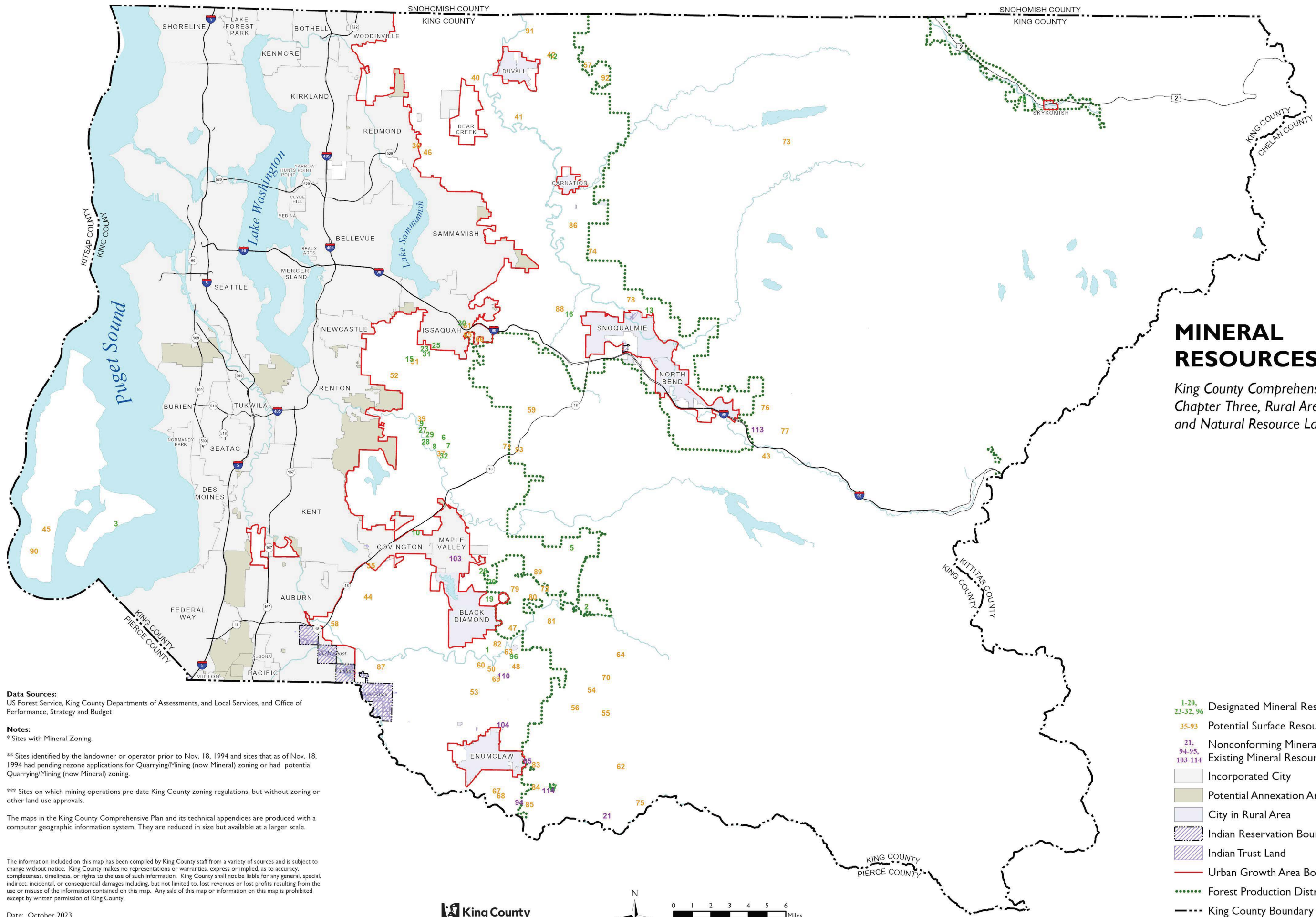
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October 2023

- 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

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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

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CHAPTER 4

HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES

~~((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)). King County prioritizes racial and social equity in the establishment of vibrant, thriving, healthy, and sustainable communities throughout the county. To achieve this goal, the Comprehensive Plan emphasizes the importance of offering equitable~~

housing choices by planning for clear goals to accommodate the full spectrum of housing needs in all communities. Housing stability creates a foundational structure for individuals and families. Stable housing is fundamental to every person's well-being, and improves health, economic, and educational outcomes for communities. The policies in this chapter support VISION, the Countywide Planning Policies, and the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force's Five-Year Action Plan goals.

8 ~~((I.))~~ **Housing**

9 ~~((A.))~~ **King County's Regional Role in Promoting Housing ~~((Choice and~~
10 ~~Opportunity))~~ Equity**

11 ~~((Most housing is financed by and developed in the private sector. The ability of the private sector to develop~~
12 ~~affordable housing is affected by a wide range of market forces. However, local government actions such as land~~
13 ~~use policies, development regulations and infrastructure finance also have a significant impact on housing~~
14 ~~affordability. Public funding, incentive programs and mandatory programs are essential to addressing the~~
15 ~~housing needs of historically disadvantaged communities, including lower income county residents, older adults,~~
16 ~~people of color, children and vulnerable adults (including victims and survivors of domestic violence, human~~
17 ~~trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation), people with developmental disabilities, people with behavioral,~~
18 ~~physical, cognitive and/or functional disabilities, people who are experiencing homelessness, and growing~~
19 ~~segments of the population such as immigrant and refugee communities.)) The ability of the private and public
20 sector to develop housing is affected by a wide range of market forces. However, local government actions such
21 as land use policies, funding, regional coordination, development regulations, community engagement, and
22 infrastructure financing significantly impact the capacity to increase housing supply for all incomes, including
23 affordable housing. Public funding, incentive programs, and mandatory programs are essential to increasing the
24 development capacity in King County, which will increase the land available for new, higher-density housing
25 that is affordable to a wider range of incomes than in the current housing market.~~

26
27 Summary data and analysis regarding housing needs in King County can be found in ~~((Technical))~~ Appendix B,
28 Housing Needs Assessment ((of this Comprehensive Plan)). Findings from the Housing Needs Assessment
29 analysis demonstrate disparities by race, ethnicity, income, disability status, and age in homeownership. For
30 example, in King County 61 percent of White households and 58 percent of Asian households own their homes.¹
31 Comparatively, only 28 percent of Black households and 35 percent of Hispanic or Latin(a)(o)(x) own their
32 homes.² In unincorporated King County, 88 percent of White households, compared to 43 percent of Black and
33 49 percent of Hispanic or Latin(a)(o)(x) households, own their own home.³

34
35 Housing cost burden means more than 30 percent of a household's income goes toward housing costs. Severe
36 cost burden means more that more than 50 percent of a household's income goes toward housing costs. Black,
37 Indigenous, and other People of Color households are more likely to be cost burdened and severely cost
38 burdened than White households.⁴ Senior renters with lower incomes and LGBTQIA+ households are

¹ United States Census Bureau. (2020). 5-year American Community Survey 2016-2020.

² ibid

³ ibid

⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021). Cost Burden, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy 2014-2018.

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Attachment A to Ordinance ((18427, as amended by Ordinances 18623, 18810, 19034, 19146, and 19555)) TBD**

39 disproportionately cost burdened.^{5,6} Renter-occupied households are more likely to be cost burdened than
40 owner-occupied households.⁷

41
42 The policies in this ~~((chapter address))~~ section intend to reduce regional disparities in housing access by
43 addressing affordable housing development, preservation and assistance programs administered by King County,
44 ~~((King))~~ the County's regulatory role in helping to ensure that there is adequate safe and healthy housing to
45 promote affordable housing in the unincorporated areas ~~((of the County))~~, and King County's regional role
46 convening partners to meet the housing needs of all county residents at ~~((a variety of))~~ all income levels.

47
48 ~~((This chapter))~~ In alignment with the Countywide Planning Policies, this section calls for more residential
49 growth by preserving existing housing stock, incentivizing affordable housing development, increasing density
50 through middle housing and inclusionary housing regulations, and developing new units on vacant parcels
51 within established neighborhoods and in areas for new development near high(-)-capacity and frequent transit.⁸
52 These locations can offer affordable housing that is close to jobs, transportation, and services. ~~((Housing~~
53 ~~development can also provide welcome improvements to communities suffering from a lack of investment. New~~
54 ~~development in established communities may result in the loss of existing low-cost housing; thus, this plan calls~~
55 ~~for King County and its partners to work together to help preserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing.~~
56 ~~Low-cost housing is a community resource that should be preserved.))~~ The below policies prioritize the
57 development of adequate infrastructure and anti-displacement strategies in communities who have historically
58 experienced underinvestment.

59
60 The Countywide Planning Policies have identified the substantial need that exists for rental housing affordable to
61 households with extremely low-, very low-, and low-incomes ~~((rental housing))~~ and for ~~((moderately priced))~~
62 affordable homes that can be purchased by income-qualified homebuyers. ~~((In the past decade, a significant~~
63 ~~number of homeowners have lost their homes due to foreclosure and have become renters again. In the short~~
64 ~~term, those households may need affordable rents, while in the longer term they may again seek to own a~~
65 ~~moderately priced home.))~~ The Growth Management Act requires all jurisdictions plan to accommodate the
66 housing needs of residents at every income level. The Countywide Planning Policies establish allocations of
67 housing need for each jurisdiction. The table below shows the housing need for urban unincorporated King
68 County, reflected as new units in service, by income levels, including the projected housing needs for extremely
69 low-, very low-, low-, and moderate-income households, permanent supportive housing, and emergency

⁵ Prunhuber, Pratti and Vivian Kwok. (2021, February). Low-Income Older Adults Face Unaffordable Rents, Driving Housing Instability and Homelessness. Justice in Aging, National Low Income Housing Coalition.

⁶ Goldsen, K. F. et. al. (2020, November). Washington State LGBTQ+ Equity and Health Report 2020.

⁷ United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021). Cost Burden and Severe Cost Burden by Income, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy 2014-2018.

⁸ Per the Countywide Planning Policies: High-capacity transit are "transit modes that operate principally on exclusive rights-of-way which provides a substantially higher level of passenger capacity, speed, and service frequency than traditional public transportation systems operating principally in general purpose roadways, including light rail, streetcar, commuter rail, ferry terminals, and bus rapid transit stations." Frequent transit is "transit service that is "show-up and go" that comes frequently enough that passengers do not require a schedule."

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70 housing.⁹ The total new housing units needed in urban unincorporated King County by 2044 is 5,412.¹⁰
 71 Additionally, another 1,034 emergency housing beds are needed by 2044. With the changes adopted as part of
 72 the 2024 Comprehensive Plan, there is sufficient zoning capacity to accommodate all of these housing needs and
 73 types.

74
 75 *Table 1: Projected Housing Needs by Income Level in Unincorporated King County*¹¹

<u>Income Level</u>	<u>% Median Income</u>	<u>Net New Units Needed, 2019-2044</u>
<u>Extremely low</u>	<u>0-30% Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</u>	<u>608</u>
	<u>0-30% Other (non-PSH)</u>	<u>1,157</u>
<u>Very low</u>	<u>>30-50%</u>	<u>571</u>
<u>Low</u>	<u>>50-80%</u>	<u>292</u>
<u>Moderate</u>	<u>>80-100%</u>	<u>366</u>
	<u>>100-120%</u>	<u>415</u>
<u>Above Moderate</u>	<u>>120%</u>	<u>2,003</u>
<u>All Income Levels</u>		<u>5,412</u>
<u>Temporary Housing Needs</u>		<u>Net New Beds Needed, 2019-2044</u>
<u>Emergency Housing/Shelter</u>		<u>1,034</u>

76
 77 **((1.)) Regional Convener**
 78 King County has a role to play in ~~((promoting))~~ increasing interjurisdictional cooperation and public/private
 79 partnerships to address the full range of critical housing needs in King County ~~((and the Puget Sound region))~~.
 80 King County convened the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force in July 2017. ~~((The task force met for 18~~
 81 ~~months to understand the affordable housing challenges and to meet people most affected by the lack of~~
 82 ~~affordable units in the county.))~~ The ~~((t))~~Task ~~((f))~~Force work culminated in a December 2018 Final Report and
 83 Recommendations, which included a Five((-))_Year Action Plan ~~((and Final Report, which))~~ that was adopted as

⁹ Per Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.030: Emergency housing "means temporary indoor accommodations for individuals or families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless that is intended to address the basic health, food, clothing, and personal hygiene needs of individuals or families. Emergency housing may or may not require occupants to enter into a lease or an occupancy agreement." Permanent supportive housing "is subsidized, leased housing with no limit on length of stay that prioritizes people who need comprehensive support services to retain tenancy and utilizes admissions practices designed to use lower barriers to entry than would be typical for other subsidized or unsubsidized rental housing, especially related to rental history, criminal history, and personal behaviors. Permanent supportive housing is paired with on-site or off-site voluntary services designed to support a person living with a complex and disabling behavioral health or physical health condition who was experiencing homelessness or was at imminent risk of homelessness prior to moving into housing to retain their housing and be a successful tenant in a housing arrangement, improve the resident's health status, and connect the resident of the housing with community-based health care, treatment, or employment services. Permanent supportive housing is subject to all of the rights and responsibilities defined in chapter 59.18 RCW"

¹⁰ This growth is intended to be focused in the urban area to align with the Growth Management Act and VISION.

¹¹ Area Median Income bands used are the same as bands used by the Department of Commerce for projecting need, who based their analysis primarily on Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data and thus largely use Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Area Median Family Income limits.

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84 ~~((the policy of the))~~ County policy in Motion 15372. The overarching goal of the Five((-))_Year Action Plan is to
85 "strive to eliminate cost burden for households earning 80 percent Area Median Income and below, with a
86 priority for serving households at or below 50 percent Area Median Income." ~~((The Action Plan contains seven
87 goals to accomplish the overall goal:~~

- 88
- 89 1. ~~Create and support an ongoing structure for regional collaboration;~~
- 90 2. ~~Increase construction and preservation of affordable homes for households earning less than 50 percent
91 area median income;~~
- 92 3. ~~Prioritize affordability accessible within a half-mile walkshed of existing and planned frequent transit
93 service, with a particular priority for high capacity transit stations;~~
- 94 4. ~~Preserve access to affordable homes for renters by supporting tenant protections to increase housing
95 stability and reduce risk of homelessness;~~
- 96 5. ~~Protect existing communities of color and low income communities from displacement in gentrifying
97 communities;~~
- 98 6. ~~Promote greater housing growth and diversity to achieve a variety of housing types at a range of
99 affordability and improve jobs/housing connections throughout King County; and~~
- 100 7. ~~Better engage local communities and other partners in addressing the urgent need for and benefits of
101 affordable housing.~~

102

103 ~~The King County Department of Community and Human Services is managing the County's role in
104 implementing the Five Year Action Plan, in collaboration with other internal parties such as the Metro Transit
105 Department, the Facilities Management Division, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and the
106 Department of Local Services.)~~

107

108 The King County Growth Management Planning Council created ~~((a new))~~ the Affordable Housing Committee
109 in 2019 to serve as a regional advisory body ~~((with the goal of recommending))~~ to recommend actions and
110 ~~((assessing))~~ assess progress towards ~~((implementation of))~~ the Five((-))_Year Action Plan. The Committee also
111 functions as a point of coordination and accountability for affordable housing efforts across King County. The
112 Committee is comprised of representatives of King County, the City of Seattle, Sound Cities Association,
113 housing authorities, and others with expertise in affordable housing, including preventing displacement. King
114 County provides staff support, data and policy analysis, and other resources for the Committee.

115

116 The Committee ~~((is responsible for recommending amendments to))~~ aided in the development of the 2021
117 Countywide Planning Policies, including recommending amendments to regional goals, metrics, and land use
118 policies. ~~((The Committee functions as a point of coordination and accountability for affordable housing efforts~~
119 ~~across King County.))~~ A major focus for the Committee will be to: review all King County jurisdiction'
120 comprehensive plans, implementation plans, and updates for consistency with the housing chapter of the

121 Countywide Planning Policies; provide a hub to share best practices for increasing affordable housing supply;
122 and monitor data on progress towards planning for and accommodating housing needs; and make
123 recommendations on potential actions to address shortfalls.

124

125 **H-100** **King County shall work through the Growth Management Planning Council, or its**
126 **designee, to:**

127 **a. Conduct a housing-focused review of and provide comments on all King**
128 **County jurisdictions' draft periodic comprehensive plan updates for**
129 **alignment with the King County Countywide Planning Policies Housing**
130 **Chapter goals and policies prior to plan adoption;**

131 **b. Monitor progress towards meeting countywide and jurisdictional**
132 **housing growth targets, housing needs, and eliminating disparities in**
133 **access to housing and neighborhood choice;**

134 **c. Provide necessary, ongoing information to jurisdictions on their**
135 **progress toward planning for and accommodating their housing needs**
136 **using public-facing tools; and**

137 **d. Review monitoring and reporting data collected through annual**
138 **reporting and other local data and analysis five years after adoption of a**
139 **periodic update to a comprehensive plan, identify significant shortfalls in**
140 **planning for and accommodating housing needs, provide findings that**
141 **describe the nature of the shortfalls, and make recommendations that**
142 **jurisdictions take action to address shortfalls consistent with the**
143 **Countywide Planning Policies.**

144

145 ~~**((H-101** **King County shall initiate and actively participate in regional solutions to address**
146 **critical affordable housing needs in unincorporated King County and throughout**
147 **the region.))**~~

148

149 **H-101** **King County shall equitably engage ((J))jurisdictions, community members,**
150 **community-based organizations, private sector, and housing representatives**
151 **((should be invited)) to identify and implement solutions to further housing**
152 **stability, accessibility, and affordability goals established in the Countywide**
153 **Planning Policies, such as adopting tenant protections, creating mandatory and**
154 **incentive housing programs, and middle housing regulations.**

155

156 ~~**((H-101a** **King County should participate in regional efforts related to tenant protections**
157 **throughout the region.))**~~

158

159 **H-102** **King County shall work with jurisdictions, the private sector, state and federal**
160 **governments, other public funders of housing, other public agencies such as the**
161 **Housing Authorities, regional agencies such as the Puget Sound Regional**

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Council, intermediary housing organizations, and the non((-))profit sector, to
~~((encourage))~~ support a wide range of housing and to reduce barriers to the
preservation, improvement, and development ~~((and preservation))~~ of a wide
range of 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;
- b. Meets the needs of and advances equitable outcomes for a diverse population, especially families and individuals who have extremely low-, very((-)_low-, low-, ((to)) and moderate((-))-incomes, and intersectional populations, including ~~((older adults))~~ Black, Indigenous, and other ~~((P))~~ People of ((e))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))~~; seniors; veterans; people experiencing homelessness; people with behavioral, physical, cognitive, and developmental disabilities; immigrants; refugees; LGBTQIA+ people; families with children; survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation; and women;
- c. Supports economic growth; and
- 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, Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan, Initial Health through Housing Implementation Plan 2022-2028 or successor plans, Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan, and Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Behavioral Health Sales Tax Fund Plan, for an equitable~~ ~~((and rational))~~ distribution of ~~((low income and high quality))~~ affordable housing, including mixed-income housing, and supportive services 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))~~.

~~Through subarea and regional planning with jurisdictions and partners in the Puget Sound region, mandatory and incentive programs and funding initiatives~~

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204 ~~for affordable housing, King County shall serve as a regional convener and local~~
205 ~~administrator in the unincorporated areas to plan for housing to meet the needs~~
206 ~~of all economic segments of the population. With respect to affordable housing,~~
207 ~~King County shall address the countywide need for housing affordable to~~
208 ~~very-low, low and moderate income households pursuant to the countywide~~
209 ~~targets established in the most recently adopted Countywide Planning Policies.))~~

210
211 ~~((As the Countywide Planning Policies note,))~~ The Housing Needs Assessment found that residents in King
212 County ((are facing)) face an unmet need for housing that is affordable to households ((earning)) with incomes
213 less than 80 percent of area median income, with the highest need for households with incomes less and 50
214 percent and 30 percent of area median income.¹² Recent data indicate that ((295,000)) 274,145 households in
215 King County spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.¹³ While the number of cost-burdened
216 households has declined slightly since the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update, this does not indicate housing
217 affordability has improved. Rising housing costs often lead cost-burdened households to move out of King
218 County to find more affordable housing, which can cause the overall number of cost-burdened households to
219 decline. The lack of affordable housing is felt in every community in the county. ~~((A regional problem requires~~
220 ~~a regional approach. As such,))~~ King County and the jurisdictions within the county have a shared responsibility
221 to increase the supply of housing affordable to these households.

222
223 Based on the identified need for affordable housing for households who are spending more than 30 percent of
224 their income on housing, Countywide Planning Policy H-1 ~~((has established estimates of the))~~ establishes
225 countywide and jurisdictional housing needs for ((housing affordable to households with moderate, low and))
226 extremely low-, very((-)low-, low-, and moderate-income((s)) households, as well as emergency housing,
227 emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing. The Countywide Planning Policies require King County
228 and the jurisdictions located within King County to ~~((identify barriers to housing affordability and implement~~
229 ~~strategies to overcome them))~~ to plan for and accommodate each jurisdiction's housing need. The Countywide
230 Planning Policies also require regional collaboration in meeting countywide housing growth targets and
231 ~~((affordable))~~ housing needs, as well as in developing ~~((resources and))~~ programs to provide for affordable
232 housing. The following policies require King County to collaborate with multiple partners, such as those from
233 local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, private sector developers, community-based organizations, and
234 employers. Additionally, the production gap analysis in the Housing Need Assessment identified a shortfall of
235 homeownership opportunities affordable to households with incomes at or below 120 percent of area median
236 income. King County limits homeownership assistance to households with incomes at or below 80 percent of
237 area median income; however, these policies acknowledge the need for homeownership assistance for
238 homebuyers with incomes near the median range as well.

¹² United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021). Cost Burden and Severe Cost Burden by Income, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy 2014-2018.

¹³ ((Briefing 2015-B0143, based on data from 2015-2019 Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (Ordinance 18070))) King County, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy 2015-2019

240 ~~((H-103a~~ ~~King County will work collaboratively with jurisdictions and partners to identify~~
241 ~~and meet affordable housing needs, including eliminating barriers to housing.~~
242 ~~This effort should take the form of a regional affordable housing plan that~~
243 ~~summarizes existing efforts and identifies the roles and strategies of the county,~~
244 ~~jurisdictions and partners to meet affordable housing needs.))~~

246 **H-104** King County shall work with the multiple partners outlined in this section to
247 promote the preservation and expansion of:
248 a. ((a)) Affordable rental housing opportunities for households earning up
249 to 80((%)) percent of the King County area median income((:)); and
250 b. Affordable ownership housing opportunities for households earning up
251 to 120 percent of the King County area median income.

252
253 Preservation ~~((is a particularly acute need))~~ should be prioritized in areas that
254 may experience redevelopment due to proximity to high((-)-capacity transit
255 and/or an area experiencing changing market conditions.

257 ~~((H-105~~ ~~King County shall work with the multiple partners outlined in this section to~~
258 ~~promote the preservation and expansion of affordable ownership housing~~
259 ~~opportunities for households earning up to 120% of the King County median~~
260 ~~income. Preservation is a particularly acute need in areas that may experience~~
261 ~~redevelopment due to proximity to high capacity transit and/or an area~~
262 ~~experiencing changing market conditions.))~~

264 **H-105a** King County shall work with the Puget Sound Regional Council and subregional
265 collaborations, and shall engage ((marginalized)) historically and currently
266 underrepresented populations ((in the)) to advance community-driven
267 development, implementation, and ((evaluation)) monitoring of county((-)wide
268 affordable housing goals, policies, and programs.

270 ~~((2. — **Support Housing Models and Policies that Promote Healthy Communities,**~~
271 ~~**Housing Affordability and an End to Homelessness)) Promoting Healthy**~~
272 ~~**Communities**~~

274 ~~((H-106~~ ~~King County, in partnership with other jurisdictions, shall evaluate achievement~~
275 ~~of countywide and local goals for housing for all economic sectors of the~~
276 ~~population by analyzing housing indicators, adopted land use regulations,~~
277 ~~actions that encourage development, and the effect of market factors on housing~~
278 ~~development. The results of this evaluation shall be used to develop new or~~
279 ~~revised policies, programs, regulations, and incentives to better meet the~~
280 ~~Countywide Planning Policies' housing goals. These may include adopting~~

281 ~~appropriate land use regulations and other actions that encourage development,~~
282 ~~rehabilitation, and preservation of low and moderate income housing.)~~

283
284 **H-107** King County ~~((should))~~ shall encourage regional land use and investment
285 strategies to stimulate ~~((mixed-use and))~~ mixed-income developments as a way
286 to racially and economically integrate neighborhoods, ~~((and))~~ increase housing
287 and transportation choices throughout King County, and improve housing
288 stability for people of all incomes.

289
290 **H-108** King County shall ~~((work with other jurisdictions to))~~ encourage the use of
291 universal design in the development of affordable housing, family-sized housing,
292 and market rate housing to create housing units that are accessible to seniors
293 and people with disabilities.

294
295 **H-109** King County should develop new partnerships with public and private lending
296 institutions to find solutions that reduce ~~((housing financing))~~ homeownership
297 costs for ~~((both builders and consumers))~~ residents.

298
299 **H-110** King County shall work with regional bodies, including the Puget Sound Regional
300 Council and the Growth Management Planning Council, or their successors, and
301 the private and non((-))_profit sectors to support development of an adequate
302 supply of housing commensurate with job growth within the county ~~((and its~~
303 ~~cities))~~. To attain this goal, King County shall work with such regional partners
304 to:

- 305 a. Support job and household growth targets, housing needs for people of
306 all incomes, and policies established in the Countywide Planning
307 Policies; and
- 308 b. ~~((Establish performance measures to gauge how jurisdictions are~~
309 ~~accommodating growth and housing needs;~~
- 310 c. ~~Participate in buildable lands inventories, market analyses and other~~
311 ~~studies to evaluate if sufficient land capacity is available for residential~~
312 ~~development; and~~
- 313 d.) Work with cities to ensure additional actions are taken throughout the
314 county to accommodate and promote residential development when job
315 growth causes great demand for housing and severe shortages in the
316 availability of housing for new workers in the county.

317
318 ~~((H-111)) King County should work with local employers to develop affordable~~
319 ~~employer-assisted housing opportunities located within commuting distance of~~
320 ~~the employment site.)~~

321

322 H-112 King County should encourage development of permanent supportive and other
323 affordable housing through redevelopment of nonresidential buildings~~((, such as~~
324 ~~schools and commercial buildings,))~~ in locations suitable for housing to create
325 housing stability for low-income residents and in ways that preserve significant
326 historic features where appropriate.

327
328 Sustainable housing is also important to support equity goals, especially for frontline communities. Sustainable
329 housing includes, but is not limited to, housing that uses sustainable building materials and construction
330 practices to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support transit-oriented
331 development, as well as housing that is located or built in ways that reduce climate change impacts on residents
332 and structures.

333
334 H-113 King County should support the development, preservation and rehabilitation of
335 affordable and sustainable housing that: protects residents from exposure to
336 harmful substances and environments, including lead poisoning~~((,))~~; reduces the
337 risk of injury~~((,))~~; is well-maintained~~((, and))~~; is adaptable to all ages and abilities;
338 and advances climate equity. King County should work on a regional level with
339 jurisdictions to explore tools to ensure healthy housing is provided throughout
340 the region to improve housing stability of residents.

341
342 H-114 King County should encourage development of ~~((residential communities that~~
343 ~~achieve lower prices and rents through))~~ affordable housing and sustainable
344 housing. These developments should utilize smaller-scale units and clustered
345 and higher density housing that shares common spaces, open spaces, and
346 community facilities.

347
348 H-115 King County should work with the King County Regional Homelessness
349 Authority and other housing partners and jurisdictions to oppose and repeal
350 policies, regulations, and actions that result in the criminalization of
351 homelessness and homeless encampments.

352
353 H-116 King County shall support and encourage smoke free policies in multi-family
354 housing and affordable housing, where appropriate.

355
356 H-117 King County shall support ~~((partnership efforts and the application of~~
357 ~~innovations in manufactured home production that may allow mobile home parks~~
358 ~~to adapt and improve the quality of housing stock and to increase the density of~~
359 ~~housing stock in order to preserve housing affordability while accommodating~~
360 ~~the region's growth needs))~~ the preservation of mobile home communities to

361 prevent displacement in unincorporated King County and improve the quality of
362 these units.
363

364 **((3. — Fair)) Equitable Housing Access and Undoing Racially Disparate Housing**
365 **Policies**

366 ((An important element of this Comprehensive Plan is to address equal access to housing and freedom from
367 discrimination in housing for all residents of King County. A number of the policies in this Plan address fair
368 housing through support and encouragement of both the successful integration of housing for low to
369 moderate income households into all communities and, in particular, into healthy communities with access to
370 jobs, transportation, good schools and economic opportunities; and the successful improvement of community
371 conditions for those communities that are currently low on the opportunity scale.

372
373 Opportunity is a situation or condition that places individuals in a position to be more likely to excel or succeed.
374 Opportunity mapping assesses the conditions present in neighborhoods across a region, by looking at indicators
375 of opportunity in education, economy, transportation, housing, environment, and health, and ranks
376 communities on a scale from low to high opportunity. High opportunity areas have the best conditions for the
377 success of the residents living there. Opportunity mapping can also be useful in helping to identify transition
378 areas where existing residents may be at risk for displacement. Analysis of opportunity mapping can provide
379 valuable information about where more affordable housing needs to be located, and what needs to be remedied
380 in areas that have very limited opportunities.

381
382 Local, state and federal fair housing laws, including the King County Fair Housing Ordinance, have set the stage
383 for policies in this Plan that favor community-based, integrated housing and independent living, rather than
384 institutional settings, for older adults and persons with behavioral, cognitive, physical and developmental
385 disabilities. Service enriched housing is also best integrated into community based settings in apartments or
386 single family homes rehabilitated to meet the needs of the residents.))

387
388 Equitable access to housing plays a critical role in promoting social justice and reducing racial disparities in King
389 County. Through the Comprehensive Plan, King County supports policies that promote equitable access to
390 housing for all and address and seek to undo racially disparate housing outcomes. This includes policies that
391 address housing discrimination, protect renters, promote homeownership, expand access to affordable housing,
392 and encourage equitable development through code changes. King County partners with community
393 organizations and other partners to work towards meeting the needs of intersectional populations, including
394 Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; seniors; veterans; people experiencing homelessness;
395 people with disabilities; immigrants; refugees; LGBTQIA+ people; families with children; survivors of domestic
396 violence, human trafficking, and commercial exploitation; and women.

397
398 The Racially Disparate Impact Analysis in the Housing Needs Assessment documents and examines the local
399 history of racially exclusive and discriminatory land use and housing practices that lead to racially disparate

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400 housing outcomes for residents in unincorporated King County. Historically, private property owners, lending
401 institutions, and federal, state, and local governments implemented strategies to restrict access to housing, land,
402 and neighborhoods to people based on their race, nation of origin, and sometimes religion. These strategies
403 perpetuated racial segregation and wealth inequities throughout the country and in King County. Some of these
404 policies and practices known to have been enforced or practiced in unincorporated King County include
405 Indigenous land dispossession, the Alien Land Law, Japanese internment and incarceration, racial restrictive
406 covenants, and discriminatory lending practices that led to disproportionate access to homeownership. While
407 federal, state, and local governments outlawed many of these overtly racist housing practices in the twentieth
408 century, their legacy lives on through low-density zoning and large minimum lot requirements, lack of affordable
409 housing investment in urban unincorporated areas, and lack of tenant protections. King County’s zoning code
410 did not incentivize allowable types of high- and middle-density housing types, which limits housing supply and
411 housing choice and leads to unaffordable housing prices that disproportionately impact low-income
412 communities, of which Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are most overly represented in.

413
414 In January 2023, per Motion 16062, King County released an Equitable Development Initiative Implementation
415 Plan Phase I. Phase II of the plan was transmitted to King County Council in 2024, and contains
416 recommendations from community members for funding options, metrics for monitoring displacement risk,
417 strategies for preventing displacement, responsibilities of a permanent Equitable Development Initiative
418 Advisory Board, and more. Through the Comprehensive Plan, King County furthers the Equitable
419 Development Initiative framework vision to create an inclusive and equitable King County with resilient,
420 thriving, and welcoming communities.

421
422 **H-118** **King County shall actively promote and affirmatively further fair housing in**
423 **unincorporated King County through its housing programs, and shall ((work with**
424 **all of)) participate in efforts with its partners to further fair housing in its regional**
425 **role promoting housing affordability((,)) and choice and access to opportunity for**
426 **((all)) communities((, especially these)) that experience disproportionate rates of**
427 **housing discrimination and** communities that bear the burdens from lack of
428 investment and access to opportunity((, and shall work with residents and
429 stakeholders to help them understand the rights protected by federal, state, and
430 local fair housing laws and shall help to promote equitable housing practices for
431 protected classes through fair housing education and enforcement)).

432
433 **H-119** **King County shall flexibly apply its rules, policies, practices, and services in its**
434 **funding, incentive, or mandatory affordable housing programs, when necessary**
435 **to afford persons with disabilities equal opportunity to use or enjoy a dwelling or**
436 **to create new affordable housing opportunities for persons with disabilities.**

437
438 **H-120** **King County should work with housing industry representatives to identify and**
439 **remove barriers (such as real estate marketing, finance, or insurance practices)**

440 that restrict housing choices and opportunities for: extremely low-, very low-,
441 low-, and moderate-income people older adults((,)); people who are experiencing
442 homelessness; and people with behavioral, physical, cognitive, and
443 developmental disabilities.

444
445 **H-120a** **King County shall take intentional actions that repair harms to Black, Indigenous,**
446 **and other People of Color households from past and current racially exclusive**
447 **and discriminatory land use and housing practices that result in racially**
448 **disparate outcomes, such as development patterns, disparate homeownership**
449 **rates, affordable housing divestment in lower-income communities, and**
450 **infrastructure availability, such as through:**
451 **a. Creating more opportunities for development of middle housing;**
452 **b. Investing in rental assistance and eviction prevention programs to keep**
453 **tenants housed;**
454 **c. Launching a community preference program to prevent displacement;**
455 **d. Investing in equitable development to support community-driven**
456 **priorities;**
457 **e. Preserving mobile home communities and affordable housing to prevent**
458 **displacement; and**
459 **f. Expanding affordable housing homeownership programs to increase**
460 **wealth building opportunities for low- and moderate-income households.**

461
462 **H-120b** **King County shall promote equitable outcomes in communities most impacted**
463 **by racially exclusive and discriminatory land use and housing practices by**
464 **supporting, in partnership with impacted communities, equitable access to**
465 **resources, such as through surplus properties, affordable housing financing, and**
466 **capacity building for community-based organizations.**

467
468 **H-120c** **King County shall support actions for historically underrepresented populations**
469 **who experience systemic racism or discrimination that:**
470 **a. Increase and preserve access to affordable rental and ownership**
471 **housing in communities at risk of displacement; and**
472 **b. Advance housing stability.**

473
474 **H-120d** **King County shall support development of new affordable housing units that**
475 **promote culturally relevant and multi-generational housing options, such as**
476 **developments with two-, three-, and four-bedroom units.**

477
478 **H-120e** **King County shall support equitable development projects and investments in**
479 **areas most directly impacted by structural racism and discrimination, at a higher**
480 **risk of displacement, that have low access to economic and health opportunities.**

481 or that are home to significant populations of communities experiencing
482 disparities in life outcomes.
483

484 **~~((B.))~~ Strengthen Housing Linkages with Transportation**

485 In accordance with the Countywide Planning Policies, VISION ~~((2040))~~, and federal priorities, King County
486 intends to strengthen the linkage of affordable housing to jobs and public transportation through transit-oriented
487 development and the preservation and development of affordable housing near transit stations and along transit
488 corridors~~((, even though few of these exist in unincorporated areas))~~. Strengthening linkages between housing
489 and public transportation is beneficial to the community, economy, and environment. As housing density
490 increases to meet the needs of the current and growing population, supportive infrastructure and services, such as
491 public transit, needs to be utilized and co-adapted. The Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2021-
492 2031 directs King County to strengthen this connection and support equitable transit-oriented communities. As
493 the population of the Puget Sound region grows, King County is expected to remain the major employment
494 center of the region. As job growth occurs, the workers for these jobs must be accommodated with adequate
495 opportunities for housing with access to public transportation options.

496
497 ~~((The workforce of))~~ King County includes households ~~((earning))~~ with a wide variety of incomes, from
498 individuals earning minimum wage at a less than full-time job to dual- or triple-income households earning well
499 above the ~~((€))~~ county's median income. If a balance of job growth, improved public transportation, and
500 affordable housing availability is not achieved, workers at the lower end of the income scale face particular
501 pressures when forced to live longer distances away from their jobs. People outside the workforce also need
502 access to transit and other services. This increases pressures on transportation systems, contributes to higher
503 energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces the time workers have for family, self-care, recreation,
504 volunteer work, or continuing education.

505
506 **H-121 King County shall support affordable and mixed-income housing development in**
507 **transit-oriented locations that is compatible with surrounding uses by:**

- 508 a. **Providing information and a process for accessing potential**
- 509 **development sites in transit-oriented locations where King County has**
- 510 **ownership or access to potential sites; and**
- 511 b. **Promoting land use patterns that cohesively connect affordable and**
- 512 **mixed-income housing with active transportation choices~~((; and~~**
- 513 ~~**c. Developing public financing techniques that will provide an advantage**~~
- 514 ~~**for projects that will create and/or preserve affordable and mixed-income**~~
- 515 ~~**housing within transit-oriented communities and neighborhoods that**~~
- 516 ~~**promote health, well-being and opportunity, and or within a**~~
- 517 ~~**neighborhood plan for revitalization)).**~~

518

519 H-122 King County shall support ~~((transit-oriented))~~ development ~~((at))~~ near high-
520 capacity or frequent transit ~~((supportive))~~ that supports density and scale that
521 preserves and expands affordable, sustainable, and mixed-income housing
522 opportunities ~~((at locations near frequent and high capacity transit service))~~.
523 King County shall engage in this work through a variety of strategies, including
524 enabling development of affordable housing on suitable Metro-owned property;
525 using Metro's authority and influence as a transit provider; and ~~((the engagement~~
526 ~~of))~~ engaging with funding partners, transit partners, jurisdictions, private for-
527 profit and non((-)profit development entities, communities at risk of
528 displacement, and other transit-oriented development partners.

530 H-123 King County ~~((will))~~ shall evaluate and seek opportunities for equitable and
531 sustainable transit-oriented development at major transit centers and hubs when
532 investments are likely to produce increased ridership, community benefits, and
533 affordable housing opportunities.

535 H-124 King County shall work with partners to ~~((reduce))~~ mitigate and prevent
536 displacement of extremely low-, very((-)_low-, low-, ~~((to))~~ and moderate-income
537 households from transit-oriented locations, to the extent possible; and shall
538 strive to align affordable housing investments and transit investments ~~((in order))~~
539 to ~~((increase))~~ support the quality of life of historically disinvested communities
540 ~~((as measured by the Determinants of Equity))~~.

542 **~~((C.))~~ Housing and Land Use Regulation**

543 In King County today, a substantial need exists for extremely low-, very low-, and low-income rental housing
544 and for low- to moderately~~((-))~~-priced homes ~~((that can be purchased by first time homebuyers. In the past~~
545 ~~decade, a significant number of homeowners have lost their homes due to foreclosure and have become renters~~
546 ~~again. In the short term, those households may need affordable rents, while in the longer term they may again~~
547 ~~seek to own a moderately priced home))~~. In addition, there is a significant need for more permanent supportive
548 housing, shelters, and tiny-homes.¹⁴ The Housing Needs Assessment finds that unincorporated King County's
549 zoning codes have encouraged single detached housing in low-density zones in urban areas. This has limited
550 housing diversity and housing supply, which has reduced housing access for extremely low-, very low-, low-, and
551 moderate-income households. Significant racial disparities exist in poverty status among unincorporated King
552 County households. For example, in unincorporated King County, 39 percent American Indian/Alaska Native
553 and 15 percent Black populations are below the poverty line, whereas only five percent of Asian and four percent

¹⁴ King County recognizes "tiny homes" as an affordable and efficient method of providing housing. The King County Code defines and regulates these as "microshelters."

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554 of White populations are below the poverty line.¹⁵ This racial disparity in poverty status substantially impacts
555 racial disparities in homeownership and housing stability in unincorporated King County.

556

557 ~~((While King County has seen a growth in the percentage of smaller (one and two person) households, there are~~
558 ~~also some large households that need affordable housing with three or more bedrooms. Existing units will~~
559 ~~provide some of the affordable housing needed for low income households in the future. However, w))With the~~
560 ~~projected growth in ((the number of low to moderate income households)) population, the prospect of~~
561 ~~increasing numbers of family and senior households with limited income, and the short supply of ((lower)) low~~
562 ~~cost housing available today, new construction must include affordable housing and a variety of housing types to~~
563 ~~meet the housing need and reduce racial disparities in housing outcomes. ((Efforts to provide sufficient land and~~
564 ~~infrastructure and reduced development costs will help make new units affordable. In addition, a combination of~~
565 ~~incentive programs and funding will help keep rents affordable and expand opportunities for first time~~
566 ~~homebuyers.))~~

567

568 Meeting these objectives ~~((will))~~ entails providing sufficient land for a variety of affordable housing, such as
569 higher-density single~~((family))~~ detached homes, ~~((multifamily properties))~~ duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes,
570 townhouses, apartments, ((manufactured housing)) mobile homes, cottage housing, accessory dwelling units,
571 and mixed-use developments.

572

573 **H-125** King County shall ~~((assure))~~ ensure that there is sufficient ~~((land))~~ zoned capacity
574 in the unincorporated urban areas ((zoned)) to accommodate King County's
575 ~~((share of affordable))~~ housing need allocations and provide a range of
576 affordable, sustainable housing types, including higher~~(())~~ density single~~((-~~
577 ~~family))detached homes, ~~((multifamily properties))~~ duplexes, triplexes,
578 fourplexes, townhouses, apartments, ((manufactured housing)) mobile homes,
579 cottage housing, accessory dwelling units, and mixed-use developments.~~

580

581 **H-125a** King County should work with cities and urban unincorporated communities to
582 increase opportunities for affordable housing development by ((assuring))
583 ensuring there is sufficient ~~((land capable of being developed for this))~~ zoned
584 capacity to accommodate housing need allocations and provide a range of
585 housing types that are more likely to be affordable to extremely low-, very low-
586 low-, moderate-, and middle-income households and multigenerational
587 households.

588

589 **H-126** King County shall provide opportunities for attached and detached accessory
590 dwelling units and middle housing in urban residential areas ~~((and shall~~
591 ~~encourage all jurisdictions within King County to adopt provisions to allow~~

¹⁵Five-year American Community Survey 2016-2020.

- 592 ~~accessory dwelling units in their communities))~~ to increase housing supply
593 affordable to all incomes.
- 594
- 595 H-127 King County shall adopt appropriate land use regulations to require and
596 encourage development, rehabilitation, and preservation of sustainable housing
597 affordable to extremely low-, very(-), low-, ((to)) low-, and moderate-income
598 ~~((housing))~~ households.
- 599
- 600 ~~((H-128~~ ~~King County should pursue land use policies and regulations that result in lower~~
601 ~~development costs without loss of adequate public review, environmental quality~~
602 ~~or public safety and do not reduce design quality, inhibit infrastructure financing~~
603 ~~strategies, or increase maintenance costs for public facilities.))~~
- 604
- 605 H-129 King County shall continue to improve development standards to allow higher
606 densities and flexibility of housing types in all urban residential zones~~((, in~~
607 ~~order))~~ to:
- 608 a. Increase housing choice, access, and stability, as well as best
609 accommodate the environmental conditions on the site and the
610 surrounding neighborhood when planning housing developments((-));
611 and
- 612 b. ~~((H-130~~ ~~King County shall explore zoning policies and provisions~~
613 ~~that increase housing density and))~~ Increase affordable housing
614 opportunities within unincorporated urban ~~((growth))~~ areas near transit
615 and near commercial areas.
- 616
- 617 H-131 King County shall seek to minimize the time necessary to process development
618 permits for developments in unincorporated King County that will include
619 affordable housing and address environmental goals and community and
620 aesthetic concerns. King County should continue to expedite plan and
621 permitting reviews for affordable housing projects in coordination with
622 mandatory, incentive, or subsidy programs, including tax abatements,
623 exemptions, and credits.
- 624
- 625 H-132 King County should encourage the formation of common development codes
626 and standards, as well as common mandatory and incentive programs for
627 affordable housing, with cities, sewer and water districts, and other permitting
628 agencies to increase predictability and reduce development costs.
- 629
- 630 H-133 King County shall encourage the development of new housing models that are
631 healthy and affordable by providing opportunities ~~((for new models))~~ within
632 unincorporated urban ~~((growth))~~ areas and near commercial areas. King County

633 shall work to allow innovative housing projects to move forward, including
634 affordable housing demonstration projects, community-driven development
635 projects, affordable owner-built housing, land trusts and cooperative ownership
636 structures for rental and ownership housing, co-housing, and other innovative
637 developments.

638
639 **H-134** King County shall provide ((D)) density bonuses and other ((incentives for the))
640 regulatory measures that incentivize or require creation of development of
641 affordable housing ~~((by for-profit and non-profit developers shall be available~~
642 ~~within))~~ in unincorporated urban areas ~~((, with a focus on commercial areas to~~
643 ~~both single-family and multifamily developments to promote development of~~
644 ~~affordable rental and/or ownership housing))~~ including both rental and ownership
645 opportunities. ((Bonuses shall be periodically reviewed and updated)) The
646 County shall review and update these measures as needed((,)) to ((assure))
647 ensure they are effective in creating affordable housing units ~~((, especially in~~
648 ~~coordination with any mandatory inclusionary affordable housing requirements~~
649 ~~that may be adopted))~~.

650
651 **H-135** King County shall exempt payment of impact fees in unincorporated areas for
652 developments that will include affordable rental or ownership housing.

653
654 **H-136** King County should provide opportunities within unincorporated urban
655 ~~((growth))~~ areas and in Rural Towns with sewer service for the development,
656 rehabilitation, and preservation of rental residential buildings that have shared
657 facilities, such as single-room occupancy buildings, boarding homes, micro-
658 units buildings, and clustered micro homes to provide opportunities for lower
659 rent housing options and higher density ownership options including
660 condominiums, co-operative mutual housing, cottage housing, and other forms
661 of clustered higher density ownership housing.

662
663
664 ~~((H-138))~~ ~~Housing developments in the urban unincorporated areas, consisting of not less~~
665 ~~than 100 acres, shall provide a mix of housing types and densities, including~~
666 ~~housing that is affordable to low-, moderate-, and middle-income households.~~
667 ~~This mix should include housing opportunities for older adults, persons who are~~
668 ~~experiencing homelessness and persons with behavioral, cognitive, physical,~~
669 ~~and/or developmental disabilities.))~~

670
671 **H-139** King County should provide opportunities for incorporation of the principles of
672 healthy communities and housing ~~((, sustainability, and greenhouse gas~~

673 emissions mitigation)) and sustainable housing into policy initiatives on housing,
674 affordable housing, and community development in unincorporated areas.

675

676 ~~((H-140 King County shall allow five-story wood frame construction to increase the
677 availability of multifamily housing while lowering development costs and
678 maintaining fire safety.))~~

679

680 H-141 King County shall explore the expansion of land use and financial incentives to
681 preserve and improve existing housing, including housing in a building
682 designated or eligible to be designated as a historic landmark, in redeveloping
683 areas through the use of programs such as transfer of development rights, tax
684 credits and tax exemptions for new and preserved affordable housing, as well as
685 tax abatements and ~~((restoration))~~ loans ~~((for housing designated as a historic~~
686 ~~landmark)).~~

687

688 ~~((H-143 King County development standards should promote lower-cost infill
689 development, such as accessory dwelling units, in a manner that allows existing
690 housing to be retained through measures such as an innovative or flexible
691 building envelope, access and infrastructure standards.))~~

692

693 H-144 King County ~~((will))~~ shall ensure that mandatory and/or incentivized affordable
694 housing units created through its land use policies and regulations are high
695 quality, safe and integrated on-site with market rate housing.

696

697 H-145 King County shall:
698 a. ~~((e))~~ Continue to require the use of Evergreen Sustainable Development
699 Standards, or an equivalent successor standard, in King County-funded
700 housing projects; and
701 b. ~~((will-w))~~ Work with partners and ~~((stakeholders))~~ other interested parties
702 to encourage the improvement of sustainable housing and in healthy
703 housing elements in affordable housing statewide-green building
704 standards ~~((of))~~, including Evergreen Sustainable Development
705 Standards ~~((, with emphasis on healthy housing elements that reduce~~
706 ~~asthma)).~~

707

708 H-146 King County shall prohibit restrictive covenants or other land use, permitting, or
709 property conditions that limit the ability of persons from protected classes (as
710 defined in the King County Fair Housing Ordinance in King County Code Chapter
711 12.20) to live in residences of their choice.

712

713 H-147 King County shall permit group living situations, including those where residents
714 receive such supportive services as counseling, foster care, or medical
715 supervision, within a single~~((family house))~~ detached home, or apartment.
716

717 **~~((D-))~~ Regional Affordable Housing Funding, Resources, and Programs**

718 ~~((The King County Consortium is a partnership that represents unincorporated areas and most cities outside of
719 Seattle in obtaining, administering and distributing federal, state and local funds to address housing,
720 homelessness and community development needs. The King County Consortium prepares a five year strategic
721 plan, the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan, that outlines the needs, resources available
722 and housing and community development goals to be achieved. An Annual Action Plan details specific planned
723 affordable housing and community development project projects.~~

724
725 Over the past ten years, King County has faced considerable funding challenges for developing affordable
726 housing because of cutbacks in levels of state and federal housing funds along with local budget issues that have
727 impacted housing and community/economic development funds.)) As reported in the Housing Needs
728 Assessment, nearly one-third of households in King County (31.5 percent) and unincorporated King County
729 (28.5 percent) are cost burdened.¹⁶ Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color households are
730 disproportionately low-income and experience housing cost burden disproportionately, where approximately
731 half of Black households and nearly 40 percent of Hispanic households in King County are cost burdened or
732 severely cost burdened.^{17,18} This highlights the need for more deeply affordable units to reduce racially disparate
733 housing outcomes. As of 2023, development and preservation of affordable housing have become increasingly
734 expensive in the housing market. The King Countywide net new housing need is 308,677 between 2019-2044,
735 per the Countywide Planning Policies. Urban unincorporated King County needs 5,412 net new permanent
736 housing units by 2044. Section XII. Existing Strategies Gap Analysis in the Housing Needs Assessment reviews
737 the current funding sources for affordable housing, uses of those funds, and the current cost estimate to develop
738 an affordable housing unit. In 2023 dollars, the cost of an affordable unit is estimated to be \$475,404 per unit.
739 The Housing Funding Gap Analysis section of the Housing Needs Assessment Affordable identifies a funding
740 gap of approximately \$450,936,000 to meet the housing needs of unincorporated King County households with
741 incomes at or below 80 percent area median income over the planning period. This underscores the significant
742 gap between the local, state, and federal resources available for affordable housing and the number of households
743 who need this housing.

¹⁶ United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021). Cost Burden, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy 2014-2018.

¹⁷ United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Cost Burden and Severe Cost Burden by Race/Ethnicity, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy 2014-2018.

¹⁸ Five-year American Community Survey 2016-2020.

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744

745 King County has been pro-active in working with local and national partners to seek out and advocate for new
746 funding sources on the local and state levels, and to ~~((re-establish or))~~ expand federal funding levels.
747 Despite the ~~((decreases in some))~~ continuing decline in state and federal resources, King County and its partners
748 have been successful in securing new housing resources~~((;))~~ and continue to be able to fund the development and
749 preservation of affordable housing. ~~((As a result, residents of King County continue to have affordable housing
750 choices and housing stability programs.))~~ Local housing funds have also leveraged significant private and
751 non~~((-))~~profit investment as well as other public funding resources. King County will continue to pursue new
752 funding sources to fund affordable housing development and operations. The following policies describe goals
753 for developing additional funding sources and establishing funding priorities.

754

755 **H-148** King County shall work with community members, cities, the private sector, and
756 ~~((community representatives))~~ service providers to establish new, countywide
757 funding sources for affordable housing development, acquisition, rehabilitation,
758 preservation, and ~~((related services))~~ operating costs~~((, such that cities and King
759 County contribute on an equitable basis)).~~

760

761 **H-149** King County shall work with other jurisdictions, housing developers, and service
762 providers throughout the state to urge federal and state government to expand
763 both capital and operating funding for low-income housing, including low-income
764 housing for older adults, people who are experiencing homelessness, and people
765 with behavioral health, cognitive, physical, and developmental disabilities.

766

767 ~~((H-150) King County should encourage and support efforts by non-profit housing
768 developers, housing agencies, and service providers to develop long-term
769 nongovernmental funding sources, such as planned giving, endowments, and
770 related economic development ventures.))~~

771

772 **H-151** King County shall seek opportunities to fund programs and projects ~~((where
773 county funds are matched by additional public and private loans and
774 investments, and/or contributions in order to increase the amount of financing
775 available for affordable housing))~~ in a manner that reduces the time and cost of
776 achieving affordable housing goals, which may include leveraging additional
777 public and private loans or sole-funded projects.

778

779 **H-152** ~~((King County shall give priority in its affordable housing subsidy programs to
780 projects that serve individuals and households at or below 80% of area median
781 income, and/or that provide older adults, people with behavioral health,
782 cognitive, physical or developmental disabilities, people who are experiencing
783 homelessness and people who are at risk of homelessness and/or~~

- 784 displacement.)) King County shall prioritize funding in its affordable housing
785 programs projects that:
786 a. Provide low-barrier housing designed to meet the needs of people
787 experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness;
788 b. Provide accessible housing to people with behavioral health, cognitive,
789 physical, or developmental disabilities;
790 c. Create homeownership opportunities for households with incomes at or
791 below 80 percent of area median income to build generational wealth and
792 promote housing stability;
793 d. Create rental housing for households with incomes at or below 80
794 percent of area median income to meet a range of housing needs;
795 e. Are located near high-capacity or frequent transit to give residents
796 access to job opportunities and services;
797 f. Are in areas with communities at risk of displacement and have a
798 shortage of affordable housing;
799 g. Reflect an equitable regional distribution of funding; and/or
800 h. Are inclusive community-driven projects developed and stewarded by
801 and in collaboration with historically underserved communities facing
802 displacement pressures and disparate health and economic outcomes.

- 803
804 H-152a King County shall prioritize funding for community and economic development
805 projects that:
806 a. Benefit households at or below 80 percent area median income;
807 b. Create equitable opportunities for economic prosperity, good health,
808 safety, and connection to community;
809 c. Reflect an equitable regional distribution of funding; and
810 d. Meet the needs of historically underserved communities facing
811 economic pressures and disparate health and economic outcomes.

812
813 ~~((H-153 King County shall encourage the inclusion of smoke-free housing policies in~~
814 ~~projects funded through its affordable housing subsidy programs, in a manner~~
815 ~~that limits the creation of new barriers to housing.~~

816
817 ~~H-154 King County shall work with partners and stakeholders to encourage~~
818 ~~improvement in healthy housing elements in existing affordable housing~~
819 ~~sustainability standards, with emphasis on healthy housing elements that reduce~~
820 ~~problems such as asthma, falls, gun-related injury and violence, and~~
821 ~~unintentional poisoning.~~

822
823 ~~H-155 King County shall give particular consideration in its affordable housing and~~
824 ~~community development investments to projects that provide housing and~~

825 ~~community development solutions in the areas of the county with the most~~
826 ~~disparate outcomes in health, economic prosperity, and housing conditions, and~~
827 ~~where residents may be at high risk of displacement. King County shall work to~~
828 ~~coordinate planning and community development investments to support such~~
829 ~~communities as they experience changes in their demographics, built~~
830 ~~environment, and real estate markets.~~

831
832 ~~H-156 King County shall give particular consideration in its affordable housing subsidy~~
833 ~~programs to projects in areas where there is a severe shortage of affordable~~
834 ~~housing, and where there is access to job opportunities, a healthy community,~~
835 ~~and active transportation.))~~

836
837 ~~H-157 King County should expand its use of surplus ((e))County-owned property and~~
838 ~~air rights over ((e))County-owned property for affordable housing and its~~
839 ~~possible use for other public benefits, such as human services((; and)). King~~
840 ~~County should consider conveyance of properties to public or non((-))profit~~
841 ~~housing developers and agencies at below-market cost ((for the purpose of~~
842 ~~building or providing affordable housing. Surplus county property shall)) to be~~
843 ~~prioritized for housing development that will be consistent with King County~~
844 ~~adopted plans. This policy shall be carried out consistent with King County~~
845 ~~Charter Section 230.10.10 and other applicable laws, regulations, and contract~~
846 ~~restrictions, such as grant funding requirements.~~

847
848 ~~H-158 King County should support the efforts of non((-))profit developers ((and)),~~
849 ~~housing agencies, and community-based organizations to increase the supply of~~
850 ~~housing for extremely low-, very low-, low-, and moderate-income households((;))~~
851 ~~through affordable housing planning, policy, and advocacy activities ((and the~~
852 ~~provision of technical assistance)) as well as funding for capacity-building and~~
853 ~~pre-development work.~~

854
855 ~~((H-159 King County should support programs and projects that provide apprenticeship~~
856 ~~and employment training in the building trades through affordable housing~~
857 ~~development. King County should explore ways to partner with non-profit~~
858 ~~housing developers in offering pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and~~
859 ~~employment training opportunities.))~~

860
861 ~~H-160 ((When awarding subsidies for affordable housing developments to non-profit~~
862 ~~developers and housing agencies,)) King County ((may give additional weight to))~~
863 ~~should encourage funding for affordable housing and community development~~

864 projects that incorporate and implement healthy housing, sustainable housing,
865 and ~~((sustainable development elements and))~~ universal design features.

866
867 **H-161** King County should develop and expand incentives and subsidy programs to
868 preserve affordable housing threatened by market forces and expiring federal
869 subsidies. Relocation assistance and replacement housing should be funded~~((,~~
870 ~~where feasible,))~~ to help low-income households when displacement is
871 unavoidable.

872
873 **H-162** King County should assist owners of rental properties serving low- and
874 moderate-income residents to acquire affordable financing for building health
875 and safety improvements in exchange for long-term agreements to maintain
876 affordable rents.

877
878 **H-163** King County should coordinate preservation of existing affordable housing with
879 city and ~~((e))~~ County historic preservation programs and incentives, and should
880 promote preservation and restoration of significant historic features in the
881 rehabilitation of existing buildings and sites for housing.

882
883 ~~**(H-164)** For any subsidized housing project that preserves existing structures, King~~
884 ~~County shall ensure that usable structures are rehabilitated to an appropriate~~
885 ~~level of safety and habitability.~~

886
887 ~~**H-165** King County shall strive to adopt funding program policies that encourage the~~
888 ~~integration of publicly subsidized housing within mixed income projects, and~~
889 ~~within all communities. Such funding policies shall support a fair distribution of~~
890 ~~publicly subsidized housing throughout the county and provide King County and~~
891 ~~local jurisdictions mutual support in meeting affordable housing needs. King~~
892 ~~County shall not apply mandatory dispersion requirements that limit where~~
893 ~~publicly subsidized housing may be located.))~~

894
895 **H-165a** ~~((Through its funding programs,))~~ King County ~~((shall))~~ should encourage
896 developers and owners of publicly ~~((subsidized))~~ funded housing units to
897 ~~((undertake activities to establish and maintain positive relationships with~~

898 neighbors)) be active community members and to market vacant units to the
899 local area in addition to conducting general marketing outreach.

- 900
- 901 **H-166** King County shall administer standards for publicly ~~((subsidized))~~ funded
902 housing that will:
- 903 a. Increase the ability of people with physical disabilities to have physical
904 access to housing and mobility within housing regardless of their
905 residency status;
 - 906 b. Allow household members to age in place through the inclusion of
907 universal design principles that make housing units more accessible and
908 usable by all persons;
 - 909 c. Support the ability of older adults and people with behavioral health,
910 physical, cognitive, and developmental disabilities to find housing
911 opportunities that allow them to live as independently as possible in the
912 housing and community of their choice; and
 - 913 d. Increase the ability of people to have access to smoke-free housing,
914 while not creating barriers to housing.

- 915
- 916 ~~((H-167)) King County should use opportunity mapping:~~
- 917 ~~a. To support the siting of community facilities and assisted publicly~~
918 ~~subsidized affordable housing in locations where low- and~~
919 ~~moderate-income residents and persons with behavioral health,~~
920 ~~physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities have convenient~~
921 ~~access to transportation; employment opportunities; amenities, such as~~
922 ~~parke, trails, libraries and other public facilities; and services, such as~~
923 ~~grocery stores; and~~
 - 924 ~~b. To promote fair housing and diverse communities that are inclusive of~~
925 ~~residents with a range of abilities, ages, races, incomes and other~~
926 ~~diverse characteristics of the population of King County.~~

927

928 **E.) Support the Housing Stability of Households in King County**

929 Housing stability creates a foundational structure for individuals and families, including contributing to every
930 person’s well-being and improvements to health, economic, and educational outcomes for communities.
931 VISION, the Countywide Planning Policies, and the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force’s Five Year
932 Action Plan prioritize housing stability strategies.

933

934 The high cost of housing in King County creates housing instability for thousands of households, in particular
935 for people who are Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; seniors; veterans; people experiencing
936 homelessness; people with behavioral, physical, cognitive, or developmental disabilities; immigrants; refugees;
937 LGBTQIA+ residents; and households with extremely low-, very low-, and low-incomes. Housing instability

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938 contributes to high levels of stress as well as difficulty securing and maintaining employment. Unaffordable
939 housing may also contribute to homelessness or overcrowding. Cost burdened households are more likely to
940 experience food insecurity, delay or not seek medical care, have difficulty paying other bills, and be evicted.¹⁹

941

942 The median price for a home in King County has increased by about 50 percent from \$565,000 in July 2016 to
943 \$850,000 in March 2022.²⁰ King County’s median rent increased by approximately 41 percent, from \$1,204 to
944 \$1,695, between 2015 to 2020.²¹ In 2022, the minimum wage in King County was \$14.49 per hour, which
945 converts to an annual salary of about \$30,100 for a full-time worker, assuming they do not take any time off.²²
946 Based on that income, an affordable monthly rent would be about \$750, about half the median rent (\$1,492) of a
947 one-bedroom apartment. A single person with an income of 50 percent of King County’s area median income in
948 2022 (\$45,300) can afford a monthly rent of about \$1,130, over \$300 less than the median gross rent for a studio
949 apartment. A household of four with an income of 50 percent of area median income (\$64,700) can afford a
950 monthly rent of about \$1,620, just over the cost of the median one-bedroom apartment.²³ Market-rate housing
951 options are generally too expensive for households with extremely low- and very low-incomes

952

953 The Housing Needs Assessment analyzed the economic impact of racially exclusionary policies that blocked
954 Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color households from becoming homeowners at a time when housing
955 was relatively more affordable. These racially exclusionary housing policies resulted in Black, Indigenous, and
956 other People of Color households possessing less wealth today and experiencing lower rates of homeownership
957 compared to their White counterparts, increasing their risk of experiencing housing instability. The
958 Comprehensive Plan is taking action to repair the harms inflicted on these communities through implementing
959 the policies in this section. These policies support housing stability strategies such as programs to increase the
960 supply of affordable housing including homeownership, assist seniors to remain in their homes, and housing
961 counseling to prevent housing loss. These policies also support community preference programs, which help
962 people remain in or return to their community of choice by prioritizing a percentage of new affordable units for
963 people with a connection to the local community, and requiring robust affirmative marketing programs that
964 network with community-based organizations. King County raises local resources for housing stability programs
965 from the Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan, the Crisis Cares Centers Levy, and the Veterans, Seniors, and
966 Human Services Levy.

967

968 **H-168 King County ~~((should))~~ shall support ~~((flexible))~~ and implement programs and**
969 **~~((emerging strategies))~~ policies that increase housing stability and ~~((that))~~ help to**

¹⁹ Shamsuddin, S. and Campbell, C. (2021, March 29). Housing Cost Burden, Material Hardship, and Well-Being. Housing Policy Debate, 32(3), 413-432.

²⁰ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. (2022). Median Listing Price in King County, WA.

²¹ United States Census Bureau. Median Gross Rent by Bedroom Size. American Community Survey 2011-2015 and American Community Survey 2016-2020

²² Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. Minimum Wage

²³ King County 2022 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Income and Rent Limits. Limits change yearly based on data from Department of Housing and Urban Development. Calculations for what a household can afford in monthly rent are based on a household paying 30 percent of their income in gross rent, the maximum amount they can pay before being cost burdened.

970 prevent and reduce homelessness, such as permanent supportive housing,
971 emergency rental assistance, short-term rental assistance, diversion assistance,
972 eviction prevention, and mortgage default and foreclosure counseling(~~(, and~~
973 ~~improvements to emergency services referral networks))~~).

974
975 ~~((H-169 King County shall play a leadership role in implementing the All Home Strategic~~
976 ~~Plan to make homelessness rare, brief and one-time.))~~

977
978 **H-170** King County shall work with jurisdictions and housing providers locally and
979 across the state to urge state and federal governments to expand funding for
980 direct assistance services, such as ~~((flexible))~~ rental assistance and eviction
981 prevention resources, diversion assistance, and emergency housing services. In
982 addition ~~((to rental assistance)),~~ King County should ~~((support))~~ encourage
983 programs that help prevent homelessness and ~~((that))~~ improve prevention and
984 emergency services referral networks(~~((including an efficient coordinated intake~~
985 ~~system for families and individuals experiencing homelessness))~~).

986
987 ~~((H-171 King County should support innovative and flexible tools and programs that~~
988 ~~assist low-income renters to maintain housing stability or to gain access to~~
989 ~~permanent affordable housing and private market housing, such as revolving~~
990 ~~loan funds that cover utility and damage deposits, and rental assistance~~
991 ~~programs.))~~

992
993 **H-172** King County shall support:
994 a. Rental assistance, eviction prevention, and other programs that provide
995 ~~((landlord-tenant counseling, sessions and workshops, mediation in~~
996 ~~landlord-tenant disputes,))~~ tenants with the resources and information to
997 successfully navigate landlord-tenant disputes; and
998 b. ((!))Legislation that ((protects the rights of tenants and landlords, such
999 as uniform protections for tenants and landlords and fair rental
1000 contracts)) increases tenants' access to safe, affordable, healthy, and
1001 stable housing.

1002
1003 **H-173** King County shall provide financial assistance for ownership housing
1004 rehabilitation to qualifying extremely low-, very low-, and low-income home((
1005))owners, including owners of mobile(~~((manufactured))~~) homes residing in parks
1006 or on their own land through individual or cooperative ownership. ~~((King County~~
1007 ~~should also consider support for community-based repair programs, such as tool~~
1008 ~~banks or painting programs.))~~

1009

1010 H-174 King County should work with local lenders and non((-))profit organizations
1011 providing home((-))ownership assistance to expand assistance for eligible
1012 income-qualified homebuyers, including homebuyer education and counseling,
1013 mortgage default and foreclosure counseling, culturally relevant low-cost
1014 financing and assistance with down payments and closing costs, and alternative
1015 ownership housing models such as land trusts((,)) and co-housing((-,etc)).

1016
1017 H-175 King County shall take actions to prevent and mitigate residential and cultural
1018 displacement for unincorporated communities at risk of displacement to address
1019 racial disparities in housing and help protect cultural communities for Black,
1020 Indigenous, and other People of Color by supporting cultural institutions and
1021 community hubs and using community preference programs for affordable
1022 housing that helps people with a connection to the local community remain in or
1023 return to their community of choice.

1024
1025 H-176 King County shall prioritize community-driven development of permanently
1026 affordable homeownership and rental projects led by community-based
1027 organizations and community land trusts.

1029 ~~((H.))~~ Regional Health and Human Services

1030 King County has a regional role in health and human services, working with many partners, such as the federal,
1031 state, and other local governments, service providers, non((-))profit organizations, foundations, faith
1032 communities, businesses, schools, and the criminal ((justice)) legal system, to help those most in need. King
1033 County’s investments in human services are guided by ~~((Health and Human Services Transformation and the~~
1034 ~~joint transformation initiatives²⁴ of the Department of Community and Human Services and Public Health –~~
1035 ~~Seattle & King County; as well as policy and planning documents such as the Consolidated Housing and~~
1036 ~~Community Development Plan 2015-2019²⁵ and the All Home Strategic Plan 2015-2019²⁶, the King County~~
1037 ~~Youth Action Plan, Framework Policies for Human Services,)) the: Best Starts for Kids Levy; Mental Illness and
1038 Drug Dependency Behavioral Health Sales Tax Fund; Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy; Crisis
1039 Cares Centers Levy; Initial Health through Housing Implementation Plan 2022-2028 or successor plans;
1040 Strategic Climate Action Plan; and King County Board of Health Planning for Healthy Communities Guidelines
1041 and Recommendations~~((and ultimately, the King County Strategic Plan.~~~~

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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.)

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1043 ~~The Framework Policies are contained in Chapter 2.51 of the King County Code. The purpose of the~~
1044 ~~Framework Policies for Human Services is to communicate King County government’s role in Human Services,~~
1045 ~~the goals the county seeks to achieve and the principles that will underlie its investments. The Framework~~
1046 ~~Policies are reviewed and revised as needed.~~

1047
1048 ~~Health and Human Services Transformation, the Framework Policies and the Strategic Plan))~~ King County
1049 places a strong emphasis on ((prevention,)) stabilizing people and diverting them from jails, emergency rooms
1050 and crisis services by providing residents with appropriate treatment and services ((for those with the high needs,
1051 as well as providing)). The County also provides upstream prevention ((and intervention)) services ((and
1052 opportunities that increase the stability and resiliency)) for the health of children(=) and youth((= and
1053 communities, and)) to reduce the need for acute care and crisis interventions later in life.

1054
1055 ~~((King County has grappled with unsustainable costs in criminal justice and emergency medical services and is~~
1056 ~~taking steps to reduce cost growth in this primary area of service responsibility. A major component of these~~
1057 ~~efforts has been)) King County's overreliance on the criminal legal system and emergency medical responses to
1058 health and human service needs has proven fiscally unsustainable, ineffective at creating lasting change, and
1059 frequently harmful to Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color residents. Acknowledging these
1060 unacceptable costs, King County and other partners have expanded alternative approaches to prevent
1061 unnecessary engagement with law enforcement and the criminal legal system, including jail diversion programs
1062 and increased coordination with health and human services programs((, in order to prevent unnecessary
1063 engagement with law enforcement and the criminal justice system. These efforts have begun to show results, and
1064 the Health and Human Services Transformation and Strategic Plan continue this emphasis)).~~

1065
1066 The King County Regional Homelessness Authority was created to coordinate funding, contracting, service
1067 delivery, and performance measurement for the regional homelessness crisis response system. After King
1068 County and the City of Seattle signed the Interlocal Agreement for the establishment of the Regional
1069 Homelessness Authority in 2020, and with support from the Sound Cities Association, the transition of
1070 homelessness crisis response to the Regional Homelessness Authority began.²⁷ The County continues to
1071 separately fund and manage investments in capital housing development and other permanent housing purposes.

1072
1073
1074 **H-201 In coordination with local jurisdictions, funding partners and community**
1075 **partners, King County ~~((will seek to build and)) shall develop and sustain~~**
1076 **coordinated regional health and human services and behavioral health systems**

²⁷ Ordinance 19039

- 1077 to provide services, support((s)), safety, and opportunity to those most in need.
1078 In carrying out its role in such systems, King County ((government will)) shall:
1079 a. Work with other jurisdictions and organizations to ((define)) implement a
1080 regional health and human services and behavioral health system((s))
1081 and strengthen financing, access, and overall effectiveness of services;
1082 b. Collaborate with other funders to ((assure)) ensure coordination in how
1083 funds are used, and continue to explore improvements to system design,
1084 contracting, and data collection and analysis; and
1085 c. ~~((Retain responsibility for the development and implementation of~~
1086 ~~mandated, through law or adopted County policy, countywide specialty~~
1087 ~~systems for behavioral health (including mental health and substance~~
1088 ~~use disorder treatment), physical, emotional, and cognitive health, public~~
1089 ~~health, (drug and alcohol abuse and dependency, veterans, older adults,~~
1090 ~~children and youth, vulnerable adults, and people with developmental~~
1091 ~~disabilities;~~
1092 d. ~~Define its regional role in other human service and prevention-oriented~~
1093 ~~systems, including systems that address homelessness, older adults'~~
1094 ~~needs, domestic violence, sexual assault, crisis diversion and re-entry,~~
1095 ~~early intervention and prevention, and youth and family services;~~
1096 e. ~~Assess and measure the health and needs of King County's residents on~~
1097 ~~an ongoing basis and modify strategies to respond to changing needs,~~
1098 ~~outcomes, and new research; and~~
1099 f.) Review the effectiveness and appropriateness of this policy framework
1100 periodically and revise if needed.
1101

1102 **H-201a** King County shall retain responsibility for implementation of mandated, through
1103 law or policy, countywide specialty systems for: behavioral health, including
1104 mental health and substantive use disorder treatment; physical, emotional, and
1105 cognitive health; public healthy; veterans; older adults; children and youth;
1106 vulnerable adults; and people with developmental disabilities.
1107

1108 **H-201b** King County shall partner with regional bodies, such as the King County
1109 Regional Homelessness Authority, that lead other human service and prevention-
1110 oriented systems, including those that address, homelessness, older adults'
1111 needs, domestic violence, sexual assault, crisis diversion and re-entry, early
1112 intervention and prevention, youth and family services, and climate-related
1113 emergencies.
1114

1115 **H-202** King County~~((s priorities for))~~ shall prioritize human service ~~((investments will~~
1116 ~~be))~~ programs and services that help people in need become more stable and
1117 ~~((resilient))~~ healthy, and that prevent or reduce the need for costly emergency

1118 medical services, crisis services, and involvement with the criminal ((justice))
1119 legal system. King County ((will)) shall focus resources and efforts on effective
1120 intervention and prevention that improve individual and community quality of life
1121 and enhance equity and racial and social justice. King County ((will)) shall
1122 preserve the resources necessary to collaborate as a true partner in regional
1123 human service systems. These focus areas include the following priority
1124 investment areas, which are consistent with other regional plans and initiatives:
1125 a. Job readiness, support for job development in business innovation
1126 districts;
1127 b. Affordable housing;
1128 c. Community and economic development activities;
1129 d. Strategies to ~~((make homelessness rare, brief and one-time))~~ create a
1130 homelessness response system that centers people with lived
1131 experience to focus on responding to needs and eliminating inequities,
1132 to end homelessness for all; ((and))
1133 e. Behavioral health services (including crisis services, mental health
1134 treatment, substance use disorder treatment, co-occurring disorder
1135 treatment, and housing support services); and
1136 f. Strategies and programs to build the life, academic, and employment
1137 skills for young people to reach their full potential as they transition from
1138 childhood to adulthood.

1140 **H-202a** King County shall support and incentivize culturally relevant child care
1141 programming for new and existing licensed early learning and child care facilities
1142 to increase affordability for families across all income levels, especially those
1143 located in child care access deserts and/or which serve families who experience
1144 additional barriers to accessing child care.

1146 **H-203** ~~((King County will apply principles that promote effectiveness, accountability and~~
1147 ~~equity and social justice.))~~ King County ((embraces)) shall apply the following
1148 principles to promote effectiveness, accountability, equity, and racial and social
1149 justice in its health and human service actions and investments:
1150 a. King County ((will)) shall provide information to the community on its
1151 health, human services, and behavioral health system planning and
1152 evaluation activities, funding processes and criteria, and on the results
1153 of its investments in a transparent, accountable, and culturally- and
1154 audience-appropriate manner;
1155 b. King County ((will)) shall uphold federal, state, and local laws against
1156 discrimination; promote culturally ~~((competent,))~~ relevant and equitable
1157 ~~((and relevant))~~ service delivery;

- 1158 c. ~~((and will))~~ **King County shall** work to end disparities in social, health,
1159 and economic status among communities and people of different racial
1160 and ethnic backgrounds;
- 1161 ~~((e-))~~ **d.** King County ~~((will))~~ **shall** work with local service providers to provide
1162 behavioral health services to ~~((low-income))~~ individuals in need,
1163 including high quality equitable prevention, crisis diversion, mental
1164 health, substance abuse disorder, and co-occurring disorder treatment
1165 services to youth, young adults, and older adults. The ~~((e))~~ **County** ~~((will))~~
1166 **shall** assume primary responsibility for coordinating the provision of
1167 countywide behavioral health services, working in partnership with the
1168 state, cities, and local service providers;
- 1169 ~~((e-))~~ **e.** King County ~~((will))~~ **shall** ~~((encourage))~~ **support** service approaches that
1170 promote recovery and ~~((resiliency))~~ **resilience** and support individuals
1171 and families to achieve their full potential to live meaningful and
1172 productive lives in the community;
- 1173 ~~((e-))~~ **f.** King County ~~((will))~~ **shall** foster integration of systems of care through
1174 increased information sharing and collaborative efforts across agencies
1175 and programs for the purpose of improved service delivery,
1176 coordination, and shared outcomes; and
- 1177 ~~((f-))~~ **g.** ~~((Together with its partners,))~~ King County ~~((will))~~ **shall, together with its**
1178 **partners**, assess and respond to changing human service and behavioral
1179 health needs and use data, research, innovation, analysis, and
1180 evidence-based practices to drive its investments.

- 1181
- 1182 **H-204** King County shall strive to apply principles that lead to thriving healthy
1183 communities in all neighborhoods of the ~~((region))~~ county. King County ~~((will))~~
1184 **shall** support public health investments that help all residents to live in thriving
1185 communities where they have the opportunity to make healthy choices. King
1186 County shall support:
- 1187 a. Access to safe and convenient opportunities to be physically active,
1188 including access to walking, bicycling, recreation, and transit
1189 infrastructure;
 - 1190 b. Access to healthy, affordable foods and the elimination of food deserts;
 - 1191 c. Protection from exposure to harmful environmental agents, such as lead,
1192 and infectious disease;
 - 1193 d. Access to transportation infrastructure designed to prevent pedestrian,
1194 bicyclist and motor vehicle-related injuries;
 - 1195 e. ~~((Residential-n))~~ **Neighborhoods** free from violence and fear of violence;
 - 1196 f. Protection from involuntary exposure to second~~((-))~~hand tobacco smoke
1197 and under-age access to tobacco products;

- 1198 g. Protection from disproportionate retail and promotion of products
- 1199 known to cause poor health outcomes, such as tobacco and cannabis, in
- 1200 areas where residents have higher social vulnerability and risk factors;
- 1201 h. Community amenities and design that maximizes opportunities for social
- 1202 connectivity and stress reduction; and
- 1203 ~~((h-))~~ i. A range of health services, including timely emergency response and
- 1204 culturally-~~((specific))~~relevant preventive medical, behavioral, and dental
- 1205 care within their community.

1207 **H-205** King County ~~((will))~~ shall support and implement health-related policies and
1208 programs that address the social determinants of health and the built
1209 environment by partnering with health care services, community-based
1210 organizations, foundations, other regional agencies, boards, commissions, and
1211 elected officials to improve public health.

1213 **H-206** King County ~~((will))~~ shall ~~((encourage))~~ support significant increases in the role
1214 and influence of residents living in communities that have disproportionately
1215 lower health outcomes by intentionally engaging people who are affected by
1216 health and human services policy development, planning, and service delivery in
1217 authentic and meaningful ways, especially residents living in communities that
1218 have disproportionately lower health outcomes.

1220 ~~((H-207))~~ King County ~~recognizes that poverty, lack of affordable housing and lack of~~
1221 ~~access to economic opportunity for all residents are critical public health issues.~~
1222 ~~King County will take steps to address these issues through ongoing county~~
1223 ~~plans, programs and funding.)~~

1224 **H-208** King County ~~((will))~~ shall, to the extent possible, ~~((locate))~~ promote the location of
1225 health and human services facilities ~~((where))~~ in areas that balance the County's
1226 shared interests in service delivery that is ~~((most cost))~~ more accessible,
1227 effective, and efficient. The equity and racial and social justice opportunities and
1228 impacts of possible locations ~~((will))~~ shall be taken into account. Locations
1229 should be easily accessible to anticipated clientele via various transportation
1230 methods including public transit, make the best use of existing facilities and
1231 opportunities to co-locate services and be ~~((compatible with adjoining uses))~~
1232 consistent with the land use elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

1234 **H-208a** ~~((When a health and human services facility is being relocated,))~~ King County
1235 ~~((consideration))~~ should consider and work to minimize the impact on current
1236 clients when a health and human services facility is being relocated, such as
1237

1238 accessibility, transportation options, and services available at the relocated
1239 facility.
1240

1241 **Health Equity in Housing**

1242 Housing characteristics, including location, surrounding conditions, size, indoor air quality, ambient pollution
1243 exposure, and amenity availability have significant effects on household residents' physical and mental health.
1244 Household conditions in the built environment, where people spend the most time, have a pronounced effect on
1245 health outcomes, especially for children and youth experiencing their sensitive years of physical, emotional, and
1246 mental development.

1247
1248 An unaffordable housing market, historical racially restrictive covenants, and other patterns of systemic
1249 disinvestment based on racial composition of neighborhoods have resulted in significant disparities in housing-
1250 related health outcomes. In King County, asthma, mental health challenges, and elevated blood lead levels are
1251 more prevalent in households of greater social vulnerability. King County has regulatory or programmatic reach
1252 to address many housing-related health challenges. Most new affordable housing is developed in accordance
1253 with Washington State Evergreen Sustainable Development Standards, and substantial renovation of existing
1254 housing may require upgrades to current building code. Currently, indoor air quality is being improved in the
1255 limited number of homes that receive equipment and/or technical assistance from Public Health – Seattle &
1256 King County and partner programs.

1257
1258 The policies in this section are intended to work upstream of programmatic responses, to help avoid and mitigate
1259 exposures and harms. Progress toward health equity in housing will benefit from these policies that address
1260 prevalent, enduring, and/or uniquely harmful exposure considerations. They point to harm-reduction
1261 countermeasures in housing development characteristics, in the operations and maintenance stages, and housing
1262 demolition practices.

1263
1264 **Asthma Prevention**

1265 Approximately six percent of children and nearly nine percent of adults in the King County have been diagnosed
1266 with asthma. The demographic group in which this chronic disease is most common is American
1267 Indians/Alaska Natives with a prevalence of over 26 percent.²⁸ The precise cause of asthma is unknown, yet
1268 there are many environmental factors known to trigger asthma attacks including dust mites, pests such as rats
1269 and cockroaches, mold, pollen, air pollution, chemical exposures, and smoke. Housing is perhaps the most
1270 critical social determinant in asthma health disparities. Water intrusion, which can stem from plumbing leaks,
1271 roof leaks, and unventilated or damp basements, may lead to mold development and attract pests. Cracks and
1272 holes in the walls and water leaks are associated with cockroach allergen. Research has shown that household

²⁸ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2019

1273 repairs to address these conditions reduce asthma symptoms and hospitalizations and improve quality of life.²⁹
1274 One study found that these repairs are as effective as one year of inhaled corticosteroid in reducing asthma
1275 symptoms among children with asthma.³⁰ (Kercsmar et al. 2006)

1276

1277 **H-303 Public Health-Seattle & King County should reduce the prevalence and harm of**
1278 **asthma by conducting population studies, providing technical support to policy**
1279 **advocates, and training and deploying a Community Health Worker program.**

1280

1281 **Safe Firearm Storage**

1282 Crime and perceived safety varies by geographic area in King County and is an equity and racial and social
1283 justice concern. Safe communities promote resiliency and can act as a protective factor preventing violence and
1284 other crime. In particular, ~~((G))~~ gun violence, including suicide, is ~~((in-particular))~~ a public health and public
1285 safety issue. Unsafely stored firearms are a risk factor for suicide or other violence in the home. In addition,
1286 unsafe storage contributes to gun theft, which can result in the gun finding its way into the hands of someone
1287 planning to use it for suicide, homicide, or assault. ~~((Over half of King County residents who own firearms~~
1288 ~~(approximately 123,000 people; based on 2014 data) report that they store at least one firearm unlocked. King~~
1289 ~~County’s Child Death Review regularly documents cases where unsafe firearm storage resulted directly or~~
1290 ~~indirectly in a child’s death.))~~ For the most recent three years for which King County data are available (2016,
1291 2018, and 2020), 27 percent of firearm owners with children and 44 percent of firearm owners without children
1292 kept their firearms stored unlocked.³¹ Evidence has shown that safely storing firearms -- unloaded and locked –
1293 is a protective factor in preventing youth suicide. Safe storage can also limit theft, and the expansion of the
1294 illegal gun market. Education of firearm owners about safe firearm storage is a key public health strategy, as is
1295 making safe firearm storage an easy choice. Emerging evidence also shows that community and housing design
1296 can decrease violence in communities, including firearm violence.

1297

1298 **((H-209)) H-304 King County should work to address the public health and public safety crisis of**
1299 **gun violence by: collecting epidemiological and other data((,)); engaging with**
1300 **cities, local neighborhoods, and other ((stakeholders,)) partners; and making**

²⁹ Bryant-Stephens TC, Strane D, Robinson EK, Bhambhani S, Kenyon CC. Housing and asthma disparities. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2021 Nov;148(5):1121-1129. doi: 10.1016/j.jaci.2021.09.023. Epub 2021 Sep 29. PMID: 34599980; PMCID: PMC9809049.

³⁰ Kercsmar CM, Dearborn DG, Schluchter M, Xue L, Kirchner HL, Sobolewski J, Greenberg SJ, Vesper SJ, Allan T. Reduction in asthma morbidity in children as a result of home remediation aimed at moisture sources. Environ Health Perspect. 2006 Oct;114(10):1574-80. doi: 10.1289/ehp.8742. PMID: 17035145; PMCID: PMC1626393.

³¹ Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016, 2018, 2020. Prepared by Public Health – Seattle & King County Assessment, Policy Development, and Evaluation Unit 8/2023

1301 information available that promotes safe firearm storage and fosters community
1302 safety.

1303
1304 **H-305** **King County shall work with jurisdictions, the private sector, state and federal**
1305 **governments, other funders of public housing, other public agencies, and the**
1306 **nonprofit sector to support public and private housing that allows for the**
1307 **opportunity to encourage permanent safe firearm storage locations that make**
1308 **safe storage an easy choice and foster safety from injury and violence, through**
1309 **exploring housing and community designs that are shown to increase**
1310 **connectivity and reduce violence.**

1312 **Reducing Lead Exposure**

1313 Although exposures to lead have generally decreased as a result of regulatory interventions, lead poisoning
1314 remains a significant, but preventable, environmental ~~((health))~~ justice problem. ~~((Our))~~ The most vulnerable
1315 populations are children under ~~((6))~~ six years of age. The largest source of lead exposure nationwide and in King
1316 County is lead-based paint. The greatest lead based paint risk is in housing built before 1978. The ~~((2010-2014))~~
1317 2017-2021 American Community Survey ((5-Year)) Public Use Microdata Sample indicates that among King
1318 County children under age six, 46 percent live in homes built before 1978. ((Estimates shows 54%)) Forty-eight
1319 percent of all King County housing was built prior to 1978 ~~((indicating that over 471,000 households, single~~
1320 ~~family, and multi-units could pose a lead hazard)).~~ The preferred method for eliminating exposure from lead-
1321 based paint would be to remove it from all housing; however, it is impracticable to require this of all property
1322 owners. King County assists building and home((-)owners and tenants to become aware of the lead-based paint
1323 risks, its impacts to health, and the tools and requirements needed to reduce exposures including the use of lead
1324 safe work practices.

1325
1326 ~~((H-240))~~ **H-306** **King County ((should)) shall seek to develop strategies to ((decrease)) eliminate**
1327 **exposure to lead where children, youth, and families live, learn and play,**
1328 **including:**
1329 **a. Advocating for countywide efforts to screen all children (at 12 months**
1330 **and 24 months) for exposure to lead poisoning and monitoring of this**
1331 **data;**
1332 **b. Working to ensure all renovation, repair, and painting work that disturbs**
1333 **painted surfaces in pre-1978 dwellings be performed in compliance with**
1334 **the requirements of the Washington Department of Commerce to reduce**
1335 **exposure to lead contaminated dusts; and**
1336 **c. Working to ensure strategies are used that minimize or eliminate the**
1337 **spread of lead dust during the demolition of pre-1978 residential and**
1338 **commercial buildings, including community education and notification.**

1339

1340 ~~((H-211) King County shall advocate for regional efforts to screen all children (at 12~~
1341 ~~months and 24 months) for exposure to lead poisoning.~~

1342
1343 ~~H-212 King County should work to ensure all renovation, repair and painting work that~~
1344 ~~disturbs painted surfaces in pre-1978 dwellings be performed in compliance with~~
1345 ~~the requirements of the Washington Department of Commerce to reduce~~
1346 ~~exposure to lead contaminated dusts.~~

1347
1348 ~~H-213 King County should work to ensure strategies are used that minimize or~~
1349 ~~eliminate the spread of lead dust during the demolition of pre-1978 residential~~
1350 ~~and commercial buildings, including community education and notification.))~~

1352 **People-Centered Design**

1353 It is critical to consider the role of the built environment in healing and with how health services are provided.
1354 Consideration of the physical environment can also support trauma-informed care by health service providers.³²

1355
1356 Trauma is a nearly universal experience of people with mental health and substance use disorders, those
1357 who have experienced violence (SAMHSA, 2014), those living in poverty (Collins et al., 2010), and
1358 those who have experienced homelessness (Hopper et al., 2010) – the very people likely to be served by
1359 shelters, supportive housing, and affordable housing ... Because of its prevalence and the significance of
1360 related physical and mental health outcomes, trauma is a critical consideration for design of all housing
1361 types—and for shelters and supportive housing in particular.³³

1362
1363 The built environment informs and is shaped by models of care and good design practice. It has the potential to
1364 transform the quality of life people experience when they are in care.³⁴ Thoughtful people- and patient-centered
1365 design has the potential to build on the individual's and/or communities' resiliency,³⁵ mitigate prior trauma,
1366 prevent further harm, and promote healing, especially when developed in consultation with those experiencing
1367 the space. Such design incorporates elements that support physical, psychological, and emotional safety, which

³² United States Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach; United States Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative; July 2014

³³ Designing for Healing Dignity & Joy - Promoting Physical Health, Mental Health, and Well-Being Through Trauma-Informed Design; Shopworks Architecture Group 14 Engineering, University of Denver Center for Housing and Homelessness Research; 2020; pages 6-7

³⁴ Phillippa Carnemolla, Deborah Debono, Fleur Hourihan, Suyin Hor, Hamish Robertson, Jo Travaglia, The influence of the built environment in enacting a household model of residential aged care for people living with a mental health condition: A qualitative post-occupancy evaluation; Health & Place Volume 71 (2021); Article 102624, pp. 1-15

³⁵ Resiliency is being defined under the concept of resilience has been used in developmental psychology and psychiatry to describe individuals' capacities to achieve well-being and thrive despite significant adversity. Kirmayer, Laurence J., et al. "Community resilience: Models, metaphors and measures." International Journal of Indigenous Health Vol. 5 No. 1 (2009): 62-117.

1368 can include: access to nature, clear wayfinding, wider hallways, open and well-lit stairways, clear sightlines,
1369 noise mitigation, flexible lighting, calming paint colors, exterior fences, reflecting and honoring culture, and
1370 warm and welcoming open spaces and communal areas.

1371

1372 **H-307** **People-centered design elements that includes principles of patient-centered,**
1373 **recovery-oriented, and trauma-informed care should be considered and**
1374 **incorporated in County-owned or funded regional health and human services**
1375 **facilities, behavioral health facilities, emergency housing, transitional and**
1376 **permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing.**

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CHAPTER 5 ENVIRONMENT

The environment in King County includes a rich and valuable array of natural resources ranging from marine and freshwater environments, to highly urbanized areas, lower density rural areas, highly productive farm and forest land, 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 address climate change and 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.

8
9

**((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)) TBD**

10 One of the central tenets of the Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies, and King County’s
11 Comprehensive Plan is that new growth be focused within designated urban areas with the aim of protecting
12 ~~((resource lands(-)))~~forestry, agriculture, and mining~~((s))~~ lands and reducing development pressure on the Rural
13 Area and Natural Resource Lands. ~~((At the same time, t))~~The Growth Management Act also requires that each
14 city and county in Washington State identify, designate and protect critical areas found in their local
15 environment. Critical areas, as defined by the Growth Management Act, include wetlands, areas with a critical
16 recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently
17 flooded areas, and geologic hazard areas. Achieving development goals must be integrated with protecting
18 critical area functions and values. ~~((Individuals))~~Solutions can be tailored by following the guidance of
19 comprehensive plan policies that recognize both critical area protection and the need to reduce urban sprawl.

20
21 All parts of the county—from densely developed urban areas, to farm and forest land, to the Rural Area—have a
22 role to play and a common interest in environmental protection. Responsibility for environmental protection
23 cannot fall on one geographic area or ~~((category of people))~~ community alone. ~~((Tools for environmental
24 protection, for all residents whether in the Urban Area, Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, include buying
25 locally grown produce at a Farmers Market, taking care to avoid polluted discharges to stormwater drainage
26 systems, riding the bus, investing in natural resource programs like those offered by the King Conservation
27 District, complying with stormwater standards, controlling invasive plants, protecting forest cover, and ensuring
28 development minimizes flood risk.))~~

29
30 For the urban ~~((residents))~~ area, environmental protection occurs through different means, including investing in
31 wastewater treatment and stormwater improvements, protecting greenbelts and other remnants of native
32 habitats, adding new public open space – especially in historically underserved communities, and ~~((living))~~
33 concentrating development in densely developed areas. For the ~~((r))~~Rural ~~((residents))~~ Area and Natural
34 Resource Lands, it means protecting aquifers used for drinking water, using development practices that slowly
35 infiltrate stormwater, and ~~((using best management practices to protect))~~ protecting water quality and habitat for
36 fish and wildlife. On farm~~((-))~~lands, forest~~((-))~~lands, and lands in the Rural Area, stewardship and technical
37 assistance provides opportunities for supporting long-term resource use while protecting the environment.

38
39 Climate change is already having severe and wide-ranging impacts on public health, safety, and welfare; the
40 economy; and the environment. Climate change in the Pacific Northwest is projected to continue to bring more
41 severe weather events including extreme heat events, wildfires, storms and droughts, decreased water supply for
42 people and fish, and changes in habitat and species distribution. King County is a leader in taking steps to
43 reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advance climate equity, and to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

44
45 ~~((One of the most significant environmental issues facing King County during the past decade was))~~ Salmon
46 recovery continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing the Puget Sound Region, despite significant
47 investment in habitat protection and restoration by cities, counties, Indian tribes, state agencies, conservation
48 districts, and nonprofits over more than twenty years since the listing of Chinook salmon and bull trout as

((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)) TBD

49 threatened under the Endangered Species Act. ~~((Since 2000, the region has seen))~~ There has been unprecedented
50 cooperation between local governments, residents, Indian tribes, conservation districts, non((-)profit groups, and
51 federal and state fisheries managers to develop watershed-based Water Resource Inventory Area plans for
52 salmon conservation. These plans form the basis for the federal recovery plan for Chinook salmon. Watershed
53 partners are continuing to work together to implement and monitor these plans through Water Resource
54 Inventory Area Forums. Southern Resident Orca, which are dependent on Chinook salmon as a food source,
55 were listed as endangered in 2005.

56
57 ~~((King County has taken significant steps to increase protections for Chinook and other salmon species and
58 improve habitat through changes in daily operations (such as maintenance of county roads and parks), increased
59 open space protection, tax incentives, updated development regulations, and construction of habitat restoration
60 projects. The lessons learned and relationships developed through cooperative planning in response to the
61 Chinook salmon and bull trout listings should help to inform King County’s response to new listings, and bolster
62 efforts to prevent future species listings.))~~

63
64 Individual species protections under the Endangered Species Act continue to play an important role. At the
65 same time, both nationally and internationally, many governments are initiating multi-species approaches aimed
66 at conserving biodiversity. Biodiversity refers not only to plants and animals but also to their habitats and the
67 interactions among species and habitats.

68
69 Protection of biodiversity in all its forms and across all landscapes is critical to continued prosperity and quality
70 of life in King County. In fisheries, forestry, and agriculture, the value of biodiversity to sustaining long-term
71 productivity has been demonstrated in region after region. ~~((With the impending effects of climate change,
72 maintaining biodiversity will be critical to the resilience of resource-based activities and to many social and
73 ecological systems. The continued increase in King County’s population and the projected effects of climate
74 change make conservation a difficult but urgent task.))~~ The protection and restoration of biodiversity and of a
75 full range of supporting habitats is important to King County. King County ~~((will))~~ incorporates these
76 considerations in its operations and practices, ranging from its utility functions (such as wastewater, solid waste,
77 and stormwater management) to its regulatory and general government practices.

78
79 ~~((State and federal agencies are undertaking biodiversity initiatives. The Washington Biodiversity Council was
80 created by the Governor in 2004, in part, with the aim of refocusing state conservation efforts from the species
81 level to the ecosystem level. In 2009, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife released Landscape
82 Planning for Washington’s Wildlife: Managing for Biodiversity in Developing Areas. The goal of this document
83 is to provide information to planners and others that can be used to minimize the impacts of development on fish
84 and wildlife and to conserve biodiversity.~~

85
86 The U.S. Forest Service also integrates biodiversity principles into its land management practices.
87 ~~Internationally, Local Governments for Sustainability’s Local Action for Biodiversity Project convenes local~~

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88 governments from around the world, including King County, to establish strategies for the conservation of urban
89 biodiversity.

90
91 Climate change has the potential for severe and wide ranging impacts on public health, safety, and welfare; the
92 economy; and the environment. Climate change in the Pacific Northwest is projected to bring more severe
93 weather events including heat events, winter storms and summer droughts, decreased water supplies for people
94 and fish, and changes in habitat and species distribution. King County is a leader in taking steps to reduce
95 greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change.

96
97 New approaches for stormwater management known as Low Impact Development, are providing additional
98 options for stormwater management, especially in site development. Low Impact Development Best
99 Management Practices can mimic the natural functions of soil and forest cover in slowing and filtering
100 stormwater runoff by infiltrating or dispersing stormwater onsite, or by capturing and reusing it. Used
101 exclusively, or in conjunction with a comprehensive stormwater management program of structural controls and
102 other best management practices, Low Impact Development Best Management Practices can reduce
103 environmental impacts from stormwater runoff. Low Impact Development techniques also work in tandem with
104 other strategies such as retaining forest cover, preserving native plants and preserving native soil.

105
106 These techniques help to meet other objectives such as retention of canopy cover, protection of riparian habitat
107 and preservation of native soils that help protect biodiversity, improve air quality, and protect the ecological
108 functions of the landscape and surface waters. These approaches help create a more sustainable environment and
109 create a better quality of life for King County residents.))

110
111 Untreated stormwater runoff remains the largest source of pollution to Puget Sound. Stormwater management
112 requirements and practices continue to evolve, with greater emphasis on low impact development and green
113 stormwater infrastructure that can mimic the natural functions of soil and forest cover in slowing and filtering
114 stormwater runoff by infiltrating or dispersing stormwater onsite, or by capturing and reusing it. Modifying
115 stormwater facilities, or building new ones in previously developed areas, is very expensive. The County
116 continues to develop, apply, and update evidence-based tools to identify and prioritize actions to achieve the best
117 outcomes for reducing pollution to Puget Sound.

118
119 The County also partners with cities, Indian tribes, other counties, and nonprofits to identify where projects like
120 “stormwater parks” can provide the greatest environmental benefit while increasing access to open space in
121 historically underserved areas. Stormwater parks offer promise for reducing pollutants at a basin-wide scale
122 while providing access to new green space. These multi-benefit facilities can be designed to remove pollutants
123 like nutrients, heavy metals, and many organic pollutants, including polychlorinated biphenyls including
124 persistent bio-accumulative toxics, sometime referred to as, “forever chemicals.” Such stormwater parks, if
125 located strategically, could treat billions of gallons of stormwater a year, significantly reducing stormwater
126 pollution reaching receiving water bodies, which would in turn improve outcomes for fish consumption and orca

127 health. In making decisions about where to site stormwater parks, King County focuses on communities
128 experiencing the greatest water pollution and having the least access to open space.

129
130 Environmental initiatives during the past decade have underscored the need for monitoring changes in the
131 environment and the effectiveness of the County's efforts to protect it. Monitoring and performance
132 measurement help local governments to target limited resources on existing and emerging environmental
133 problems, determine whether actions are having their intended effect, promote accountability, and adapt
134 approaches to environmental management. ~~((The Department of Natural Resources and Parks assesses
135 environmental conditions with a variety of monitoring programs. The results are presented in the environmental
136 indicator section of KingStat and are used to develop appropriate county responses and provide an opportunity
137 to collaborate and partner with other organizations in making improvements.))~~

138
139 This chapter reflects the overarching goal of the Countywide Planning Policies to protect, restore and enhance
140 the quality of the natural environment in King County for future generations. ~~((This chapter has been updated to
141 integrate county strategies for protection of land, air, and water; to emphasize implementation of salmon
142 recovery plans; to reflect increased emphasis on climate change and biodiversity; and to support monitoring and
143 adaptive management.))~~ Policies in this chapter promote implementation of strategies and goals from multiple
144 recent plans and initiatives, including the Strategic Climate Action Plan, the Land Conservation Initiative, the
145 30-year Forest Plan, increasing focus on restoring fish passage, and the Clean Water Healthy Habitat Strategic
146 Plan. These policies guide King County's environmental regulations and incentives, education and stewardship
147 programs in unincorporated King County.

148

149 **~~((I.))~~ Natural Environment and Regulatory Context**

150 **~~((A.))~~ Integrated Approach**

151 Environmental protection efforts need to be integrated across species, habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes.
152 Efforts to reduce flooding or protect water quality and habitat cannot work successfully in isolation from
153 management of land use across the larger contributing landscape. Efforts to protect one particular species or
154 resource type could be detrimental to another if such efforts are not considered in an ecosystem context.
155 Protection and restoration of natural ecosystem processes provide the best opportunity to conserve native
156 species.

157

158 Likewise, the tools King County uses to protect the environment—~~((e))~~incentives, regulations, changes in
159 ~~((e))~~County operations, planning, capital projects, land acquisition, education, stewardship, and monitoring—
160 also need to be integrated. For example, the regulatory buffers placed around wetlands need to consider
161 changing conditions in the watershed around the wetland, including natural hydrological processes. These
162 conditions are influenced by land use, stormwater runoff management, clearing and grading requirements, and
163 protection of forest cover and open space. Incentives, education, and technical assistance programs also must

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164 work hand-in-hand so that land((-)owners can access a seamless set of programs that work together to
165 accomplish environmental protection and restoration.

166
167 As part of the ((2004)) 10-year Comprehensive Plan update process, King County ((updated)) updates its critical
168 areas, stormwater runoff management, and clearing and grading regulations consistent with Growth
169 Management Act requirements to ((include)) use best available science and address no net loss of the functions
170 and values of critical areas and demonstrate “special consideration” given to conservation and protection of
171 anadromous fish species. These regulations are functionally interrelated, with the standards for protection of
172 wetlands, aquatic areas, and wildlife areas also working in tandem with ((landscape-level)) standards for
173 stormwater management, water quality, and clearing and grading, as well as programs for land conservation.

174
175 Habitat conditions vary throughout unincorporated King County, with higher quality habitat generally found in
176 less developed areas of the county. However, both urban and rural habitats play a critical role for various species
177 and during different life stages. The environmental protections the ((e))County uses should consider
178 development patterns, habitat conditions, and the roles played by different geographic and ecologic areas. A
179 geographic and watershed-based approach to planning, stewardship, and environmental protection
180 acknowledges that different areas of King County may have different environmental and resource values and
181 face different levels of development pressure. Therefore, methods of protecting critical areas that respect those
182 distinctions must continue to evolve to balance the protection of the environment with the need to reduce urban
183 sprawl and preserve the County's quality of life.

184
185 ((In 2004, the county strengthened)) The County offers a variety of incentives ((available to)) for land((-)owners
186 ((through its Public Benefit Rating System, a)) to promote environmental stewardship and restoration and
187 enhancement of ecosystems. These include tax incentive programs through which landowners can receive
188 reduced property taxes in exchange for commitments to protect open space and natural resources((~~However,~~
189 ~~incentives are not just limited to tax incentives, but can include~~)), market-based programs for permanent land
190 protection and regulatory flexibility (((e.g., alternatives to fixed width buffers)) such as the Transfer of
191 Development Rights program and fee-in-lieu compensatory mitigation program), ((streamlined permit
192 processing, reduced permit fees,)) and free or low-cost technical assistance. ((Additionally, the King County
193 Strategic Plan, released in 2010 and updated in 2015 through Motion 14317, has a healthy environment goal to
194 preserve open space and rural character while addressing climate change.))

195
196 **E-101** In addition to its regulatory authority, King County should use incentives to
197 protect and restore the natural environment whenever practicable. Incentives
198 ((shall)) should be monitored and periodically reviewed to determine their
199 effectiveness ((in terms of)) at protecting and restoring natural resources.

200
201 **E-102** King County should take a regional role in promoting and supporting
202 environmental stewardship through direct education, coordinating of educational

203 efforts, and establishing partnerships with other entities that share similar
204 environmental concerns and stewardship opportunities.

205
206 **E-102a** King County ~~((will))~~ **shall** consider environmental justice and climate ~~((justice))~~
207 equity impacts and disparities in its planning, projects and services to assess
208 and mitigate unintended impacts on frontline communities and to ensure
209 solutions that enhance conditions for people and the environment.

210
211 King County coordinates many programs internally as well as with other agencies and governments. The
212 cooperative development and implementation of watershed-based salmon recovery plans over the last decade has
213 brought together local governments, federal and state agencies, residents, and interest groups. Continued
214 collaboration at the watershed level is critical for successful implementation of these habitat-focused plans.
215 Indian ~~((F))~~tribes with treaty reserved fishing rights and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
216 co-manage harvest and hatchery actions. Working closely with these co-managers is essential to ensure that
217 watershed-based salmon recovery strategies effectively integrate habitat, harvest, and hatchery actions.

218
219 King County works closely with federal and state agencies, cities, and other counties to try to integrate and
220 streamline compliance with federal mandates, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered
221 Species Act. In doing so, multiple benefits can be achieved. For example, in some cases mandated monitoring
222 for Clean Water Act compliance can provide useful information to support salmon conservation efforts.

223
224 King County also participates in ~~((F))~~the Puget Sound Partnership ~~((was created by the Washington State~~
225 ~~Legislature and Governor in July 2007 to achieve the recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem by the year 2020.~~
226 ~~The Partnership's goal is))~~, which works to coordinate and significantly strengthen the federal, state, local, and
227 private efforts undertaken to date to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound and its watersheds.
228 ~~((Additional discussion of King County's participation in the Puget Sound Partnership is found later in this~~
229 ~~chapter.~~

230
231 ~~King County also works closely with federal and state agencies, cities, and other counties to try to integrate and~~
232 ~~streamline compliance with federal mandates, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered~~
233 ~~Species Act. In doing so, multiple benefits can be achieved. For example, in some cases mandated monitoring~~
234 ~~for Clean Water Act compliance can provide useful information to support salmon conservation efforts.))~~

235
236 **E-103** King County should coordinate with local jurisdictions, universities, federal and
237 state agencies, Indian tribes, special interest groups, special districts,
238 businesses, and residents to implement, monitor, and update Water Resource
239 Inventory Area salmon recovery plans for all areas of King County.

240
241 **E-104** Development of environmental regulations, restoration, and mitigation projects,
242 and incentive and stewardship programs should be coordinated with local

243 jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, Indian tribes, special interest groups,
244 and residents when conserving and restoring the natural environment consistent
245 with Urban Growth Area, Rural Area, and designated Natural Resource Land
246 goals.

247
248 King County ~~((will))~~ uses existing and updated subarea and functional plans and Water Resource Inventory Area
249 salmon recovery plans to ~~((provide guidance to))~~ guide programs, regulations and incentives to protect and
250 restore environmental quality. Two key plans developed by the Department of Natural Resources and Parks
251 establish goals and strategies to ensure protection and enhancement of the environment to create ecological
252 integrity and ensure benefits of a healthy environment accrue to all King County residents:

- 253 • **Land Conservation Initiative:** Calls for a series of accelerated actions to close gaps in equitable access
254 to open space and to protect King County's last, most important natural lands and urban green spaces
255 before increasing land prices and development pressure foreclose opportunities for conservation. The
256 regional collaboration between King County, cities, businesses, farmers, environmental partners, and
257 other key partners outlines a strategy to save money and achieve conservation results more quickly.
- 258 • **Clean Water Healthy Habitat Strategic Plan:** Recommends 30-year (through 2050), outcome-based
259 goals, measures and strategies for six interrelated goal areas: healthy forests and more greenspaces;
260 cleaner, controlled stormwater runoff; reduced toxics and fecal pathogens; functional river floodplains;
261 better habitat for fish; and resilient marine shorelines.

262
263 **E-105** Environmental quality and important ecological functions shall be protected and
264 hazards to health and property shall be minimized through development reviews
265 and implementation of land use plans, Water Resource Inventory Area salmon
266 recovery plans, the Strategic Climate Action Plan, stormwater management plans
267 and programs, flood hazard management plans, environmental monitoring
268 programs, and park ~~((master))~~ management plans, as well as focused ongoing
269 efforts such as the fish passage restoration program, Land Conservation
270 Initiative, 30-Year Forest Plan, and Clean Water Healthy Habitat Strategic Plan.
271 Implementation of ((T))these plans and programs ((shall)) should also encourage
272 stewardship and restoration of critical areas as defined in the Growth
273 Management Act, ~~((and include))~~ such as including an adaptive management
274 approach.

275
276 The State Environmental Policy Act requires King County to consider the environmental impacts of proposed
277 actions ~~((that may have a significant adverse environmental impact))~~. Over the years, King County has adopted
278 development regulations that address many of the impacts that are likely to occur as a result of development. In
279 many cases, King County's regulations adequately address environmental impacts and development proposals
280 do not require additional mitigation under the State Environmental Policy Act. However, there may be certain
281 development proposals or unusual circumstances not contemplated by the development regulations that require
282 further mitigation under the State Environmental Policy Act. This principle is articulated in King County Code

283 Chapter 20.44. The presence of a species listed as endangered or threatened by the federal government is an
284 example of such an unusual circumstance.

285

286 **E-107 Regulations to prevent unmitigated significant adverse environmental impacts**
287 **should be based on the importance and sensitivity of the resource.**

288

289 **E-108 King County may exercise its substantive authority under the State**
290 **Environmental Policy Act to condition or deny proposed actions ((in order)) to**
291 **mitigate associated individual or cumulative impacts such as significant habitat**
292 **modification or degradation that may actually kill, injure, or harm listed**
293 **threatened or endangered species by significantly impairing essential behavioral**
294 **patterns, including breeding, feeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, or sheltering.**

295

296 **E-109 King County should promote efficient provision of utilities and public services by**
297 **exempting minor activities from its critical areas regulations, if the agency has an**
298 **approved best management practice plan approved by King County, and the plan**
299 **ensures that proposed projects that may affect habitat of listed species be**
300 **carried out in a manner that protects the resource or mitigates adverse impacts.**

301

302 **~~((B-))~~ Policy and Regulatory Context**

303 **~~((1-))~~ Endangered Species Act**

304 ~~((In March 1998, The National Marine Fisheries Service proposed to list the Puget Sound Chinook salmon as~~
305 ~~"threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. This Chinook population was officially listed in March 1999.~~
306 ~~The listing of Chinook as threatened triggered a requirement for consultations with the National Marine~~
307 ~~Fisheries Service on any activity requiring a federal permit, relying on federal funds, or being sponsored by a~~
308 ~~federal agency.~~

309

310 ~~Since that listing, several other aquatic species present in King County have been listed as threatened, including~~
311 ~~two additional salmonids: bull trout in November 1999, and steelhead in May 2007. Coho salmon are~~
312 ~~considered a Species of Concern. Puget Sound's southern resident Orca, which rely almost solely on Chinook~~
313 ~~salmon as a food source, were also listed under the Endangered Species Act as endangered in November 2005.))~~

314 Over the last twenty years, several species connected to King County's streams and rivers have become listed
315 under the Endangered Species Act. Threatened species include Chinook salmon , bull trout , and steelhead, and
316 Southern Resident killer whales are listed as endangered. The listing of Chinook salmon and Southern Resident
317 killer whales are related to one another, as Southern Resident killer whales rely heavily on Chinook as a primary
318 food source. The listings trigger requirements for consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service on
319 any activity requiring a federal permit, relying on federal funds, or being sponsored by a federal agency.

320 The National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have also issued rules describing
321 regulations deemed necessary to conserve Puget Sound Chinook and steelhead, as well as other threatened West

322 Coast salmonids. ~~((These rules, commonly referred to as “4(d) rules,” legally establish the protective measures
323 that are necessary to provide for conservation of a listed species. These rules also make it a violation of the
324 Endangered Species Act for any person, government, or other entity to “take” a threatened species. Prohibited
325 “take” under the Endangered Species Act includes harm through significant habitat modification or degradation
326 where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including
327 breeding, feeding, spawning, rearing, migrating or sheltering.~~

328
329 ~~The 4(d) rule for Chinook and steelhead also establishes conditions or limits under which certain categories of
330 activities that may result in “take” may be conducted. King County takes actions under the conditions
331 established for two categories of activity: routine road maintenance and habitat restoration projects funded by the
332 State Salmon Recovery Funding Board.))~~

333
334 Final Endangered Species Act Recovery Plans have been developed for Puget Sound Chinook (2007) ~~((and)),~~
335 ~~bull trout (((2004)) 2015), and Puget Sound steelhead (2019).~~ A final Recovery Plan for Orca whales was
336 published in 2008. These plans describe recovery goals for the species, specific measures to address the factors
337 that are limiting the health of the species, and timeframes and cost estimates for recovery measures.

338 Conservation actions identified in Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans for King County
339 watersheds are now being implemented subject to available funding and are anticipated to contribute
340 significantly to the achievement of recovery goals for these species and their eventual removal from the
341 Endangered Species list.

342

343 **~~((2.))~~ Clean Water Act**

344

345 The Clean Water Act requires that all states protect and restore their waters to beneficial uses. This is
346 accomplished through the development of a permitting framework called the National Pollutant Discharge
347 Elimination System (NPDES) Permit program. Authority for administering the NPDES Program has been
348 delegated by the Environmental Protection Agency to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology),
349 and King County holds a number of NPDES general permits for various specified activities.

350

351 For instance, the County must comply with permit conditions that cover ongoing construction site activities,
352 industrial activities, and stormwater runoff discharges from the municipal stormwater system. Since 1995,
353 Ecology has issued a NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater permit to King County, authorizing stormwater
354 discharges from the County’s municipal separate stormwater sewer system.

355

356 ~~((The current permit, set to expire July 31, 2018, contains prescriptive requirements for discovering, controlling
357 and monitoring pollutants in municipal stormwater, as well as stormwater control design standards for site
358 development, public education and outreach, mapping, and operating and maintaining municipal stormwater
359 infrastructure.))~~

360

361 The County complies with the current Phase I municipal NPDES stormwater permit by implementing the
362 County’s stormwater management program plan ((that can be found at the following website:
363 [http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx)
364 [reports.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx)

365))_The implementation of the County’s plan is reported to Ecology by submitting an annual report. The annual
366 report documents compliance with permit requirements over the preceding year and the stormwater
367 management plan outlines compliance activities for the upcoming year. ((The most current annual report can be
368 found here:
369 [http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx)
370 [reports.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx)))

371
372

373 **Water Quality Standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads**

374

375 When a particular water body falls short of state surface water quality standards Ecology must impose a Total
376 Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL is developed to restore beneficial uses to the water body by reducing
377 or eliminating pollutants. In addition to the actions found in the County’s stormwater management plan, the
378 Permit also contains requirements for the County to implement actions that address four impaired water bodies.
379 The Bear-Evans watershed, Issaquah Creek, and the Puyallup/White watershed are impaired by elevated levels
380 of fecal coliform((, and)). The Lower White River has a TMDL for elevated pH and Cottage Lake is impaired
381 by elevated levels of total phosphorous. The actions to counteract these elevated levels of pollution include:
382 animal waste education and collection stations at municipal parks, and inventorying and inspecting commercial
383 animal handling facilities. King County’s Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program also conducts
384 field screening for pollution sources by designating high priority areas, and conducting bacteria sampling and
385 monitoring.

386

387 In addition to the TMDLs found in the Permit, several others have been approved within King County:
388 the Snoqualmie River, Little Bear Creek, Lake Fenwick, Lake Sawyer, the Duwamish River, Lower Green
389 River, Pipers Creek, North Creek, Newaukum Creek, Puyallup River, White River, and Fauntleroy Creek. King
390 County TMDLs under development or pending approval by the Environmental Protection Agency include
391 Green River and Newaukum Creek, White and Puyallup Rivers, and Soos Creek. ((A list of these Water Quality
392 Improvement Projects in King County can be found at:
393 <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/TMDLsbyCounty/king.html>))

394

395 **E-110 Surface waters designated by the state as Water Quality Impaired under the**
396 **Clean Water Act (water bodies included in Category 5 of the Water Quality**
397 **Assessment) shall be improved through monitoring, source controls, best**
398 **management practices, enforcement of existing codes, and, where applicable,**

399 implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load plans. The water quality of other
400 water bodies shall be protected or improved through these same measures.

401
402 ~~((E-111 King County shall evaluate development proposals subject to drainage review in
403 unincorporated King County to assess whether the proposed actions are likely to
404 cause or contribute to violations of Washington State water quality standards in
405 receiving waters for individual pollutants of concern and identify mitigation or
406 requirements to avoid the impacts when appropriate.))~~

407
408 There are certain actions that can be used to help moderate water quality. Such actions may include maintaining
409 and increasing connections between surface waters and shallow groundwater or hyporheic flow, promoting
410 riparian vegetation and stormwater structural retrofitting using infiltration techniques including ~~((L))~~low
411 ~~((H))~~impact ~~((D))~~development techniques, and increasing the physical complexity of river channels.

412
413 **E-112** When environmental monitoring, testing, or reliable data indicates human
414 activities have caused impaired water quality, such as increased water
415 temperature, fecal contamination, low oxygen, excess nutrients, metals, or other
416 contaminants, King County shall take actions ~~((which will))~~ that help moderate
417 those impairments.

418
419 **~~((3.))~~ Growth Management Act and Critical Areas Protection**
420 ~~((The Growth Management Act requires that each city and county in Washington State identify, designate, and
421 protect critical areas found in their local environment. Critical areas, as defined in the Growth Management
422 Act, include wetlands, areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, fish and wildlife
423 habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas and geologically hazardous areas.))~~ This chapter establishes
424 policies for designating and protecting critical areas in King County. King County Code Title 21A provides the
425 regulatory framework for these policies.

426
427 ~~((The Growth Management Act also requires local governments to include the best available science in
428 developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas, and to give
429 special consideration to the conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous
430 (fish that spawn in freshwater and spend part of their lifecycle in salt water) fisheries.))~~

431
432 **E-112a** The protection of lands where development would pose hazards to health and
433 safety, property, important ecological functions or environmental quality shall be
434 achieved through acquisition, enhancement, incentive programs, and appropriate
435 regulations. The following critical areas are particularly susceptible and shall be
436 protected in King County:

437 a. Floodways of 100-year floodplains;

- 438 b. Slopes with a grade of 40((%)) percent or more or landslide hazards that
- 439 cannot be mitigated;
- 440 c. Wetlands and their protective buffers;
- 441 d. Aquatic areas, including streams, lakes, marine shorelines and their
- 442 protective buffers;
- 443 e. Channel migration hazard areas;
- 444 f. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas;
- 445 g. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas; and
- 446 h. Volcanic hazard areas.
- 447

448 **((4.)) Shoreline Management Act**

449 The Shoreline Management Act requires each city and county with Shorelines of the State to adopt a Shoreline
450 Master Program that complies with state guidelines but that is tailored to the specific needs of the community.

451 The Shoreline Management Act applies to all marine waters, streams with a mean annual flow of 20 cubic feet or
452 more per second, and lakes that are 20 acres or more in size. The Shoreline Management Act also applies to
453 upland areas called “shorelands” within 200 feet of these waters, as well as associated wetlands and floodplains.
454 The program’s goals are set by state law and include protecting natural resources, increasing public access to
455 shorelines, and encouraging businesses such as marinas along the waterfront.

456
457 Under the Shoreline Management Act, the Shoreline Master Program includes both a Shoreline Master Plan and
458 implementing shoreline land use and development regulations. The Growth Management Act requires that a
459 local government’s Comprehensive Plan, Shoreline Master Plan, and development regulations, including both
460 shoreline regulations and critical area regulations, must be consistent with each other. The Shoreline Master
461 Program is included in ~~((its entirety in))~~ Chapter 6, Shorelines, and portions of King County Code Titles 20 and
462 21A.

464 **((5.)) Puget Sound Partnership**

465 The Puget Sound Partnership ~~((was created by the Washington State Legislature and Governor in July 2007 to~~
466 ~~achieve the recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem by the year 2020. Its goal is))~~ works to consolidate and
467 significantly strengthen the federal, state, local, and private efforts undertaken to date to protect and restore the
468 health of Puget Sound and its watersheds. The Puget Sound Partnership also serves as an umbrella group for
469 salmon recovery efforts in Puget Sound, including implementation of salmon recovery plans prepared for
470 Chinook salmon. King County, through its land use decisions, management of stormwater and wastewater
471 discharges, development of recycled water supplies, cooperative habitat protection and restoration projects, work
472 in flood risk reduction, salmon recovery, support for agricultural and natural land protection, actions to address
473 climate change, and ongoing environmental monitoring, is actively involved in the conservation and recovery of
474 Puget Sound. King County has the opportunity, and responsibility, to make significant contributions to
475 protecting and restoring Puget Sound. ~~((The Puget Sound Partnership’s 018-2020 Action Agenda for Puget~~

476 Sound was revised in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018, focusing on three Strategic Initiatives: protecting and restoring
477 habitat, preventing pollution from stormwater, and recovering shellfish beds.))

478

479 **E-113 King County should actively participate in updating and implementing the Puget**
480 **Sound Partnership’s Action Agenda, through the Puyallup-White River, South**
481 **Central Action Area Caucus Group ~~((and))~~, Snohomish-Stillaguamish, and West**
482 **Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery Local Integrating Organizations,**
483 **consistent with King County goals.**

484

485 **E-114 King County should collaborate with other watershed forum partners to ensure**
486 **that recommendations of watershed-based salmon recovery plans, goals for**
487 **regional stormwater controls, and goals for human and community health for**
488 **King County are integrated with the Puget Sound Partnership recommendations.**

489

490 ~~((The Puget Sound Partnership maintains a Strategic Science Plan and Biennial Science Work Plan which~~
491 ~~provide an overall framework for development and coordination of specific science activities necessary to~~
492 ~~support Puget Sound ecosystem protection and restoration under the Partnership’s Action Agenda. The Puget~~
493 ~~Sound Partnership also organizes the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program, a collaborative effort to~~
494 ~~improve communication and data sharing among the many monitoring programs operating in Puget Sound,~~
495 ~~with the goal of assessing progress towards recovery of the health of the Sound. King County actively~~
496 ~~participates in the Ecosystem Monitoring Program.))~~

497

498 **E-115 King County should identify opportunities for coordinating its existing**
499 **monitoring programs with monitoring and assessment work conducted through**
500 **Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program, the Puget Sound Partnership’s**
501 **Strategic Science Plan, and the Puget Sound Partnership’s Biennial Science**
502 **Work Plan.**

503

504 **((6.)) Noxious Weeds**

505 ~~((Left uncontrolled, n))~~Noxious weeds can significantly impact public and private land use in the County. Left
506 uncontrolled, noxious weeds will ultimately undermine many of the County’s environmental goals and
507 initiatives including: the Local Food Initiative, salmon habitat restoration projects, and the Land Conservation
508 Initiative. The State Noxious Weed Control Law (Chapter 17.10 Revised Code of Washington ~~((17.10))~~)
509 establishes all property owners’ responsibility for preventing and controlling the spread of noxious weeds.
510 Because plants grow without regard to property lines or political jurisdictions, everyone’s cooperation is needed
511 – city gardeners, government land agencies, foresters, and farmers all have a role to play. The key to successful
512 noxious weed control is effective engagement and participation of landowners and communities in the
513 stewardship of their lands. ~~((The law spells out these responsibilities and creates the government infrastructure~~
514 ~~needed to educate residents and implement regulatory processes.))~~

515
516
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526

E-115a King County shall ~~((exercise its authority under Revised Code of Washington 17.10 to))~~:
~~((4))~~ a. ~~((establish a))~~ Work with the King ((e))County ((n))oxious ((w))Weed ((e))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 ((C))county; and
c. Adopt regulations to ensure control of noxious weeds and weeds of concern as identified by the Noxious Weed Control Board.

527 ~~((H.))~~ Climate Change

528 Climate change is one of the paramount environmental and economic challenges for this generation. Human
529 caused sources of greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide and methane, are causing unprecedented
530 and severe changes in global and local climate systems. This is the consensus view of the world's leading
531 scientists, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.S. National Academy of
532 Sciences.

533
534 King County faces significant environmental and economic challenges stemming from climate change, including
535 stressed and rapidly changing ecosystems, costly impacts on public and private property, and increasing public
536 health risks related to wildfire smoke, extreme heat waves, and changes in infectious disease. The impacts of a
537 changing climate will be experienced differently by King County residents, influenced by factors such as income,
538 age, health, and location. These changes can act as a threat multiplier that creates complex challenges,
539 particularly for frontline communities affected by historical and current inequities who have limited resources to
540 adapt.

541
542 Effective and equitable climate action requires a significant commitment on the part of King County to reduce
543 greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for climate change impacts, and build sustainable and resilient frontline
544 communities.

545
546 King County's ((2015)) Strategic Climate Action Plan, ((which was adopted)) updated every five years and
547 approved by the King County Council ((through Motion 14449)), is King County's comprehensive legislative
548 and policy plan for equitable climate action. ((It provides the blueprint for county decision makers, employees,
549 and the general public to learn about the County's climate change commitments.)) The Strategic Climate Action
550 Plan outlines King County's priorities and commitments for climate action, integrating climate change and
551 climate equity into all areas of County operations and in the County's work with cities, partners, communities,
552 and residents. A subset of the policies and commitments from the Strategic Climate Action Plan are also

553 reflected in this section of the Comprehensive Plan. ((To learn more about the Strategic Climate Action Plan:
554 <http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate>.

555
556 Impacts from climate change have the potential to dramatically impact ecosystems, agriculture, economy,
557 biodiversity, and public health and safety in myriad and interrelated ways. Impacts of a changing climate will be
558 experienced differently by King County residents, influenced by factors such as income, age, health, and
559 location. However, by working collaboratively to develop and implement strategies to prevent, respond to, and
560 prepare for climate change, King County has many opportunities to address broader inequities. Sustaining
561 quality of life and the environment requires a significant commitment on the part of King County to both
562 reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the primary driver of human caused climate change, and preparing for
563 climate change impacts in an ever-changing and increasingly dynamic landscape.))

564
565 **E-200 The 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan, or successor plans, should guide the planning,**
566 **development, and implementation of greenhouse gas reduction goals and actions,**
567 **equitable and community-driven climate solutions, and policies and actions that reduce**
568 **climate change vulnerabilities and increase climate resilience.**

569
570 **((Climate Change Science and Impacts**

571 Human caused sources of greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide and methane, are causing
572 unprecedented and severe changes in global and local climate systems. This is the consensus view of the world's
573 leading scientists, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the US National Academy of
574 Sciences.

575
576 In King County, decreasing mountain snowpack, increasing flooding, and rising sea levels are evidence that the
577 climate system is changing. While many factors affect the climate system and natural environment, scientists
578 have attributed many changes in significant part to recent increases in atmospheric greenhouse gas
579 concentrations. The County faces significant environmental and economic challenges stemming from climate
580 change, including stressed and rapidly changing ecosystems, costly impacts on public and private property, and
581 new public health risks resulting from worsening air and water quality (e.g., toxic algal blooms), additional heat
582 related impacts, and increased exposure to infectious disease.))

583
584 **King County Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

585 Climate change over the last century has been caused primarily ((from)) by increasing greenhouse gas emissions
586 such as methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. Human activities, such as the use of fossil fuels and land
587 conversion, are the main cause of these emissions. King County is committed to ((reduce the)) reducing
588 greenhouse gas emissions of its operations and ((support)) to supporting broader efforts to reduce countywide
589 emissions.

590

591 **((Government Operations**

592 ~~King County government operations create greenhouse gas emissions.))~~ Major ~~((government))~~ sources of
593 greenhouse gas emissions from government operations are associated with combustion of diesel and gasoline for
594 transit buses and fleet vehicles, methane from landfills, electricity usage, and fossil fuel in buildings and for
595 wastewater treatment, and emissions from the production, use, and disposal of government purchased goods and
596 services.

597

598 ~~((King County is making progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from county operations, with emissions
599 from energy related non-transit sources decreasing 14% between 2007 and 2014. During this time emissions
600 directly associated with vehicles and transit service increased by six percent, primarily due to increased use of
601 biodiesel and increased transit service.~~

602

603 **Countywide**

604 ~~Within King County's geography))~~ At the countywide community scale, the largest contributors to greenhouse
605 gas emissions are ((primarily caused by)) fossil fuel use ((gasoline and diesel) for transportation and to a lesser
606 but significant extent to heat buildings (natural gas and heating oil)) for building energy and transportation,
607 followed to a lesser extent by land use, refrigerants, waste, and wastewater. In King County, overall greenhouse
608 gas emissions increased by 11 percent from 2007 to 2019; however, per capita emissions declined by seven
609 percent during the same time period. The most substantial drivers for an increase in emissions were population
610 growth, higher greenhouse gas emissions, electricity, and increased aviation emissions. The largest contributors
611 to decreasing emissions have been increased efficiency of passenger vehicles (decreased emissions per mile) and
612 more efficient electricity use by households and commercial entities. Additional significant emissions are
613 associated with consumption in King County, but these sources do not necessarily occur within its geographic
614 borders. These emissions are created through the production, transport, sale, use, and disposal of ~~((imported))~~
615 purchased goods and services ((such as food and electronics)).

616

617 **((Preparing for Climate Change Impacts**

618 ~~Even if all human sources of greenhouse gas emissions ceased today, global and regional temperatures would~~
619 ~~continue to increase for several decades. Therefore, King County must be proactive in preparing for local~~
620 ~~climate change impacts. For King County, this includes preparing for more frequent and severe flooding and~~
621 ~~droughts, developing recycled water sources, working with farm and forest owners to address climate change~~
622 ~~impacts, planning for effects of climate change on human health, taking steps to improve the resiliency of the~~
623 ~~natural and built environments, and ensuring that the County can continue to provide services such as transit,~~
624 ~~wastewater treatment, and flood protection.~~

625

626 **E-201 ————— King County should participate in and support appropriate local, regional and**
627 **national efforts and organizations focused on reducing greenhouse gas**
628 **emissions and preparing for climate change impacts.))**

629

630 **Status of King County Climate Change Efforts**

631 King County ~~((has a long record of))~~ is committed to innovation, leadership, and investment in reducing
632 greenhouse gas emissions, prioritizing climate equity, and preparing for the impacts of climate change.
633 Consideration of climate change impacts and opportunities to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
634 are deeply embedded throughout the work plans and capital investments of ~~((e))~~ County departments and lines of
635 business. ~~((Since 2010, the investments in energy efficiency and changes in operations have reduced building
636 energy use and costs by over \$3 million annually.~~

637
638 King County Metro has pioneered the use of hybrid bus technology ~~is on track to have an all hybrid or electric
639 bus fleet by 2018. As of 2015, the county is now producing renewable energy equivalent to 57% of its
640 government operational energy needs. However, to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and
641 ensure that the built and natural environment are resilient in the face of a changing climate, even bolder action
642 and stronger collaboration with cities, businesses, and county residents is required.)~~

643
644 The following ~~((sections of this section highlight and))~~ subsections include climate related policies, which are
645 consistent with key ~~((2015))~~ Strategic Climate Action Plan ~~((policies and commitments))~~ goals, strategies, and
646 priority actions.

647

648 **~~((A.))~~ Assessment**

649 King County has completed periodic inventories and assessments of greenhouse gas emissions associated with
650 government operations as well as emissions associated with all resident and business activity in the county since
651 2000. ~~These assessments have provided valuable data to inform actions that will reduce greenhouse gas
652 emissions as well as to monitor progress toward meeting emissions reduction targets.~~

653

- 654 **~~E-202~~ King County shall assess and publicly report on:**
- 655 **~~a. Its normalized and total energy usage and total greenhouse gas~~**
 - 656 **~~emissions associated with county operations;~~**
 - 657 **~~b. Countywide greenhouse gas emissions associated with resident,~~**
 - 658 **~~business, and other local government activities; and~~**
 - 659 **~~c. Countywide greenhouse gas inventories that quantify all direct local~~**
 - 660 **~~sources of greenhouse gas emissions as well as emissions associated~~**
 - 661 **~~with local consumption.~~**

- 662
- 663 **~~E-203~~ King County shall collaborate to set transparent standards to account for the net**
- 664 **~~energy and greenhouse gas emissions impacts of government actions such as~~**
 - 665 **~~constructing transportation infrastructure and providing services such as~~**
 - 666 **~~recycling and transit and shall assess and publically report these impacts as~~**
 - 667 **~~practicable.~~**

668

669 ~~E-204 King County shall collaborate with experts in the field of climate change,~~
670 ~~including scientists at the University of Washington’s Climate Impacts Group, to~~
671 ~~monitor, assess and publicly share information about the impacts of climate~~
672 ~~change in King County.)~~
673

674 **~~((B.)) Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions~~**

675 King County is ~~((leading by example in))~~ reducing operational sources of greenhouse gas emissions through
676 efforts such as:

- 677 • ~~((Green building and sustainable development practices that reduce emissions of capital facilities projects;~~
- 678 ~~• Purchasing and maintenance practices that reduce emissions associated with the production, use and~~
679 ~~disposal of goods and services;~~
- 680 ~~• Modifying operations of county buildings and facilities that reduce emissions and resource demand;~~
- 681 ~~• Purchasing and efficiently using alternative vehicles such as electric powered vanpools ((and hybrid)), cars,~~
682 ~~and buses;~~
- 683 ~~• Improving energy efficiency and producing renewable energy sources at King County’s wastewater~~
684 ~~treatment and solid waste disposal facilities; and~~
- 685 ~~• Protecting forested areas, encouraging, and supporting active stewardship, and undertaking tree planting~~
686 ~~and restoration projects that enhance biological carbon sequestration))~~
- 687 • Increasing the efficiency of County vehicle fleets and minimizing their greenhouse gas emissions;
- 688 • Reducing energy use in County facilities, making investments to reduce building fossil fuel use, and
689 producing more renewable energy;
- 690 • Building, maintaining, and operating County facilities consistent with the highest green building and
691 sustainable building practices
- 692 • Minimizing operational resource use, maximizing reuse and recycling, and choosing products and services
693 with low environmental and carbon impacts; and
- 694 • Managing and restoring County-owned parks, natural lands, and farmlands to maximize biological carbon
695 storage and increase climate resilience.

696
697 King County is also supporting emissions reductions at the broader countywide scale through ~~((sustainable land~~
698 ~~use policies, transportation infrastructure, and through the provision of important services such as recycling and~~
699 ~~transit, including actions and policies))~~ efforts such as:

- 700 • ~~((Land use designations and zoning that influence the pattern and density of development and the level~~
701 ~~of reliance on single occupancy vehicles;~~

**((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)) TBD**

- 702 • ~~Use of voluntary tools such as Transfer of Development Rights to reduce development density on Rural~~
703 ~~Area and Natural Resource Lands;~~

- 704 • ~~Building codes and facilities standards that can influence the types of building materials and future~~
705 ~~energy demands;~~

- 706 • ~~Promoting the use of transit and non-motorized travel modes to decrease vehicle miles traveled; and~~

- 707 • ~~Protecting Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands from further development through acquisition of fee~~
708 ~~title or conservation easements to redirect future growth to urban areas to reduce emissions related to~~
709 ~~transportation and new development))~~

- 710 • Reducing passenger car trips and vehicle emissions by sustaining and increasing transit services,
711 focusing development into urban areas and centers, supporting equitable pricing of vehicle usage, and
712 supporting clean fuels and electric vehicles;

- 713 • Reducing energy and fossil fuel use in the built environment and increasing the use of clean energy
714 supplies and technologies by partnering do develop efficiency programs and supporting converting oil,
715 natural gas, and propane-heated homes to clean sources;

- 716 • Reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated with new construction, additions,
717 retrofits, and remodels in all buildings in King County by working with partners to advance state green
718 building code amendments, updating building codes in unincorporated King County, and improving
719 commercial energy code;

- 720 • Achieving a circular economy, whereby waste is minimized through prevention, reuse, recycling, and
721 materials staying in use longer by spurring and supporting new recycled markets, implementing a
722 regional organics plan, prioritizing food waste reduction strategies, and recycling improvements at
723 County-owned transfer stations; and

- 724 • Protecting high-value forests and farmlands, expanding the total area of forest cover and actively farmed
725 lands, and restoring health, vitality, and resilience of forest and farmlands by implementing the Land
726 Conservation Initiative, Rural Forest Carbon Program, and ensuring that strategies to reduce emissions
727 and increase carbon sequestration are included in farm and forest stewardship plans.

728

729 King County is committed to actions and solutions that reduce emissions and prevent and repair harms to
730 frontline communities. To learn more about how the County is committed to advancing climate equity, see
731 additional details in the "Advancing Climate Equity" subsection of this section. Many actions that reduce
732 greenhouse gas emissions result in additional benefits, such as saving energy and fuel costs, improving health,
733 and minimizing other types of air and water pollution. For example, walkable, transit-oriented communities
734 have been shown to have significantly below average ((per capita)) greenhouse gas emissions while at the same
735 time saving residents money, supporting healthier lifestyles, and creating stronger communities.

736

((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)) TBD

737 In some cases, ((e))County actions are direct sources of greenhouse gas emissions, but when considered at a
738 broader scale have a net emissions reduction benefit. For example, ((providing public transportation results in
739 significant direct greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from combusting diesel. At the same time,)) the
740 greenhouse gas emissions avoided by providing public transit service ((offsets these direct operational emissions
741 by more than three times by decreasing)) from decreased driving, providing traffic congestion relief, and
742 supporting walkable, efficient land use are three times greater than direct emissions from operating public transit
743 service itself. As this example shows, there are sometimes complex considerations that need to be taken into
744 account in making decisions about greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies.

745
746 Policies related to King County efforts to reduce operational and countywide greenhouse gas emissions are
747 presented below. Policies related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation strategies for agriculture
748 and forestry can be found in Chapter 3((:)), Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Policies related to
749 reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from transit and fleet vehicles can be found in Chapter 8((:)),
750 Transportation. Policies related to water supply, use of recycled water, and energy can be found in Chapter
751 9((:)), Services, Facilities, and Utilities. Policies related to green building and sustainable development can be
752 found in Chapter 9((:)), Services, Facilities, and Utilities (as related to government operations), and Chapter
753 10((:)), Economic Development (as related to private development).

754

Government Operations

755 **((E-205)) E-201** King County shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ~~((all facets of))~~ its
756 operations and actions, including but limited to those associated with
757 construction and management of ((e))County-owned facilities, infrastructure
758 development, transportation, and environmental protection programs to achieve
759 the emissions reductions targets set in ((E-206)) E-202 and to work towards the
760 carbon neutral goal in F-215b.

761

762
763 **((E-206)) E-202** King County shall reduce total greenhouse gas emissions from government
764 operations, compared to a 2007 baseline by at least ((25%)) 50 percent by ((2020))
765 2025 and ((50%)) 80 percent by 2030.

766

767 **((E-206a)) E-203** King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks, including the
768 Wastewater Treatment Division, Solid Waste Division, Parks and Recreation
769 Division, and Water and Land Resource Division, ((shall)) should achieve, at a
770 minimum, net carbon neutrality ((for its operations by 2017)) on an annual basis.

771

772 **((E-206b)) E-204** King County's Wastewater Treatment Division and Solid Waste Division ~~((shall))~~
773 should each independently achieve carbon-neutral operations by 2025.

774

775 **((E-207)) E-205** King County shall ~~((develop and))~~ continue to implement an operational "social
776 cost of carbon." The social cost of carbon should be used in life-cycle

777 assessments and decision making related to County operations, including for
778 purchase of vehicles, buses and fuels, for facility construction and resource
779 efficiency projects, and for related technology investments. ~~((King County
780 should also pursue using the cost of carbon to inform broader County planning
781 and decision making.))~~

782
783 ~~((E-208) King County shall maximize the creation of resources from waste products from
784 county operations such as gases produced by wastewater treatment and solid
785 waste disposal in a manner that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and
786 produces renewable energy.))~~

787
788 ~~((E-209)) E-207 King County ((will)) shall continue to evaluate its own maintenance and
789 operations practices, including procurement, for opportunities to reduce its own
790 emissions or emissions produced in the manufacturing of products.~~

791 **Countywide**

792
793 ~~((In 2014,)) King County and 39 King County cities ((came together to develop)) have shared, countywide
794 greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. ~~((In July 2014, targets were unanimously))~~ These targets are
795 adopted in the Countywide Planning Policies by the King County Growth Management Planning Council. The
796 formal adoption of a shared, community scale greenhouse gas emissions target by local governments is relatively
797 unusual in the U.S., and provides a strong foundation and guidepost for community-scale efforts to reduce
798 greenhouse gas emissions. The shared targets are near- and long-term, ambitious and achievable, and consistent
799 with what climate science says needs to be done ~~((in order))~~ to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. ~~((The~~
800 adopted targets are significantly more ambitious than Washington State’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction
801 requirements (Revised Code of Washington 47.01.440).))~~

802
803 ~~((E-210)) E-209 King County shall ~~((collaborate)),~~ independently and in collaboration with ((its))
804 cities((-)) and other partners, ((to reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas
805 emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80%
806 by 2050)) adopt and implement policies and programs to achieve a target of
807 reducing countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007
808 baseline, by 50 percent by 2030, 75 percent by 2040, and 95 percent, including
809 net-zero emissions through carbon sequestration and other strategies, by 2050.
810 King County shall evaluate and update these targets over time in consideration
811 of the latest international climate science and statewide targets aiming to limit
812 the most severe impacts of climate change and keep global warming under 1.5
813 degrees Celsius.~~

814
815 ~~((E-212) King County will work with its cities and other partners to establish a greenhouse
816 gas emissions inventory and measurement framework for use by all King County~~

817 ~~jurisdictions to efficiently and effectively measure progress toward countywide~~
818 ~~targets.))~~

819
820 Renewable energy technology, such as solar power, has the potential for replacing a significant share of King
821 County's energy portfolio. Renewable energy technologies that have the benefit of zero or very low levels of
822 greenhouse gas emissions should be encouraged. Renewable energy production should consider other potential
823 benefits and uses of renewable available resources; for example, King County should prioritize the use of
824 potentially wasted edible food to reduce hunger over its use for renewable energy. The renewable energy
825 technology industry is evolving, and no single technology is guaranteed to fit all the county's alternative energy
826 needs. King County should provide flexibility in its policies and regulations to adapt to the changing
827 circumstances.

828
829 ~~((E-213))~~ E-210 King County should ensure that its land use policies, development and building
830 regulations, technical assistance programs, and incentive programs support and
831 encourage the use of viable renewable energy, energy efficiency, and fossil fuel
832 reduction and transition technologies that ((have)) produce zero or minimal
833 greenhouse gas emissions, while considering equity and racial and social justice
834 siting impacts.

835
836 E-211 King County shall develop and implement building and energy codes that reduce
837 energy use and phase out fossil fuel use in the built environment within King
838 County's jurisdiction.

839
840 E-212 King County shall support:
841 a. Stronger Washington State building and energy codes and policies that
842 reduce energy use, reduce the embodied carbon of materials, phase out
843 fossil fuel use, and support deployment of electric vehicles and clean
844 energy; and
845 b. Increased state resources for local code development and
846 implementation.

847
848 E-213 King County should work with other local building officials and staff, as well as
849 community partners and the building industry, to effectively implement energy
850 and building codes that reduce energy use and embodied carbon of materials
851 and phase out fossil fuel use.

852
853 E-214 King County shall develop and implement countywide community-scale built
854 environment programs and policies that:
855 a. Reduce energy use, increase the use of renewable energy, and phase
856 out the use of fossil fuels, such as: energy loan, residential efficiency

857 retrofits; and fossil fuel reduction and transition incentives and
858 programs; and
859 b. Prioritize access and affordability of solutions for frontline communities,
860 especially for low-income, senior, and renter households.

861
862 **((E-244)) E-215** King County, through its Comprehensive Plan policies and development
863 regulations, should promote healthy community designs that enable ~~((walking,~~
864 ~~bicycling,))~~ **active transportation** and public transit use, thereby reducing
865 greenhouse gas emissions and regional air pollution.

866 **((New Development**

867
868 Nearly every new development results in new sources of greenhouse house gas emissions. These include
869 ~~emissions from construction and land development, emissions created from producing and transporting building~~
870 ~~materials, energy used in operating buildings and structures, and transportation associated with the development.~~
871 Although the emissions associated with construction occur today, the emissions associated with energy and
872 transportation will occur over the life of the development, which may extend for 50 years or more. This means
873 that decisions made today about development will have an effect on climate change far into the future.

874
875 ~~**E-215** King County shall evaluate proposed actions subject to the State Environmental~~
876 ~~**Policy Act for their greenhouse gas emissions. King County may exercise its**~~
877 ~~**substantive authority under the State Environmental Policy Act to condition or**~~
878 ~~**deny proposed actions in order to mitigate associated individual or cumulative**~~
879 ~~**impacts to global warming. In exercising its authority under this policy, King**~~
880 ~~**County should consider project types that are presumed to be not significant in**~~
881 ~~**generating greenhouse gas emissions and do not require review for their**~~
882 ~~**greenhouse gas emissions. (Any standards related to consideration of**~~
883 ~~**greenhouse gas emissions through the State Environmental Policy Act process**~~
884 ~~**shall be subject to Council review and adoption by ordinance.))**~~

885
886 **Assessment**

887 King County has completed periodic inventories and assessments of greenhouse gas emissions associated with
888 government operations, as well as emissions associated with all resident and business activity in the county since
889 2000. These assessments have provided valuable data to inform actions that will reduce greenhouse gas
890 emissions, as well as to monitor progress toward meeting emissions reduction targets.

891
892 **((E-202)) E-216** King County shall ~~((assess and publicly report on:~~
893 ~~a. Its normalized and total energy usage and total greenhouse gas~~
894 ~~emissions associated with county operations;~~
895 ~~b. Countywide greenhouse gas emissions associated with resident,~~
896 ~~business, and other local government activities; and~~

- 897 ~~c. Countywide greenhouse gas inventories that quantify all direct local~~
- 898 ~~sources of greenhouse gas emissions as well as emissions associated~~
- 899 ~~with local consumption));~~
- 900 ~~a. Assess and publicly report on countywide greenhouse gas emissions~~
- 901 ~~associated with resident, business, and local government buildings,~~
- 902 ~~vehicles, and solid waste at least every two years;~~
- 903 ~~b. Update its comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions inventory that~~
- 904 ~~quantifies all direct local sources of greenhouse gas emissions and~~
- 905 ~~emissions associated with local consumption at least every five years;~~
- 906 ~~and~~
- 907 ~~c. Develop city-specific emissions inventories and data, in partnership with~~
- 908 ~~cities.~~

909

910 ~~((E-203)) E-217 King County ((shall collaborate to set transparent standards to account for the~~

911 ~~net energy and greenhouse gas emissions impacts of government actions such~~

912 ~~as constructing transportation infrastructure and providing services such as~~

913 ~~recycling and transit and shall)) should assess and ((publically)) publicly report~~

914 ~~on ((these impacts as practicable)) the net energy and net greenhouse gas~~

915 ~~impacts of the County providing services, such as recycling and public transit,~~

916 ~~and constructing infrastructure, using best practice accounting standards.~~

917

918

919 Advancing Climate Equity

920 King County recognizes that climate change can have disproportionate impacts on frontline communities due to

921 existing and historic racial, social, environmental, and economic inequities. These inequities create barriers to

922 frontline community participation in decision-making processes. Climate equity ensures the just distribution of

923 climate protection efforts and alleviates the unequal burdens created by climate change through an equitable

924 division of accountability, benefits, and opportunities. Addressing climate change and social inequities

925 simultaneously requires bold action to prioritize equity, develop co-benefit solutions (solutions for people and for

926 climate stabilization) in partnership with frontline communities, and to address climate change as a threat

927 multiplier to other social issues, including systemic racism.

928

929 As King County transitions away from an extractive fossil fuel-based economy toward a more resilient,

930 equitable, and sustainable one, it is critical that the County’s solutions benefit frontline communities and avoid

931 leaving people behind. This approach requires addressing the root causes of climate vulnerability which often

932 overlap and compound impacts. By intentionally investing in and partnering with frontline communities, the

933 County can center and integrate community-driven climate solutions. The County is addressing climate equity

934 by working with frontline communities to:

- 935 • Plan for and invest in long-term partnerships that build capacity in frontline communities; Black,

- 936 Indigenous, and other People of Color populations; and among youth:
- 937 • Build the knowledge base of community leaders and community-based organizations regarding
- 938 climate change impacts on frontline communities;
- 939 • Invest in and supporting green jobs pathways that advance sustainability and living wage career
- 940 opportunities for frontline communities;
- 941 • Partner with and investing in frontline communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from
- 942 emergency events and climate-related health impacts;
- 943 • Invest in strengthening local, culturally relevant food systems and food security for populations at
- 944 risk of food insecurity;
- 945 • Support, align, and elevate actions and strategies advancing affordable and climate-resilient
- 946 housing in frontline communities, including anti-displacement strategies;
- 947 • Support and invest in reducing energy burden, and increasing access to and resources for
- 948 transitioning to sustainable and energy efficient systems; and
- 949 • Prioritize community-driven mobility development and climate resilient transit infrastructure.

950

951 Climate equity is anchored within the Environment chapter. As an intersectional issue, it is also reflected across

952 other parts of the Comprehensive Plan, including: the Guiding Principles in Chapter 1, Regional Growth

953 Management Planning; Chapter 3, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands; Chapter 4, Housing and Human

954 Services; Chapter 7, Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Resources; Chapter 8, Transportation; and Chapter 10,

955 Economic Development.

956

957 **E-218 King County shall prioritize and support ongoing partnerships with frontline**

958 **communities in co-development and implementation of County climate planning,**

959 **policies, and programs.**

960

961 **E-219 King County shall invest in and enable culturally and linguistically contextualized**

962 **climate change education that builds frontline communities' capacity to engage**

963 **on climate change impacts and solutions.**

964

965 **E-220 King County shall invest in climate solutions that result in equitable outcomes**

966 **that benefit frontline communities by:**

967 **a. Centering and funding access and pathways to living wage green jobs**

968 **and careers for frontline communities, including youth and Black,**

969 **Indigenous, and other People of Color populations;**

970 **b. Providing frontline communities with resources and support to respond**

971 **to extreme weather events and public health emergencies through**

972 **culturally relevant strategies and avenues;**

- 973 c. Supporting a just food economy that increases affordability and access
- 974 to healthy foods;
- 975 d. Addressing housing insecurities intensified by climate change through
- 976 programs and resources expanding frontline community access to
- 977 climate-resilient housing and anti-displacement strategies;
- 978 e. Prioritizing an affordable transition to renewable energy infrastructure
- 979 and utility assistance; and
- 980 f. Expanding public transportation mobility access and climate-resilient
- 981 infrastructure for frontline communities in greatest need of public
- 982 transit.
- 983

984 **((C.)) Preparing for Climate Change Impacts**

985 Climate change impacts are here and now(~~((; in the last century, sea level in Seattle has risen by eight inches and~~
986 ~~average annual temperatures in the Pacific Northwest have increased 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit)). Average annual~~
987 ~~air temperature is increasing, heavy rain events are getting heavier, the region is experiencing a long-term decline~~
988 ~~in snow and ice in the Cascades and Olympic mountains, sea level is rising, and ocean chemistry is changing in~~
989 ~~ways that are harmful to local marine species like shellfish and salmon. These changes can have significant~~
990 ~~consequences. More than 30 deaths in King County were attributable to a record-setting June 2021 heat wave~~
991 ~~that saw temperatures reach 108 degrees Fahrenheit or higher in the County. While greenhouse gas emissions~~
992 ~~must be reduced to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, impacts are projected through the end of the~~
993 ~~century or longer, even if global and local greenhouse gas emissions are drastically cut. To ensure that County~~
994 ~~residents are prepared for and able to effectively adapt to climate change impacts, ((F))the County is integrating~~
995 climate change preparedness into:

- 996 • Operations and maintenance of infrastructure, programs, and natural resources;
- 997 • Provision of public services;
- 998 • Policies and regulation; and
- 999 • Partnerships with other local governments, community groups and businesses.

1000

1001 **Overarching Climate Change Preparedness Goals**

1002 ~~((E-215a) King County will collaborate with local cities, residents, and other partners to~~
1003 ~~prepare for the effects of climate change on the environment, human health,~~
1004 ~~public safety, and the economy.))~~

1005

1006 **E-221 King County shall take actions that equitably reduce climate change**
1007 **vulnerabilities and increase the resilience of King County residents,**
1008 **communities, natural systems, and the built environment by:**

- 1009 a. Integrating and accounting for climate impacts in policies, plans, practices,
- 1010 and procedures, and implementing climate-resilient decisions;

- 1011 b. Investing in and using data and other technical information to inform
- 1012 climate preparedness work at King County;
- 1013 c. Prioritizing health and equity in climate preparedness actions and activities;
- 1014 d. Strengthening collaborations and partnerships to address countywide
- 1015 climate impacts and increase regional resilience; and
- 1016 e. Investing in public outreach, engagement, and technical assistance related
- 1017 to climate preparedness.

1018

1019 **Integrating Climate Preparedness**

1020 Effectively preparing for climate change requires accounting for climate impacts in the policies, plans, and

1021 practices that influence day-to-day decision-making at King County. It also requires understanding where more

1022 transformative changes may be needed to achieve climate-resilient outcomes. Finally, it requires evaluating the

1023 effectiveness of actions over time and implementing evidence-based decisions that reduce climate impacts and

1024 increase resilience. Preparing for climate change must become part of what the County does rather than an

1025 activity considered separate from other decision-making and implementation activities.

1026

1027 ~~((E-215b))~~ **E-222** King County ~~((will))~~ **shall** plan and prepare for the likely impacts of climate

1028 change on County-owned facilities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

1029

1030 ~~((E-215bb))~~ **E-223** King County ~~((should))~~ **shall develop and** implement regulations that **help**

1031 **mitigate and build ((resiliency)) resilience** to the anticipated impacts of climate

1032 change, based on best available information. Such impacts **could** include sea

1033 level rise, changes in rainfall patterns and flood volumes and frequencies,

1034 changes in average and extreme temperatures and weather, impacts to forests

1035 including increased wildfires, droughts ~~((and post-infiltrations)),~~ **disease, and**

1036 **insect attacks**. Methods could include mitigating greenhouse gas emissions,

1037 establishing sea level rise regulations, **managing existing and limiting new**

1038 **development in floodplains**, and/or strengthening forests ability to withstand

1039 impacts.

1040

1041 ~~((E-215bbb))~~ **~~King County shall assess the best available sea level rise projections two years~~**

1042 **~~prior to each eight year update, and shall incorporate the projections into the~~**

1043 **~~Comprehensive Plan where appropriate.~~**

1044

1045 ~~((E-219))~~ **E-224** King County shall integrate estimates of the magnitude and timing of climate

1046 change impacts into capital project planning, siting, design, and construction

1047 and ~~((also))~~ implement infrastructure operation and maintenance programs that

1048 consider full life-cycle costs and climate change impacts in asset management.

1049

1050 ~~((E-216))~~ **E-225** King County shall integrate observed and projected climate change impacts,

1051 including severe weather, **extreme heat**, flooding, drought, **wildfire**, and

1052 landslides, into emergency management planning and programs.

1053

1054 ~~((E-223))~~ **E-226** King County shall consider projected impacts of climate change on habitat for
1055 salmon and other wildlife when developing long-range conservation plans and
1056 prioritizing habitat protection and restoration actions.

1057

1058 ~~((E-224))~~ **E-227** To foster resilience to climate change in ecosystems and species, King County
1059 should prioritize efforts such as: the restoration of floodplains to improve the
1060 resilience of major rivers to changing flow regimes and temperatures; the
1061 protection and restoration of riparian vegetation and mature and old-growth
1062 forests to reduce warming in cold water systems, of wetlands to reduce drought
1063 and flooding, and of connections between different habitats to maintain current
1064 seasonal migration; and facilitate migration opportunities for species whose
1065 ranges shift in latitude and altitude.

1066

Building Technical Capacity

1068 King County is committed to using best available science and technical information to inform its climate
1069 preparedness work. This includes drawing on existing climate change research and technical studies conducted
1070 by other agencies and organizations, as well as directly funding and/or conducting new studies and technical
1071 assessments. This also includes building internal staff capacity and expertise to apply current data and science to
1072 preparedness activities.

1073

1074 ~~((E-204))~~ **E-228** King County shall collaborate with experts in the field of climate change,
1075 including scientists at the University of Washington’s Climate Impacts Group, or
1076 successor groups, to monitor, assess, and publicly share information about the
1077 impacts of climate change in King County.

1078

1079 ~~((E-215e))~~ **E-229** King County should collaborate with the scientific community, state and federal
1080 agencies, and other jurisdictions to develop detailed, science-based estimates of
1081 the magnitude and timing of climate change, including impacts on air
1082 temperatures and heat waves, rainfall patterns and severe weather, forest health
1083 and wildfire, public health river flooding, sea level rise, biodiversity (including
1084 fish and wildlife), and ocean acidification ~~((in King County))~~.

1085

1086 ~~((E-215bbb))~~ **E-230** King County shall assess the best available sea level rise projections ~~((two~~
1087 ~~years))~~ prior to each ~~((eight))~~ 10-year update~~((,))~~ and shall ~~((incorporate the~~
1088 ~~projections into))~~ update relevant risk assessments and policies in the
1089 Comprehensive Plan, where appropriate.

1090

1091 ~~((E-220))~~ **E-231** King County shall periodically review and evaluate climate change impacts on
1092 natural resources that its resource programs are designed to protect, such as

1093 open space, forests, fisheries, productive farmland, and water quality and
1094 treatment, ~~((in order))~~ to assess and improve the efficacy of existing strategies
1095 and commitments.

1096

1097 **Prioritizing Health and Equity**

1098 Grounding King County’s climate preparedness work in climate and health equity, with a focus on vulnerable
1099 populations, will help ensure that County efforts help address disproportionate impacts.

1100

1101 ~~((E-248))~~ **E-232** King County shall ~~((apply its Equity Impact Review process))~~ use equity impact
1102 reviews to help prioritize investments in making infrastructure, natural resources,
1103 and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

1104

1105 ~~((E-225))~~ **E-233** Through land use and transportation actions, King County should work to reduce
1106 ~~((air quality and))~~ climate change ~~((related))~~ health inequities ~~((and))~~ related to
1107 the exposure of vulnerable populations to poor air quality and extreme weather
1108 events.

1109

1110 ~~((E-226))~~ **E-234** King County shall develop and incorporate into outreach efforts public health
1111 messages related to the health implications of climate change, particularly in
1112 urban communities, and the benefits of actions~~((, such as using alternative~~
1113 ~~transportation options that simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions,~~
1114 ~~improve air quality, and improve public health))~~ that can reduce climate impacts
1115 on health.

1116

1117 **Preparedness Coordination with Partners**

1118 Collaborations and partnerships are critical to preparing for the complex challenges of climate change.
1119 Strengthening collaborations and partnerships between the County and other jurisdictions and organizations
1120 provides opportunities to align preparedness activities, leverage limited resources, share lessons learned, stay
1121 informed of issues relevant to King County’s climate preparedness efforts, and develop equitable approaches
1122 to reducing impacts that match the scale of the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change.

1123

1124 ~~((E-245a))~~ **E-235** King County ~~((will))~~ shall collaborate with local cities, residents, and other
1125 partners to prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change on the
1126 environment, natural resources, human health, public safety, infrastructure, and
1127 the economy.

1128

1129 ~~((E-245c))~~ ~~King County should collaborate with the scientific community, state and federal~~
1130 ~~agencies, and other jurisdictions to develop detailed, science-based estimates of~~
1131 ~~the magnitude and timing of climate change impacts on air temperatures and~~
1132 ~~heat waves, rainfall patterns and severe weather, river flooding, sea level rise,~~

1133 fish and wildlife, and ocean acidification in King County.)

1134

1135 ~~((E-215d))~~ **E-236** King County ~~((should))~~ shall share information on climate change impacts and
1136 collaborate on approaches to improving ~~((resiliency of))~~ infrastructure resilience,
1137 disaster preparedness, and public engagement with ~~((local))~~ cities and other
1138 partners to ~~((make the best use of limited resources and))~~ more efficiently and
1139 effectively engage King County residents.

1140

1141 ~~((Public Services))~~ **Outreach, Engagement, and Education**

1142 Successfully preparing for and adapting to climate change requires building a shared understanding of how
1143 climate change is affecting King County, how the County is actively working to reduce climate impacts and
1144 build resilience, and what individuals and communities can do to reduce climate risks. This includes outreach
1145 and engagement work to King County staff, residents, and businesses.

1146

1147 **E-237** King County should implement and support equitable outreach, engagement, and
1148 technical assistance related to reducing climate risks. This should include
1149 providing information on climate change impacts in King County, local efforts to
1150 address climate change, and actions that individuals and communities can take
1151 to reduce climate risks.

1152

1153 ~~((E-216))~~ King County shall integrate observed and projected climate change impacts,
1154 including severe weather, flooding, drought, fire, and landslides, into emergency
1155 management planning and programs.

1156

1157 ~~E-217~~ King County will work with its cities and other partners to formulate and
1158 implement climate change adaptation strategies that address the impacts of
1159 climate change to public health and safety, the economy, public and private
1160 infrastructure, water resources, and habitat.

1161

1162 ~~E-218~~ King County shall apply its Equity Impact Review process to help prioritize
1163 investments in making infrastructure, natural resources, and communities more
1164 resilient to the impacts of climate change.

1165

1166 **County Infrastructure and Operations**

1167 ~~E-219~~ King County shall integrate estimates of the magnitude and timing of climate
1168 change impacts into capital project planning, siting, design, and construction
1169 and also implement infrastructure operation and maintenance programs that
1170 consider full life-cycle costs and climate change impacts in asset management.

1171

1172 **Natural Environment**

1173 ~~E-220~~ ~~King County shall periodically review and evaluate climate change impacts on~~
1174 ~~natural resources that its resource programs are designed to protect, such as~~
1175 ~~open space, forests, fisheries, productive farmland, and water quality and~~
1176 ~~treatment, in order to assess and improve the efficacy of existing strategies and~~
1177 ~~commitments.~~

1179 ~~E-222~~ ~~King County should collaborate with climate scientists in order to increase~~
1180 ~~knowledge of current and projected climate change impacts to biodiversity.~~

1182 ~~E-223~~ ~~King County shall consider projected impacts of climate change on habitat for~~
1183 ~~salmon and other wildlife when developing long-range conservation plans and~~
1184 ~~prioritizing habitat protection and restoration actions.~~

1186 ~~E-224~~ ~~To foster resilience to climate change in ecosystems and species, King County~~
1187 ~~should prioritize efforts such as: the restoration of floodplains to improve the~~
1188 ~~resilience of major rivers to changing flow regimes and temperatures; the~~
1189 ~~protection and restoration of riparian vegetation to reduce warming in cold water~~
1190 ~~systems, of wetlands to reduce drought and flooding, and of connections~~
1191 ~~between different habitats to maintain current seasonal migration; and facilitate~~
1192 ~~migration opportunities for species whose ranges shift in latitude and altitude.~~

1194 **Public Health**

1195 ~~Vulnerable populations are often defined as groups whose unique needs may not be fully integrated into planning~~
1196 ~~for disaster response. These populations include, but are not limited to, those who are physically or mentally~~
1197 ~~disabled, blind, deaf, hard of hearing, cognitively impaired, or mobility challenged. Also included in this group~~
1198 ~~are those who are non-English (or not fluent) speakers, geographically or culturally isolated, medically or~~
1199 ~~chemically dependent, homeless, frail elderly and children. Public Health—Seattle & King County has~~
1200 ~~established a Vulnerable Population Action Team (The Community Resilience + Equity Program) to address the~~
1201 ~~needs of this population.~~

1203 ~~E-225~~ ~~Through land use and transportation actions, King County should work to reduce~~
1204 ~~air quality and climate change related health inequities and the exposure of~~
1205 ~~vulnerable populations to poor air quality and extreme weather events.~~

1207 ~~E-226~~ ~~King County shall develop and incorporate into outreach efforts public health~~
1208 ~~messages related to the health implications of climate change, particularly in~~
1209 ~~urban communities, and the benefits of actions, such as using alternative~~
1210 ~~transportation options that simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions,~~
1211 ~~improve air quality, and improve public health.))~~

1212

1213 **~~((D-))~~ Collaboration with Others**

1214 King County recognizes that ~~((the))~~ climate change ~~((challenge))~~ is worldwide in its scope, ~~((and that))~~ with far
1215 reaching consequences to the environment and to ~~((humankind's))~~ quality of life ~~((may result if this issue is not~~
1216 ~~addressed effectively)).~~ ~~((King))~~ While the County's actions are important ~~((contributors to addressing this issue;~~
1217 ~~however, its))~~ contributions, the global nature ~~((will))~~ requires cooperation across local, regional, state and
1218 international boundaries. King County can play important roles in collaborating with others ~~((on solutions,~~
1219 ~~especially))~~ through community outreach, education, advocacy, monitoring, and information sharing with other
1220 ~~((local))~~ governments and universities.

1221
1222 ~~((E-204))~~ **E-238** King County ~~((should))~~ shall participate in and support appropriate local, regional
1223 and national efforts and organizations focused on reducing greenhouse gas
1224 emissions, advancing climate equity, and preparing for climate change impacts.

1225
1226 ~~((E-227))~~ **E-239** King County shall support~~((s))~~ a comprehensive federal, regional and state
1227 science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other
1228 greenhouse gas emissions. A portion of revenue from these policies should
1229 support local greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts, such as funding for
1230 transit service, energy efficiency and fossil fuel reduction projects, and forest
1231 protection and restoration initiatives; efforts that advance climate equity and
1232 frontline community investments; and climate preparedness and resilience
1233 efforts. King County shall also support~~((s))~~ renewable energy standards for
1234 electricity production and vehicle efficiency performance standards.

1235
1236 ~~((E-228))~~ **E-240** King County ~~((should))~~ shall advocate for federal, regional and state initiatives
1237 and grant and loan programs that support local investments in projects and
1238 programs, such as community solar, fossil fuel reduction, ~~((and))~~ energy
1239 efficiency retrofits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, climate equity, and
1240 ~~((prepare))~~ preparedness strategies for climate change impacts.

1241
1242 ~~((E-229))~~ **E-241** King County shall work with ~~((the business community))~~ relevant industry sector
1243 partners to support efforts that reduce energy and fossil fuel use and
1244 greenhouse gas emissions, ~~((and to promote King County and the Puget Sound~~
1245 ~~region as a center for green manufacturing))~~ as well as promoting locally
1246 recognized high growth sectors identified in the Green Jobs Strategy, such as
1247 green manufacturing, construction, transportation, and professional services in
1248 King County and the Puget Sound. The ~~((e))~~County shall also work with
1249 community groups, consumers, and the retail sector to promote the consumption
1250 ~~((of green-manufactured products))~~ and adoption of products and services
1251 supporting reduced energy use and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

1252

1253 ~~((H.))~~ **Air Quality**

1254 ~~((A.))~~ **Overview**

1255 ~~((Clean air, free of pollutants, is essential for the day-to-day quality of life and long-term health of county
1256 residents. King County has shown critical leadership in forging solutions to air pollution and will continue to do
1257 so well into the future.))~~

1258
1259 King County works ~~((for clean air))~~ to ensure clean and healthy air in partnership with the Puget Sound Clean
1260 Air Agency, which ~~((has))~~ serves as the lead air quality regulatory and monitoring ~~((responsibilities))~~ agency for
1261 the region in accordance with the Clean Air Act. ~~((Underlying drivers of the Clean Air Act include protecting
1262 public health, reducing property damage, and generally protecting the environment. Because air quality impacts
1263 water quality, a better understanding is needed regarding the input of pollutants via air transport from both local
1264 and distant sources.~~

1265
1266 ~~))~~The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is the lead agency responsible for monitoring and regulating ~~((six
1267 “))~~criteria air pollutants~~((“ using standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. The six “criteria” air
1268 pollutants are:~~

- 1269 ● ~~—~~ Fine particulate matter (dust, soot, smoke);
- 1270 ● ~~—~~ Ground level ozone (smog);
- 1271 ● ~~—~~ Carbon monoxide (gas primarily from vehicle exhaust);
- 1272 ● ~~—~~ Sulfur dioxide (gas primarily from industrial processes like smelters, paper mills, and power plants);
- 1273 ● ~~—~~ Oxides of nitrogen; and
- 1274 ● ~~—~~ Lead.)) (fine particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxide, oxides of nitrogen, and lead).

1275
1276 The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency also focuses on reducing harmful air toxics that come ~~((primarily))~~ from
1277 wood smoke and diesel burning~~((, as well as))~~ and greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane from
1278 landfills. ~~((The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is also responsible for regulating))~~ They also regulate air
1279 pollution emissions ~~((of air pollution))~~, such as asbestos and gasoline vapors, from businesses. King County
1280 coordinates with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on regional air quality data and on related community plans
1281 and projects.

1282
1283 Efforts to address climate change and improve air quality are strongly linked. For example, conversion from
1284 conventional to ~~((hybrid))~~ electric buses and fleet vehicles ~~((not only helps to))~~ reduces greenhouse gas
1285 emissions~~((, but also reduces))~~ and emissions of fine particulate(s) matter that can be harmful to public health.
1286 Similarly, in indoor settings, conversion from gas to electric stoves and furnaces reduces indoor and outdoor
1287 pollution. Additionally, a likely impact of climate change on air quality is an increase in fine particulate matter

1288 from more wildfires and wildfire smoke episodes that can impact regional air quality and increase ground-level
1289 ozone because higher temperatures enhance the conversion of precursors into ground-level ozone. Ozone and
1290 fine particulate matter can exacerbate health conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,
1291 and heart disease, and generally reduce respiratory system functioning. Because of these linkages, there is
1292 significant overlap ((with)) between this section and the climate change section of this chapter. ((Section II,
1293 subpart B of this chapter relates to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These strategies usually concurrently
1294 reduce other types of air pollution. Section II, subpart C of this chapter describes the linkages between climate
1295 change and health impacts, including policies related to minimizing health inequities among vulnerable
1296 populations more negatively impacted by climate change and air pollution.
1297

1298 ~~B-))~~ **Ozone, Fine Particulate and Toxics**

1299 Reducing criteria pollutants ((will)) continue to be a primary focus for King County. The ozone strategy
1300 identified by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for the central Puget Sound region focuses on reducing volatile
1301 organic compounds, which are precursors to ozone formation. Emission of volatile organic compounds results
1302 mostly from vehicles, as well as to a significant degree from household chemicals and paint evaporation.
1303

1304 In addition to ozone, fine particulate((s)) matter (dust, soot, and smoke) also represent a serious health threat.
1305 Health studies have shown a significant association between exposure to fine ((particles)) particulate matter and
1306 premature death from heart or lung disease. Fine ((particles)) particulate matter can aggravate heart and lung
1307 diseases and have been linked to effects such as: cardiovascular symptoms; cardiac arrhythmias; heart attacks;
1308 respiratory symptoms; asthma attacks; and bronchitis. These effects can result in increased hospital admissions,
1309 emergency room visits, absences from school or work, and restricted activity days. Individuals that may be
1310 particularly sensitive to fine ((particles)) particulate matter exposure include people with heart or lung disease,
1311 older adults, and children. Diesel emissions are one of the county’s largest sources of fine particulate matter
1312 emissions. ((King County’s participation in the ultra-low sulfur diesel program, known as “Diesel Solutions,”
1313 has made tremendous strides in cleaning up King County Metro’s fine particulate emissions.)) Indoor burning
1314 and outdoor burning are a major source of fine particulate((s)) matter, especially during winter months.
1315

1316 Contributions of fine particulate matter from wildfire smoke are also a growing concern. Climate change is
1317 contributing to an increase in the frequency of large wildfires in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. As
1318 a result, King County is seeing more days in summer with degraded air quality. For example, in 2020, King
1319 County experienced 14 days of air quality unhealthy for sensitive groups to hazardous air quality from fires near
1320 Portland, Oregon. In 2022, King County experienced more than 30 days with moderate to very unhealthy air
1321 quality due to smoke from the Bolt Creek fire near Skykomish. Public Health has partnered with community-
1322 based organizations to develop outreach materials on wildfire smoke hazards, to distribute box fans and air filters
1323 for indoor air filtration, and to set up HEPA air filtration units for homeless service providers, small businesses,
1324 childcare providers, and schools.
1325

**((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)) TBD**

1326 As a large county with a mix of urban, Rural Area, and Natural Resource Lands uses, King County will
1327 continue to face risks from air ~~((toxics))~~ pollution that can be toxic to people, pets, and wildlife. Examples of
1328 ~~((air toxics))~~ toxins that may be present in air pollution include benzene, formaldehyde, mercury, and dioxins.
1329 The air quality impact of ~~((toxics))~~ these toxins cannot be evaluated in isolation. Their greatest health risk comes
1330 from their combined effect. ~~((National air toxics assessment data indicate that air toxics risks in the Puget Sound
1331 region are in the top five percent in the nation.))~~ The Environmental Protection Agency and its regulatory
1332 partners at the state and local level identify steps to reduce toxic air pollutants and provide important health
1333 protections~~((:))~~ by reducing toxic emissions from industrial sources; reducing emissions from vehicles and
1334 engines through stringent emission standards and cleaner burning gasoline; and addressing indoor air pollution
1335 though voluntary programs.

1336
1337 Local air monitoring data done by the Washington State Department of Ecology indicates that diesel exhaust
1338 and wood smoke are key contributors to ~~((toxics))~~ air pollution toxins.

1339
1340 ~~((In 2002, King County Metro became the first transit agency in the United States to test articulated hybrid-diesel
1341 electric buses. King County Metro currently owns 214 articulated hybrid buses, the largest such fleet in the
1342 nation. A National Renewable Energy Laboratory study found articulated hybrids provide a 30% reduction in
1343 greenhouse gases and are 40% more reliable than diesel-fueled articulated buses.))~~ The U.S. Environmental
1344 Protection Agency has adopted increasingly stringent air pollution standards for heavy-duty vehicles, which has
1345 significantly reduced air pollution. In 2020, Metro retired the last of its diesel-only fleet vehicles; the entire bus
1346 fleet is now either diesel electric hybrid or zero-emission. Metro has continued its efforts to reduce air pollution
1347 and greenhouse gas emissions and has committed to transitioning to a fully zero emission bus fleet by 2035. As
1348 of 2023, Metro operates a fleet of more than 1,300 buses, comprised of approximately 1,145 diesel-electric
1349 hybrids, 174 zero emission trolleys, and 45 zero emission battery electric buses.

1350
1351 ~~((Wood smoke is a leading contributor to air toxics. King County will examine proposals to curtail the impacts
1352 of woodstove burning and land-clearing practices in rural parts of the county.))~~

1353
1354 The focus of King County air quality improvement efforts is to engage in projects and changed practices ~~((to))~~
1355 that reduce county emissions, reduce the impacts of poor air quality on health (particularly for frontline
1356 communities), and promote policies that incorporate consideration of air quality impacts. Motorized vehicle and
1357 other fuel burning engine-related emissions are the primary source of ozone, fine particulate matter, ~~((toxics))~~
1358 toxins, and greenhouse gas emissions in King County and therefore should be a primary focus for emissions
1359 reduction.

1360
1361 **E-301 King County should support initiatives that reduce air pollution emissions due to**
1362 **indoor and outdoor wood burning consistent with the actions of Puget Sound**
1363 **Clean Air Agency to control this source of ~~((public health threat))~~ health impacts.**

1364

1365 **E-302** King County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to actively develop partnerships with the
1366 Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, local jurisdictions, the state, and public, private,
1367 and ~~((not-for-profit))~~ nonprofit groups to promote programs, ~~((and))~~ policies, and
1368 code changes that reduce emissions and health impacts of ozone, wildfire
1369 smoke, fine particulates, toxics, and greenhouse gases, particularly for those
1370 populations already experiencing health disparities linked to air quality.

1371
1372 **E-303** King County should encourage the use of methods to improve indoor air quality
1373 and reduce smoke infiltration into indoor environments during wildfire smoke
1374 events, particularly for populations already experiencing health disparities, such
1375 as air filtration technologies and other mechanisms that reduce the level of
1376 wildfire smoke that can make its way into indoor environments.

1377
1378 ((More detailed policies related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality can be found in
1379 Section II of this chapter, Chapter 8: Transportation, and Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities.))

1380

1381 ~~((IV.))~~ **Land and Water Resources**

1382 ~~((A.))~~ **Conserving King County's Biodiversity**

1383 It is King County's goal to conserve fish and wildlife resources in the county and to maintain countywide
1384 biodiversity. This goal may be achieved through implementation of several broad policy directions that form an
1385 integrated vision for the future. Each of the pieces is necessary for the whole to be successful. The policy
1386 objectives are to: (1) initiate multi-species, biodiversity management approaches, (2) integrate biodiversity
1387 conservation goals and climate change planning into new and existing developments and habitat restoration
1388 programs, (3) identify and protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, (4) connect the fish and wildlife
1389 habitat conservation areas and other important conservation areas and protected lands through a habitat network
1390 system, (5) include working farmland and forestland within the larger conservation landscape, and (6) provide
1391 education and incentive opportunities to engage residents. ~~((Incentives can include, but are not limited to, tax
1392 incentives, regulatory flexibility (e.g., alternatives to fixed-width buffers), streamlined permit processing, reduced
1393 permit fees, and free or low-cost technical assistance.))~~ Conservation of biodiversity is necessary if benefits
1394 including important ecosystem services such as clean water, natural flood control, agricultural and timber
1395 production, climate ~~((regulation))~~ change adaptation, and pollination currently enjoyed and relied upon by
1396 residents of the county are to be available for future generations.

1397

1398 ~~((1.))~~ **Biodiversity**

1399 Because of its size, topography, and geology, the diversity of landscapes and habitats in King County is
1400 dramatic. From the Cascade Mountains to Puget Sound, alpine areas to lowland bogs, King County possesses
1401 an astonishing array of habitats and species. Approximately 220 species of breeding and non-breeding birds are

((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)) TBD

1402 usually seen on an annual basis in King County. Based on an analysis by the State of Washington, 69 species of
1403 mammals, 12 species of amphibians, and 8 species of reptiles are thought to be breeding in the county. About 50
1404 species of native fish (and 20 species of introduced fish) are found in the freshwater streams, rivers, ponds, and
1405 lakes of King County. In the county’s marine environment, over 200 species of fish, some 500 species of
1406 invertebrate animals, and eight species of marine mammals can be found. A total of 1,249 (383 introduced)
1407 species of vascular plants have been identified in the county. The diversity of geography combined with King
1408 County’s history of land use has shaped the biodiversity of the past and present and will continue affecting it into
1409 the future.

1410
1411 King County defines biodiversity as the variety of living organisms considered at all levels, from genetic diversity
1412 through species, to higher taxonomic levels, including the variety of habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in
1413 which the species are found. ~~((The Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy provides another working~~
1414 ~~definition.)) Biodiversity is the full range of life in all its forms, including the habitats in which ~~((they))~~ species
1415 live, the ways species interact with each other and their environment, and the natural processes (such as
1416 flooding) that support those interactions.~~

1417
1418 The biggest threats to biodiversity in King County visible today are climate change and habitat loss and
1419 fragmentation from development ~~((, invasive plant and animal species, and climate change)).~~

1420
1421 **E-401 King County shall strive to conserve the native diversity of species and habitats**
1422 **in the county.**

1423
1424 **E-402 In the Urban Growth Area, King County shall strive to maintain a quality**
1425 **environment that includes fish and wildlife habitats that support the greatest**
1426 **diversity of native species consistent with Growth Management Act-mandated**
1427 **population density objectives. In areas outside the Urban Growth Area, the**
1428 **~~((e))~~County should strive to maintain, protect, and recover ecological processes,**
1429 **native landscapes, ecosystems, and habitats that can support viable populations**
1430 **of native species. This should be accomplished through coordinated**
1431 **conservation planning and collaborative implementation.**

1432
1433 **E-403 King County should develop a biodiversity conservation framework and**
1434 **conservation strategy to achieve the goals of maintaining and recovering native**
1435 **biodiversity. ~~((This framework should be coordinated with the Washington~~**
1436 **~~Biodiversity Conservation Strategy where applicable.)) King County should~~**
1437 **collaborate with other governments and private and nonprofit organizations on**
1438 **the creation and implementation of this strategy.**

1439
1440 ~~**((E-404 King County should collaborate with other governments and private and**~~
1441 ~~**non-profit organizations to establish a bioinventory, an assessment and**~~

1442 ~~monitoring program, and a database of species currently using King County to~~
1443 ~~provide baseline and continuing information on wildlife population trends in the~~
1444 ~~county.))~~

1445

1446 ~~**((2.)) Climate Change and Biodiversity**~~

1447 ~~The effects of climate change on native biodiversity in the Pacific Northwest are likely to be serious, but as yet~~
1448 ~~are largely unpredictable. In King County, some effects already are apparent as average temperatures over the~~
1449 ~~last decade have increased slowly but steadily, especially in winter. For many native species, e))Climate change~~
1450 ~~((will present)) brings added stresses ((to)) for many native species and ecosystems ((and populations)), including~~
1451 ~~changes in distribution and availability of food, cover, and breeding habitat. Changes in temperature can alter~~
1452 ~~productivity and growth rates or cause direct mortality, particularly for salmon, and trigger invasions of~~
1453 ~~non-native species. The range and seasonal presence of some species will shift, and ((it is likely that)) the timing~~
1454 ~~of when some species are in certain habitats won't match ((with)) the availability of their food sources. Some~~
1455 ~~species will go extinct locally, and new species will move into the area. Finally, changing lake and ocean~~
1456 ~~temperatures may have devastating impacts on the base of food web.~~

1457

1458 ~~The effects of climate change are ((only)) beginning to be observed and understood in the county and ((are~~
1459 ~~presumed to)) will increase over time. In the face of climate change, biodiversity conservation may be of critical~~
1460 ~~importance for buffering the effects of rising temperatures on regional ecosystems, damping the rates of~~
1461 ~~ecological change, and reducing the potential for sudden, extreme changes in the environment.~~

1462

1463 **E-405 King County should evaluate a range of projected future climate scenarios based**
1464 **on best available science to help ensure that biodiversity conservation efforts are**
1465 **able to meet their objectives in a changing climate.**

1466

1467 ~~**((3.)) Biodiversity Conservation Approaches**~~

1468 ~~This section provides guidance for biodiversity management of the county's natural resources. The following~~
1469 ~~concepts and principles are based on current approaches to conservation biology, restoration ecology, and~~
1470 ~~climate science ((combined with input from the new Washington State Climate Change Response Strategy)).~~

1471

1472 ~~**((a.)) Landscape Context**~~

1473 ~~Natural resource protection occurs within an ecological context. Environmental management should consider~~
1474 ~~not only the immediate site but also the spatial and temporal context that surrounds it. In terms of spatial~~
1475 ~~context, different activities will require consideration of different scales—from small sub-basins of a few square~~
1476 ~~miles to watersheds and ecosystems that contain many hundreds or thousands of square miles. For example,~~
1477 ~~watershed boundaries are useful ways to define ecological planning units for resource protection of aquatic~~
1478 ~~systems whereas large-scale vegetation communities may be more useful for terrestrial systems.~~

1479

1480 In terms of temporal contexts, habitat conditions and populations can fluctuate over long time periods. It may
1481 take decades to see the results of habitat restoration projects and other environmental management actions on
1482 populations, and in the interim climate change and possibly major events such as flooding will also impact the
1483 trajectory of restoration actions.

1484
1485 There is no single scale appropriate for all planning and management of conservation activities. Management
1486 within the context of a landscape helps to ensure the actions in one area will not be undone or rendered
1487 unsustainable by conditions in the surrounding watershed or ecoregion. Conservation efforts designed to protect
1488 only one species could have an unintended, detrimental effect on others. Ecological communities consist of
1489 multiple species often that interact in the same geographical area.

1490

1491 **E-406 King County’s conservation efforts should be integrated across multiple**
1492 **landscape scales, species, and ecological communities.**

1493

1494 **E-407 Distribution, spatial structure, and diversity of native wildlife and plant**
1495 **populations should be taken into account when planning restoration activities,**
1496 **acquiring land, and designing, planning, and managing parks.**

1497

1498 **E-408 King County should carry out conservation planning efforts in close**
1499 **collaboration with other local governments, Indian tribes, state and federal**
1500 **governments, land((-)owners, community groups, and other conservation**
1501 **planning ((stakeholders)) partners.**

1502

1503 (~~“Ecoregions” are land areas that contain a geographically unique set of species, communities, and~~
1504 ~~environmental conditions. Washington is a highly diverse state, with portions of nine ecoregions located within~~
1505 ~~its boundaries. Three ecoregions cover parts of King County: the Puget Lowland Ecoregion in the western half~~
1506 ~~of the county, the North Cascades Ecoregion in the northeastern and east central portion, and the Cascades~~
1507 ~~Ecoregion in the southeastern portion of the county.~~

1508

1509 ~~Ecoregions are the largest units of biodiversity in King County, and this scale is appropriate for broader natural~~
1510 ~~resources planning and management. More localized habitats and species can be identified within these~~
1511 ~~ecoregions, and can inform actions at the watershed and even property specific level. Funding for landscape~~
1512 ~~evaluations ((of this nature)) is extremely limited and will typically require grant funds. The County should take~~
1513 ~~advantage of opportunities that may arise to collaborate with other ecoregional planning efforts.~~

1514

1515 ~~**E-409 King County should develop a countywide landscape characterization system**~~
1516 ~~**based on ecoregions as a key tool for assessing, protecting, and recovering**~~
1517 ~~**biodiversity.**~~

1518

1519 ~~b-))~~ **Habitat connectivity**

1520 Protecting and enhancing habitat connectivity is a critical action for maintaining ecosystem integrity and
1521 resilience, particularly in the face of climate change. However, funding for such evaluations is extremely limited.
1522 Protection of isolated blocks of habitat is critical but not enough to adequately protect wildlife in King County.
1523 Critical wildlife habitats and refuges also need to be connected across the landscape through a system of habitat
1524 corridors, or networks.

1525
1526 relocated from "Wildlife Habitat Network" subsection below, with edits
1527 The King County Wildlife Habitat Network was designed to help reduce the effects of fragmentation by linking
1528 diverse habitats through the developed and developing landscape. The network is intended to facilitate animal
1529 dispersal by connecting isolated critical areas, segments, open space, and wooded areas on adjacent properties.
1530 The corridors tend to follow riparian areas and streams ~~((corridors))~~ across the lowlands and the upland plateau
1531 to the east and southeast of Lake Washington into the foothills. The Wildlife Habitat Network is mapped on the
1532 "Wildlife Network and Public Ownership Map."

1533
1534 How wide the corridors within the network should be is related to requirements of target wildlife species, length
1535 of network segment and other important characteristics within the network. Wider corridors will be required for
1536 larger species if the distance between refuges is great or if multiple uses, such as public access and trails, are
1537 desired. Because it may not be possible to protect wide corridors in the Urban Growth Area, it may not be
1538 possible to accommodate larger wildlife species in all areas. Networks will address some of the problems of
1539 habitat fragmentation for smaller species within the Urban Growth Area.

1540
1541 Open spaces set aside during subdivision of land should be located to make connections with larger offsite
1542 systems. This approach will also benefit other open space goals.

1543
1544 **E-410** **Habitat networks for threatened, endangered and Species of Local Importance,**
1545 **as listed in this chapter, shall be designated and mapped. Habitat networks for**
1546 **other priority species in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands should be**
1547 **identified, designated and mapped using ecoregion information about the county**
1548 **and its resources and should be coordinated with state and federal ecosystem**
1549 **mapping efforts as appropriate.**

1550
1551 ~~((As mentioned above, protecting and enhancing habitat connectivity is critical for maintaining ecosystem~~
1552 ~~integrity and resilience. Functional habitat connectivity is the degree to which a given species can easily move~~
1553 ~~between habitat areas. Because individual species respond to the landscape, functional connectivity depends on~~
1554 ~~both the features in the landscape and how particular species respond to that landscape. Focal species are used to~~
1555 ~~identify important linkages between habitat areas that will be suitable for a variety of species.))~~

1556
1557 **E-411** **King County should ~~((conduct an analysis to identify areas critical for functional~~**
1558 **habitat connectivity. ~~This assessment should be coordinated with state and~~**

1559 ~~federal mapping efforts as appropriate)) map habitat connectivity corridors and
1560 biodiversity areas to protect wildlife populations in a changing climate. Areas
1561 identified by this analysis ((as being critical for functional habitat connectivity))
1562 should be prioritized by King County, and in collaboration with Indian tribes, the
1563 state, cities, and other landowners, for land conservation and restoration actions
1564 and programs.~~

1566 In planning for climate change, it will be increasingly important to provide for habitat connectivity not only
1567 across jurisdictional boundaries, but also across a range of environmental gradients. ~~((As the “Washington State~~
1568 ~~Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy” explains:)) Habitat connectivity is ~~((expected))~~ anticipated
1569 allow species and ecosystems to ((better withstand)) adapt to a changing climate ((change)) by allowing ((them))
1570 species to follow changes in climate across the landscape and maintain critical ecological processes such as
1571 dispersal and gene flow. ~~((In general, it is much costlier and more difficult to restore connectivity than to~~
1572 maintain existing connectivity, yet ongoing development rapidly removes this opportunity. Planning for habitat
1573 connectivity in the near term will be far more economical the sooner it is implemented.))~~

1574
1575 King County’s Fish Passage Restoration Program is an example of prioritizing investments in habitat restoration
1576 with a focus on restoring habitat connectivity. The program has surveyed more than 3,000 potential blockages to
1577 salmon migration up streams and prioritized 50 barrier locations where restoration of fish passage would open
1578 half of historically connected habitat blocked by County-owned barriers. The County-owned barriers occur
1579 mixed with fish passage barriers owned by other municipalities and landowners. Coordination with other barrier
1580 owners to address nearby barriers will maximize the habitat benefits of restoring fish passage in county
1581 waterways.

1582
1583 **E-412** **King County should work with adjacent jurisdictions, state and federal**
1584 **governments, Indian tribes, and landowners during development of land use**
1585 **plans, Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans, fish passage**
1586 **plans, and site development reviews to identify and protect habitat networks at**
1587 **jurisdictional and property boundaries.**

1588
1589 **E-412a** **King County should work with non-governmental organizations and regulatory**
1590 **agencies to accelerate removal of barriers to fish passage and should:**
1591 **a. Seek opportunities to accelerate permitting and project implementation;**
1592 **b. Explore all mechanisms available to remove barriers and restore salmon**
1593 **access to the most and highest quality habitat as quickly as possible;**
1594 **and**
1595 **c. Aggressively seek funding for projects to remove barriers.**

1596
1597 Additional medium- and long-term strategies identified in the “Washington State Integrated Climate Change
1598 Response Strategy” that are appropriate for the County to consider when planning for connectivity include:

- 1599 • Identifying and designating areas most suitable for core habitat and connectivity in view of a changing
1600 climate.
- 1601 • Protecting and restoring areas most suitable for current core habitat, likely future core habitat, and
1602 connections between them.
- 1603 • Protecting and re-establishing connectivity of rivers and their floodplains.
- 1604 • Adjusting the size and boundaries of conservation areas (parks and natural areas) to accommodate
1605 anticipated shifts in habitat and species' ranges.
- 1606 • Adjusting land use designations in important connectivity areas (for example, allowable density).
- 1607 • Facilitating inland migration of marine shoreline habitats.
- 1608

1609 Connectivity is addressed further below, as the Wildlife Habitat Network is a designated Fish and Wildlife
1610 Habitat Conservation Area.

1611

1612 **((e-)) Ecosystem Resilience and Natural Processes**

1613 Ecosystems and habitats suitable for particular species communities are the result of various geologic,
1614 hydrologic, climatic, and biologic processes. Where habitat forming processes are intact, ecosystems and their
1615 inhabitants are more likely to persist in the face of environmental variation and disturbances made worse by
1616 climate change, including disease, invasive species, wildfire, flooding, and drought.

1617

1618 ~~((Further, reducing vulnerability of systems to large scale disturbances including disease, invasive species,
1619 catastrophic fire, flooding, and drought is best accomplished by supporting resilience, which is the ability of a
1620 system to return to its former state after a disturbance. When an ecosystem is resilient, that system with its
1621 species communities is better able to bounce back following disturbance or change with ecological functions and
1622 processes still intact. In addition, current efforts such as the Washington State Department of Ecology's
1623 Watershed Characterization analysis can be used to inform decisions and direct resources for regarding land
1624 protection and restoration efforts with maximum ecological benefit.))~~

1625

1626 **E-413 King County's efforts to restore and maintain biodiversity should place priority
1627 on protecting and restoring ecological processes that create and sustain habitats
1628 and species diversity and support climate change resilience.**

1629

1630 ~~**((E-414 When acquiring land for habitat protection, efforts should be made to protect and
1631 restore areas of each habitat type most likely to be resistant to and enhance
1632 resilience to climate change.))**~~

1633

1634 "Structural diversity" is an accepted scientific term whose meaning varies depending on the ecosystem. For
1635 example, ~~((#))~~ in a forest, structural diversity means the combination of tree species, tree height classes, and

1636 legacy components (snags, logs); the more of each of these there are, the greater the forest structural diversity.
1637 Structural diversity of a river or stream means the degree of sinuosity (meaning curviness of the river and more is
1638 better) combined with both native riparian habitat and natural in-stream structure, which includes downed
1639 wood, various-sized substrate, and a combination of pools, riffles, and glides. "Landscape diversity" means the
1640 size, shape, and connectivity of different ecosystems across a large area; a mosaic of heterogeneous land cover
1641 types and vegetation types; assemblages of different ecosystems.

1642

1643 **E-415 King County should conserve areas where conditions support dynamic**
1644 **ecological processes that sustain important ecosystem and habitat functions and**
1645 **values, and promote structural and landscape diversity.**
1646

1647 **((d-)) Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty**

1648 ~~((Both))~~ Historical, current, and ~~((historical))~~ projected information on habitat conditions, including climate, and
1649 species distribution can inform ecologists and decision-makers about environmental management decisions.
1650 However, decision-makers do not always have access to complete information.

1651

1652 **E-416 King County should use a mixture of information on historic, current, and**
1653 **projected future conditions to provide context for managing public hazards and**
1654 **protecting and restoring habitat.**
1655

1656 **E-417 King County should take precautionary action informed by best available science**
1657 **where there is a significant risk of damage to the environment. Precautionary**
1658 **action should be coupled with monitoring and adaptive management.**
1659

1660 **((e-)) Rare Ecosystems, Habitats, and Species**

1661 Rare or sensitive habitats and species are at a greater risk of extinction than those that are widespread and
1662 abundant and therefore should be a high priority for conservation. ~~((An important secondary benefit of~~
1663 protecting habitat for rare, e)) Endemic species are those that are ((f))native to a particular geographic area and
1664 found nowhere else. If the habitat where endemic species live is damaged or lost, the species would cease to
1665 exist. ((, or k)) Keystone species are those ((a species)) that ((is)) has a disproportionately large effect on its
1666 natural environment relative to its abundance and are central to the survival of a multitude of other species((
1667 species is that habitat for many other species is protected as well. For example, the most effective way to protect
1668 and enhance native salmonid populations is through protection of those river and stream channels, riparian
1669 corridors, lakes, wetlands, groundwater, headwaters, and watersheds that provide or impact spawning and
1670 rearing habitat, food resources, and fish passage. Protecting these resources also enhances protection of habitat
1671 for other species.)) Keystone species may have habitat regulating functions, such as sea stars, or they have
1672 habitat forming functions, such as North American beavers.
1673

1674 **E-418** King County should assess the relative scarcity and sensitivity of different land
1675 types, habitats, and resources, the role of these land types, habitats, and
1676 resources in supporting sensitive species, and the level of threat to these land
1677 types, habitats, and resources in terms of habitat modifications that would likely
1678 reduce populations of sensitive species.

1680 **E-419** King County should give special consideration to protection of rare, endemic,
1681 and keystone species when identifying and prioritizing land areas for protection
1682 through acquisition, conservation easements, and incentive programs.

1684 **E-420** King County should incorporate climate change projections into new species
1685 protection plans and shall revise older species protection plans when feasible or
1686 when conducting ~~((eight))~~ **10**-year updates to incorporate projected impacts from
1687 climate change.

1689 Rare ecosystems, habitats, and species are also addressed in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
1690 section below.

1692 ~~((f.))~~ **Integrated Land and Water Management and Planning**

1693 In the past, aquatic and terrestrial habitats and species have often been managed independently of each other.
1694 Effective conservation and resource management of aquatic and terrestrial systems requires coordinated planning
1695 among departments with authority over development regulations and guidelines, wastewater treatment,
1696 stormwater management, flood hazard management, groundwater protection, transportation planning and road
1697 building, water quality, natural resource management, agriculture, and fish and wildlife conservation. Effective
1698 conservation planning must include the interests of private landowners as well.

1699 Coordinated planning and management can improve understanding of cumulative effects on terrestrial and
1700 aquatic systems, and can allow for a systems-based approach to avoiding or mitigating for adverse effects and
1701 improving habitat functions and value over time.

1704 **E-421** Terrestrial and aquatic habitats should be conserved and enhanced to protect
1705 and improve conditions for fish and wildlife.

1707 **E-422** King County’s land use and park planning, regulatory, and operational functions
1708 related to environmental protection, public safety, and equity should be closely
1709 coordinated across departments and with other applicable agencies and
1710 organizations to achieve an ecosystem-based approach.

1711

1712 ~~((g-))~~ **Habitat and Development**

1713 A key element in local wildlife conservation is the integration of wildlife and habitats into developments of all
1714 types. Wildlife protection does not have to be at odds with many types of development. Urban multifamily
1715 projects, industrial developments, new school facilities and rural open space projects all provide opportunities to
1716 enhance wildlife ~~((amenities))~~ habitat quality and connectivity. Residential developers and businesses have been
1717 able to use wildlife in marketing strategies to attract more potential homeowners, renters, and quality employees.

1718
1719 Techniques such as minimizing clearing during site preparation, using native plant species in required buffers,
1720 landscaping, using bridges and wildlife-specific crossings rather than culverts to cross streams and innovative site
1721 design can be used to promote wildlife presence and connectivity and minimize ~~((problems))~~ conflicts with
1722 ~~((nuisance))~~ wildlife. Other plan elements, such as open space, road system design and housing density, also
1723 have related impacts on the remaining wildlife values that must be considered.

1724
1725 Benefits to wildlife are enhanced if screening and landscaping is composed of native vegetation. Retention of
1726 natural vegetation can provide wildlife and aesthetic benefits often at a lower cost than non-native or constructed
1727 options.

1728
1729 **E-423** New development, erosion control projects, and restoration of stream banks,
1730 lakes, shorelines, and wetlands should, where possible, incorporate native plant
1731 communities into the site plan, both through preservation of existing native
1732 plants and addition of new native plants. Introductions of non-native invasive
1733 plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate species should be avoided in terrestrial,
1734 freshwater, and marine environs.

1735
1736 **E-424** **King County shall steward public lands well and shall integrate fish and wildlife**
1737 **habitat considerations into capital improvement projects whenever feasible. Fish**
1738 **and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas should be protected and, where**
1739 **possible, enhanced as part of capital improvement projects.**

1740
1741 Standard buffers for streams and wetlands will not always adequately protect wildlife resources that utilize those
1742 sensitive areas. Areas with critical wildlife resources may need larger buffers to protect the resource.

1743
1744 **E-425** **To protect or improve adjacent wetlands and aquatic habitats, stream and**
1745 **wetland buffer requirements may be increased to protect King County species of**
1746 **Local Importance and their habitats, as appropriate. Whenever possible, density**
1747 **transfers, clustering, and buffer averaging should be allowed.**

1748
1749 ~~((h-))~~ **Non-Native Species**
1750 Non-native species are often invasive because they did not evolve as part of the ecosystem and therefore do not
1751 have natural controls or competition. These species may be terrestrial, freshwater, or marine. Invasive species

**((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)) TBD**

1752 can create costly maintenance problems for both public and private landowners. Noxious and invasive weeds
1753 and animal species pose threats to the environmental health of all landscapes in King County, including natural,
1754 agricultural, wildlife, wetland, stream, and recreational areas. Weeds spread in a variety of ways, including the
1755 transport of seeds or plant parts by vehicles boats, shoes, clothing, and animals (including pets, livestock,
1756 wildlife, birds, and insects), in soil, gravel and other landscaping and building materials, down watercourses and
1757 in floods, by wind, and occasionally through deliberate introduction by people. They alter ecosystems through
1758 disrupting food chains, out-competing native species, and reducing habitat for native wildlife. Invasive species,
1759 including weeds, are widely recognized as having a significant negative impact on wildlife biodiversity. Invasive
1760 plants can also increase the risk of forest fire by acting as an accelerant for fire (when extremely flammable)
1761 and/or by acting as ladder fuels that carry a fire from ground level to the crown of trees.

1762
1763 King County offers technical assistance with identification and removal of non-native plants ~~((through programs,~~
1764 ~~including Forest Stewardship and Naturescaping)).~~ The ~~((e))~~County also partners with volunteer groups to
1765 remove invasive plants from open space and natural areas. Some non-native species are classified as “noxious”
1766 weeds. The King County Noxious Weed Control Program provides many services to county residents,
1767 including: educational materials and workshops, current information on control and eradication of noxious
1768 weeds, support to volunteer and land~~((-))~~owner groups, and annual road-side surveys. In addition, the Noxious
1769 Weed Control Program implements the State Weed Law ~~((Revised Code of Washington e))~~Chapter 17.10
1770 Revised Code of Washington) in the county, which requires all landowners to eradicate Class A noxious weeds
1771 and control designated Class B and ~~((e))~~County-selected Class C noxious weeds on their properties.

1772
1773 The State Weed Law applies to both private and public lands (except for federal and Indian tribal lands). King
1774 County manages approximately ~~((4,420))~~ 4,400 parcels of public land totaling over 36,000 acres. King County
1775 also owns or manages approximately 1,500 linear miles of roads and right of way. These lands are managed by
1776 multiple ~~((e))~~County agencies, including the King County Departments of Natural Resources, ~~((Transportation))~~
1777 Local Services, and Executive Services. Since weed infestations can spread from property to property, on both
1778 public and private lands, it is critical that the ~~((e))~~County have a coordinated strategy for controlling noxious and
1779 invasive weeds on ~~((e))~~County-owned and managed lands.

1780
1781 ~~**((E-426 ————— Introductions of non-native, invasive plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate species**~~
1782 ~~**should be avoided in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environs.))**~~

1783
1784 **E-427 King County should promote and restore native plant communities where**
1785 **sustainable, feasible, and appropriate to the site and surrounding ecological**
1786 **context and should incorporate climate change considerations into planting**
1787 **design, including:**
1788 **a. Encouraging management and control of nonnative invasive plants,**
1789 **including aquatic plants;**
1790 **b. Using environmentally sound methods of vegetation control to control**
1791 **noxious weeds;**

- 1792 c. Use of locally- or climate- adapted species for natural area landscaping,
1793 restoration, rehabilitation, and erosion control on County-owned lands;
1794 and
1795 d. Adequate maintenance of plantings in habitat restoration projects to
1796 prevent invasion of weeds and ensure survival of native plantings.

1797
1798 ~~((E-428 — On county-owned lands, King County should use locally adapted native species~~
1799 ~~for natural area landscaping, restoration, rehabilitation, and erosion control.~~
1800 ~~Habitat restoration projects should include provisions for adequate maintenance~~
1801 ~~of plantings to prevent invasion of weeds and ensure survival of native~~
1802 ~~plantings.))~~

1803
1804 **E-429** King County should provide incentives for private landowners who are seeking
1805 to remove invasive plants and noxious weeds and replace them with native
1806 plants, such as providing technical assistance or access to appropriate native
1807 plants.

1808
1809 **E-430** King County shall implement its strategy to minimize impacts of noxious weeds
1810 to the environment, recreation, public health, and the economy on all lands in the
1811 County. This includes preventing, monitoring and controlling infestations of
1812 state-listed noxious weeds and other non-native invasive weeds of concern on
1813 ~~((c))~~County-owned and managed lands.

1814
1815 **E-430a** Through training and other programs, King County should actively encourage
1816 the use of environmentally safe methods of vegetation control. Herbicide use on
1817 King County-owned and leased properties shall be restricted to low toxicity
1818 products applied by trained and licensed staff or contractors, and used only as
1819 necessary. King County shall be a good steward of public lands and protect
1820 water quality, by reducing the use of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides
1821 through the use of integrated pest and vegetation management practices.

1822
1823 ~~((i. — Adaptive Management~~
1824 ~~Adaptive management refers to modifying management actions based on ongoing monitoring and data analysis.~~
1825 ~~To sustain native biodiversity and improve the county's efforts at conservation, it must always be advancing the~~
1826 ~~understanding of the systems under its care and change its efforts accordingly.))~~

1827
1828 **E-431** Management activities should, when feasible and practicable, be ~~((designed))~~
1829 implemented in a manner that can test ~~((them))~~ results against management
1830 objectives and adjust as appropriate.

1831

1832 ((Additional text and policies related to monitoring and adaptive management can be found at the end of this
1833 chapter.

1834 **4.) Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas**

1835 Fish and wildlife habitat conservation, according to the state’s definition, means land management for
1836 maintaining populations of species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that the
1837 habitat available is sufficient to support viable populations over the long term and isolated subpopulations are
1838 not created. This definition does not mean that all individuals of all species at all times must be maintained, but
1839 it does mean not degrading or reducing populations or habitats so that they are no longer viable over the long
1840 term. Additionally, it should be recognized that geographic distributions will shift with climate change.

1841
1842 King County’s fish and wildlife policies and regulations have been informed by current state fish and wildlife
1843 guidance, recommendations, and requirements. The Growth Management Act directs local jurisdictions to
1844 designate and protect critical areas, including Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas. Fish and Wildlife
1845 Habitat Conservation Areas are designated with the intent to ensure the conservation of individual species
1846 recognized as declining or imperiled as well as protect and connect specific areas of habitat deemed important.
1847 This approach of protecting individual species and their habitat comprises one of the five major objectives
1848 described above for protecting the county’s biodiversity. Because biodiversity encompasses a variety of levels,
1849 from genes to ecosystems, and occurs at multiple spatial scales, a wider approach beyond single-species
1850 management is necessary to conserve biodiversity in King County. Additionally, most fish and wildlife species
1851 are not confined to small portions of the landscape; rather, they move about for feeding, breeding, rearing young,
1852 and interacting with other members of their species to ~~((insure))~~ ensure adequate genetic exchange and
1853 population viability.

1854
1855 Federal laws have been enacted over the past century to protect a wide range of species. In addition to the
1856 Endangered Species Act, other federal laws include the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird
1857 Treaty Act. Individuals of Endangered Species Act -listed species, marine mammals, and migratory birds in
1858 King County are protected under the provisions of these laws.

1859
1860 ~~((In order to))~~ To build a robust approach to biodiversity conservation, especially in view of a changing climate,
1861 individual species and habitat protections must be integrated with a landscape-scale approach to fostering and
1862 protecting resilient and diverse ecosystems. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas occur on both
1863 publicly and privately owned lands. Designating these areas is an important part of land use planning for
1864 appropriate development densities, the ((#))Urban ((g))Growth ((#))Area ((boundaries)) boundary, open space
1865 corridors, incentive-based land conservation and stewardship programs, and acquisition planning. The policies
1866 in this section are intended to fulfill federal and state requirements for protection of specific species and habitats
1867 while implementing landscape-based approaches to conserve native biodiversity in the long term. Protection
1868 measures designed to help maintain populations of certain species may necessarily include protecting the habitat
1869 where those species have a primary association with the protected area such as spawning or breeding, and also
1870 for rearing young, resting, roosting, feeding, foraging, and migrating.

1871

1872 **E-432** King County shall designate the following areas as Fish and Wildlife Habitat
1873 Conservation Areas:

- 1874 a. Areas with which federal or state listed endangered, threatened or
1875 sensitive species have a primary association;
- 1876 b. Habitats of Local Importance and ~~((H))~~habitats for Species of Local
1877 Importance;
- 1878 c. Wildlife habitat networks designated by the ~~((e))~~County;
- 1879 d. Commercial and recreational shellfish areas;
- 1880 e. Kelp and eelgrass beds;
- 1881 f. Herring, smelt, and sand lance spawning areas;
- 1882 g. Riparian ~~((corridors))~~ areas; and
- 1883 h. State aquatic reserves.

1884

1885 **E-433** King County should map Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas. King
1886 County shall protect Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas through
1887 measures such as regulations, incentives, capital projects, or purchase~~((, as
1888 appropriate))~~.

1889

1890 ~~((The Washington Administrative Code guidelines suggest considering waters of the state, wetlands, salmonid
1891 habitat (which includes marine nearshore areas), and riparian ecosystems when designating fish and wildlife
1892 habitat conservation areas. All of these areas and their associated buffers are highly valuable wildlife habitat, and
1893 they serve many other functions as well. Protections for these areas are addressed more broadly in other
1894 provisions of this chapter.~~

1895

1896 ~~a-))~~ **Federal and State Listed Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive Species**

1897 The importance of designating seasonal ranges and habitat elements where federal and state listed endangered,
1898 threatened and sensitive species have a primary association is that these areas, if altered, may reduce the
1899 likelihood that the species will survive over the long term. The state recommends that King County and other
1900 local jurisdictions identify and classify these areas.

1901

1902 **E-434** Habitats for species that have been identified as endangered, threatened, or
1903 sensitive by the state or federal government shall not be degraded or reduced in
1904 size and should be conserved.

1905

1906 ~~((b-))~~ **Species and Habitats of Local Importance**

1907 Federal and state listings of species as endangered or threatened often encompass relatively large geographic
1908 areas. More localized declines of species within King County may not be captured by state and federal listings.
1909 For example, local monitoring data indicate the extinction of the ~~((Early))~~ Lake Sammamish Kokanee Early run,
1910 ~~((likely))~~ possible extinction or significant decline of the ~~((Middle))~~ Lake ~~((Sammamish))~~ Washington Kokanee

**((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)) TBD**

1911 ~~((salmon)) Middle run, and a significant decline in the ((Late)) Lake Sammamish Kokanee ((salmon)) Late~~
1912 ~~run((s)). ((In 2000, a petition to list just the Early run was filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but by~~
1913 ~~2003 the run went extinct without any federal action to prevent that result. In 2007, a second petition was filed~~
1914 ~~to list all remaining Lake Sammamish kokanee. This petition led to an official review of the population's status~~
1915 ~~by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.~~

1916
1917 ~~On September 30, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that kokanee and sockeye throughout the~~
1918 ~~Pacific Northwest should be considered together in their listing determination and therefore declined to list this~~
1919 ~~unique kokanee population. However,)) King County and its partners believe((s)) the conservation of local native~~
1920 ~~kokanee salmon and its watershed habitat to be important to the quality of life and natural heritage of the~~
1921 ~~region's residents. Towards that end the County maintains strong collaborative relationships with the watershed~~
1922 ~~cities, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State~~
1923 ~~Parks, the Muckleshoot Tribe, the Snoqualmie Tribe, Trout Unlimited, Long Live the Kings, and additional~~
1924 ~~governmental and non-governmental organizations, schools, watershed residents, and other key contributors.~~
1925 ~~Together these partners work to: improve kokanee salmon habitat, including Lake Sammamish, tributary~~
1926 ~~streams, and contributing watershed areas; conduct research((,)); educate local residents and businesses((,)); and~~
1927 ~~support an artificial propagation program at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery and the Long Live the Kings~~
1928 ~~hatcheries to increase the viability of the kokanee population.~~

1929
1930 King County defines Species of Local Importance as those species that are of local concern primarily because of
1931 their population status or their sensitivity to habitat manipulation. The ((e))County takes into consideration
1932 native species named as priority species by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; anadromous
1933 salmonids; aquatic species whose populations are particularly vulnerable to changes in water quality and
1934 quantity; species whose habitat or mobility is limited (local populations of species that are immobile or have very
1935 limited habitat); and species that can be directly impacted by King County (for example, where road projects or
1936 other infrastructure development can impact habitat; where the ((e))County may acquire, protect, or restore
1937 certain habitat types). King County Species of Local Importance are identified so that they and their habitats
1938 may be considered during land use planning and protected during project implementation and development.
1939 Habitats for Species of Local Importance are designated as a type of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation
1940 Area and are covered by policies and regulations designed to protect those areas. However, individual animals
1941 or plants may also be at risk of injury from development or during construction or other changes to the landscape
1942 and may require additional measures to protect them from injury. For example, freshwater mussels may be
1943 protected from an instream project by relocating individual animals so they are not injured or killed during
1944 construction. Or, a rare individual plant may require the protection of an area of land because the plant cannot
1945 be relocated.

- 1946
1947 **E-435 King County designates the following to be Species of Local Importance:**
1948 **a. Salmonids and other anadromous fish – Kokanee salmon, Sockeye/red**
1949 **salmon, Chum salmon, Coho/silver salmon, Pink salmon, Coastal**

- 1950 resident/searun cutthroat trout, Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, and Pacific
- 1951 lamprey;
- 1952 b. Native Freshwater Mussels – Western pearlshell mussel, Oregon and
- 1953 western floater, and western ridge mussel;
- 1954 c. Shellfish – Dungeness crab, Pandalid shrimp, Geoduck clam, and Pacific
- 1955 oyster;
- 1956 d. Marine Fish – White sturgeon, Pacific herring, Longfin smelt, Surfsmelt,
- 1957 Lingcod, Pacific sand lance, English sole, and Rock sole;
- 1958 e. Birds – Western grebe, American bittern, Great blue heron, Brant,
- 1959 Harlequin duck, Wood duck, Hooded merganser, Barrow’s goldeneye,
- 1960 Common goldeneye, Cinnamon teal, Tundra swan, Trumpeter swan, Surf
- 1961 scoter, White-winged scoter, Black scoter, Osprey, Western screech-owl,
- 1962 Sooty grouse, Band-tailed pigeon, Belted kingfisher, Hairy woodpecker,
- 1963 Olive-sided flycatcher, Western meadowlark, Cassin’s finch, and Purple
- 1964 finch;
- 1965 f. Mammals – American marten, mink, Columbian black-tailed deer, Elk in
- 1966 their historic range, mountain goat, Pika, roosting concentrations of
- 1967 Big-brown bat and Myotis bats;
- 1968 g. Amphibians – Red-legged frog;
- 1969 h. Reptiles – Western fence lizard;
- 1970 i. Rare Plants – bristly sedge; Canadian St. John’s-wort; clubmoss
- 1971 cassiope; Oregon goldenaster; toothed wood fern; Vancouver
- 1972 ground-cone; and white-top aster; and
- 1973 j. High-quality ecological communities - Douglas-fir - Pacific Madrone /
- 1974 Salal; Douglas-fir - Western Hemlock / Swordfern; Forested Sphagnum
- 1975 Bog PTN, Low Elevation Freshwater Wetland PTN, North Pacific
- 1976 Herbaceous Bald and Bluff, Red Alder Forest; Western
- 1977 Hemlock - (Western Redcedar) / Bog Labrador-tea / Sphagnum Spp.;
- 1978 Western Hemlock - (Western Redcedar) / Devil’s-club / Swordfern;
- 1979 Western Hemlock - (Western Redcedar) / Sphagnum Spp.; Western
- 1980 Hemlock / Swordfern – Foamflower; Western Redcedar- Western
- 1981 Hemlock / Skunkcabbage; and Willow Spp. Shrubland [Provisional]).

E-436 King County shall protect Species of Local Importance through measures such as regulations, incentives, capital projects, or purchase, as appropriate.

1985 Caves, cliffs, and talus (a sloping mass of rocky fragments at the base of a cliff) occupy a very small percent of the

1986 total land area, yet they are disproportionately important as wildlife habitats. The same is true for

1987 sphagnum-dominated peat bogs, Oregon white oak woodlands, herbaceous balds, Westside prairie, old((-)

1988 growth forest, and snag-rich areas, which have all declined as a result of development. Each of these habitats

1989 concentrates and supports a unique plant and animal community. Plant associations adjacent to caves, cliff, and

1990

1991 talus are important because they help stabilize light and wind patterns, and as with snag-rich areas, they provide
1992 perches for raptors. Caves, cliffs, talus, Oregon white oak woodlands, herbaceous balds, Westside prairie, and
1993 sphagnum-dominated peat bogs are fragile environments that can be easily destroyed, but cannot be easily
1994 restored

1995

1996 **E-437 King County shall designate the following to be Habitats of Local Importance:**

- 1997 a. **Caves;**
- 1998 b. **Cliffs;**
- 1999 c. **Talus;**
- 2000 d. **Old-growth forest;**
- 2001 e. **Sphagnum-dominated peat bogs; and**
- 2002 f. **Snag-rich areas.**

2003

2004 The federal and state governments also designate “candidate” species. In the context of the Endangered Species
2005 Act, candidate means any species being considered for listing as an endangered or a threatened species but not
2006 yet the subject of a proposed rule. Lists of federal candidate species are updated annually. Review of these lists
2007 and the supporting assessments can provide valuable information about threats to species found within King
2008 County and can help the county to be proactive in preparing for potential future listings.

2009

2010 **E-438 King County should review federal and state candidate listings for information**
2011 **about candidate species that are under consideration for listing as an**
2012 **endangered or threatened species and found in King County. King County shall**
2013 **protect habitat for candidate species, as listed by the Washington Department of**
2014 **Fish and Wildlife or a federal agency. Information regarding candidate species**
2015 **should be used to inform King County’s long-term wildlife conservation and**
2016 **planning efforts.**

2017

2018 **E-439 King County shall review fish and wildlife surveys and assessments with local**
2019 **application to King County and consider additional habitat protections where**
2020 **warranted. Habitat protection should be accomplished through incentives,**
2021 **cooperative planning, education, habitat acquisition, habitat restoration, or other**
2022 **appropriate actions based on best available science.**

2023

2024 **E-440 King County should regularly review the Washington Department of Fish and**
2025 **Wildlife’s list of Priority Species and other scientific information on species of**
2026 **local importance, and evaluate whether any species should be added to or**
2027 **deleted from the lists in policies E-435 and E-437. Any additions or deletions**
2028 **((should)) may be made through the annual update.**

2029

2030 **E-441 Development proposals shall be assessed for the presence of King County**
2031 **Species of Local Importance. A comprehensive assessment should follow a**

2032 **standard procedure or guidelines and shall occur one time during the**
2033 **development review process.**

2034

2035 In accordance with new statutory requirements, as described in Chapter 9, Services, Facilities, and Utilities, the
2036 Department of Ecology has established a Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee in all five
2037 Watershed Resource Inventory Areas located either entirely or partially within King County. King County is
2038 participating in the Ecology process of developing a flow restoration strategy for each of the Watershed Resource
2039 Inventory Areas to mitigate the consumptive use of new permit-exempt wells drilled in the next 20 years. ~~((The~~
2040 ~~flow restoration strategies are anticipated to be recommended by 2021.)) Ecology has adopted streamflow
2041 restoration plans for Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (the Green/Duwamish Watershed), and Water Resource
2042 Inventory Area 10 (the White/Puyallup Watershed). The streamflow restoration committees for Water
2043 Resource Inventory Area 7 (the Snohomish/Snoqualmie/Skykomish Watershed), Water Resource Inventory
2044 Area 8 (Cedar/Sammamish Watershed), and Water Resource Inventory Area 15 (Kitsap) did not did not reach
2045 agreement by all members to complete their planning process. Ecology has completed these plans and forwarded
2046 them to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for technical review after which they may amend and adopt the
2047 plans. Ecology will initiate rulemaking within six months of plan adoption.~~

2048

2049 Salmon are particularly important because of their significance to local and regional character, Indian tribes, salt
2050 and freshwater ecosystems, and recreational and commercial fisheries. A growing number of salmon stocks
2051 within King County and other areas of Puget Sound are in a serious state of decline. Three salmonid species
2052 present within King County have been listed under the Endangered Species Act, several others have significant
2053 potential for listing, and the salmon-dependent Orca whale has been listed as endangered.

2054

2055 The protection and restoration of river and stream channels, riparian ~~((corridors))~~ areas, lakes, wetlands,
2056 headwaters and watersheds, and marine nearshore habitats that provide or impact spawning and rearing habitat,
2057 food resources, and fish passage is essential to the conservation of native fish populations. Intermittent streams
2058 also can be critical to native fish populations.

2059

2060 Hatcheries and other artificial propagation facilities that are properly managed to protect the abundance,
2061 productivity, genetic diversity, and spatial distribution of native salmon may contribute in the near term to both
2062 maintaining sustainable salmon stocks and harvest opportunities while habitat protection and restoration
2063 measures for salmon are implemented.

2064

2065 **E-442** King County should conserve and restore salmonid habitats by ensuring that
2066 land use and facility plans (transportation, water, sewer, electricity, gas) include
2067 riparian and stream habitat conservation measures developed by the ~~((c))~~ County,
2068 cities, Indian tribes, service providers, and state and federal agencies. Project
2069 review of development proposals within basins that contain hatcheries and other
2070 artificial propagation facilities that are managed to protect the abundance,
2071 productivity, genetic diversity, and spatial distribution of native salmon and
2072 provide harvest opportunities should consider significant adverse impacts to
2073 those facilities.

2074
2075 ~~((c.))~~ **Wildlife Habitat Network**

2076 The King County Wildlife Habitat Network was designed to help reduce the effects of fragmentation by linking
2077 diverse habitats through the developed and developing landscape. The network is intended to facilitate animal
2078 dispersal by connecting isolated critical areas, segments, open space, and wooded areas on adjacent properties.
2079 The corridors tend to follow riparian and stream corridors across the lowlands and the upland plateau to the east
2080 and southeast of Lake Washington into the foothills. The Wildlife Habitat Network is mapped on the “Wildlife
2081 Network and Public Ownership Map.”
2082

2083 **5.) Conservation Incentives and Education**

2084 King County offers landowner technical assistance for protection of fish and wildlife habitat through programs
2085 including Forest Stewardship, Noxious Weed Control, ~~((the GoNative web site,))~~ and assistance for native plant
2086 restoration and landscaping. Other organizations, including King Conservation District, Natural Resource
2087 Conservation Service, Washington State University Extension, and Washington Department of Fish and
2088 Wildlife’s Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program offer support to landowners to enhance fish and wildlife
2089 habitat. Landowners can also receive property tax reductions through the King County Public Benefit Rating
2090 System in exchange for protecting and improving habitat.
2091

2092 **E-443** King County should promote voluntary wildlife habitat enhancement projects by
2093 private individuals and businesses through educational, active stewardship, and
2094 incentive programs.
2095

2096 **E-444** King County should partner with community associations, realtors, community
2097 groups, and other agencies to conduct targeted outreach to potential and new
2098 property owners about fish and wildlife habitat education and forestry education
2099 and incentive programs, particularly in Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands
2100 in the county.
2101

2102 **~~(B.)~~ Stormwater Quality**

2103 Rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater must be protected from the adverse impacts of development
2104 and land use change to continue functioning in a beneficial manner. Because development both increases runoff
2105 from storms and reduces streamflows in dry months by limiting infiltration, control of the rate, volume, and
2106 quality of stormwater runoff is critical. Unmitigated stormwater runoff can cause erosion, sedimentation and
2107 flooding with resulting adverse impacts on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, property and human safety.
2108 In addition, stormwater runoff can carry pollutants, such as oil, heavy metals, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides
2109 ~~((and))~~ animal wastes, dust from tire wear that is lethal to Coho salmon, naturally occurring nutrients at
2110 problematic levels, and toxins and contaminants of emerging concern into waters. Sedimentation from soil
2111 disturbed by clearing, grading, farming and logging can reduce river or stream channel capacity, fill lakes and
2112 wetlands, and smother aquatic life and habitat.

2113
2114 King County stormwater management encompasses a wide range of strategies that ~~((integrate proven, traditional~~
2115 ~~approaches with new and innovative concepts,))~~ include maintenance of more traditional, "gray" infrastructure
2116 such as stormwater ponds, and encourage more "green" approaches, such as low impact development practices
2117 intended to manage stormwater runoff onsite, reducing discharges of pollutants in stormwater runoff, and
2118 mimicking natural hydrology.

2119
2120 King County's stormwater management strategies include but are not limited to: encouraging an approach to site
2121 development that includes clustering or smart growth, minimizes impervious surfaces, and maximizes the
2122 amount of native plants and soils; using education and social marketing to increase the public's awareness of
2123 water quality issues and encourage behaviors that support water quality; providing incentives for private
2124 landowners to install green stormwater infrastructure; improving pollution source control by legislating product
2125 or material restrictions; improving business practices by educating business owners and operators about pollution
2126 generating activities and best management practices to mitigate them; and constructing and maintaining an
2127 stormwater infrastructure system that controls, conveys and treats stormwater runoff. Examples of these
2128 programs include the recently launched RainScapes Green Stormwater Infrastructure Incentive for private
2129 landowners program, and the first ever King County Stormwater Retrofit Prioritization Framework, which will
2130 strategically prioritize King County's work in basins where actions can achieve the greatest benefit to regional
2131 water quality.

2132
2133 The County applies evidence-based tools like the Water Quality Benefit Evaluation Tool and Stormwater
2134 Retrofit Prioritization Framework to evaluate where water quality investments will bring the greatest benefits,
2135 with a focus on communities most impacted by water pollution. The County also conducts research on best
2136 management practices for treating contaminants of concern and is conducting research on sources of "forever
2137 chemicals" to inform efforts to control pollution at its source.

2138

**((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)) TBD**

2139 Together these strategies will reduce pollution and flow impacts of stormwater runoff on King County’s surface
2140 and ground waters.

2141

2142 As required by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit,
2143 King County ~~((is making))~~ has made low impact development the preferred and commonly used approach to site
2144 development. As a result of using the low impact development approach, an increasing number of stormwater
2145 management best management practices including, but not limited to, rain gardens, dispersion, permeable
2146 driveways and walkways, vegetated roofs, and the capture and reuse of rainwater, will be constructed on private
2147 property and will rely on private maintenance for their continuing function.

2148

2149 ~~((In addition to the stormwater strategies discussed above, as well as those discussed in Chapter 8:
2150 Transportation, effective stormwater management will require a basin or sub-basin approach that identifies areas
2151 that were built out under old or nonexistent stormwater design standards. Basins where deficiencies in flow
2152 control or water quality are identified would be prioritized to correct those deficiencies. These retrofits could
2153 include upgrades to existing stormwater management structures or the placement of new ones, including onsite
2154 low impact development best management practices like bioretention or raingardens, or the replacement of
2155 impervious pavement with permeable.~~

2156

2157 ~~Achieving the goals of contemporary stormwater management may require improvements to best management
2158 practices and encouraging or requiring the use of different products. Approaches could include using green
2159 products, implementing new land development approaches such as cluster housing, and, in some areas, the
2160 setting aside of land and its dedication to riparian habitat, and maintaining natural vegetation.))~~

2161

2162 The Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit also requires King County to address impacts caused by stormwater
2163 discharges from areas of existing development; including runoff from highways, streets, and roads that were built
2164 under old or nonexistent stormwater design standards. Modifying stormwater facilities, or building new ones in
2165 previously developed areas, is very expensive. The County is developing strategies using evidenced-based tools
2166 to identify and prioritize actions to achieve the best outcomes for reducing pollution to Puget Sound. The
2167 County is partnering with cities, Indian tribes, counties, and nonprofits to identifying where projects like
2168 “stormwater parks” can provide the greatest environmental benefit while increasing access to open space in
2169 historically underserved areas.

2170

2171 **E-445 Stormwater runoff shall be managed through a variety of methods, with the goal**
2172 **of protecting surface water quality, in-stream flows, and aquatic habitat;**
2173 **promoting groundwater recharge while protecting groundwater quality; reducing**
2174 **the risk of flooding; protecting public safety and properties; and enhancing the**
2175 **viability of agricultural lands.**

2176

- 2177 **E-446** King County should:
- 2178 a. ~~_____~~ ~~((e))~~ Evaluate the need for product or material restrictions because of
- 2179 water quality impacts;
- 2180 b. ~~_____~~ Ensure the use of a data- and science-driven approach to identify and
- 2181 reduce the use of contaminants of emerging concern;
- 2182 c. ~~_____~~ Seek changes to state regulations and permits that incentivize regional
- 2183 stormwater investments where they will achieve the best outcomes for
- 2184 pollution reduction; and
- 2185 d. ~~_____~~ Continue to support regional collaborative stormwater management
- 2186 approaches, including consideration of incentives for regional
- 2187 collaboration and identification of supplemental funding sources for
- 2188 collaborative stormwater management in the region.
- 2189

2190 **~~((C.)) Upland Areas~~**

2191 **~~((1.)) Forest Cover~~**

2192 King County recognizes the value of trees and forests in both rural and urban communities for benefits such as

2193 improving air and water quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Forests absorb and slowly release

2194 rainwater to streams and aquifers, filter runoff, store carbon, and provide food, shade, and cover for wildlife. In

2195 doing so, they help to prevent flooding and erosion, reduce stormwater runoff and increase infiltration, protect

2196 drinking water, ~~((and))~~ support fish and wildlife and their habitat, and provide recreational opportunities and

2197 health benefits to communities. ~~((Therefore, it is important that regulations protecting critical areas like wetlands~~

2198 ~~take into consideration both regulations and incentive programs intended to conserve forest cover in upland~~

2199 ~~areas.))~~ Forested headwaters in upper reaches of watersheds can be especially important for preventing flooding,

2200 improving water quality, and protecting salmon and other wildlife habitat, given the presence of large areas of

2201 with relatively low levels of development. Forests in rural King County are also relied upon for recreation and

2202 resource use, including harvest and firewood collection and cultivation of special forest products categorized as

2203 edibles, florals, and medicinals. The King County 30-Year Forest Plan provides goals and strategies for the

2204 management of forests in the county to maintain and enhance these benefits. Another strategy for managing

2205 forest health is through development of Forest Stewardship Plans, which provide mechanisms for tailoring

2206 regulations and best management practices for forest management to individual properties. Completion of one

2207 of these plans can also qualify landowners for tax incentive programs and streamlined permitting. ~~((The~~

2208 ~~retention or restoration of forest cover and native vegetation also reduces stormwater runoff and maximizes~~

2209 ~~natural infiltration processes, thus reducing the need for additional stormwater management.))~~

2210

2211 **E-447** ~~((King County recognizes that conserving and restoring headwater and upland~~

2212 ~~forest cover is important for preventing flooding, improving water quality, and~~

2213 ~~protecting salmon and other wildlife habitat.))~~ The central role that forests

2214 ~~((ever))~~ play~~((s))~~ in supporting hydrologic and other ecological processes

2215 should be reflected in ~~((policies and programs addressing))~~ stormwater
2216 management, flooding, wildlife, and open space policies and programs.

2217
2218 **E-448** King County’s critical areas and clearing and grading regulations should provide
2219 for activities compatible with long-term forest use, including use of recreational
2220 trails, firewood collection, forest fire ~~((prevention))~~ risk reduction, forest
2221 management, and control of invasive plants.

2222
2223 **E-449** King County shall promote retention of forest cover and significant trees using a
2224 mix of regulations, incentives, and technical assistance.

2225
2226 **E-449a** King County should identify and implement strategies that optimize ecological,
2227 social, and economic benefits of establishing and maintaining large blocks of
2228 forest, particularly in upper watershed areas and along major river corridors.

2229 These approaches should:

2230 a. Promote establishment of a broad mix of native tree species and age
2231 classes, including eventual establishment of forests with old growth
2232 characteristics in areas prioritized as having high conservation value;

2233 and

2234 b. Consider the effect of conservation acquisitions on the viability of the
2235 timber resource economy in King County.

2236

2237 **~~((2.))~~ Soils and Organics**

2238 Soils play a critical role in the natural environment. The benefits of healthy soils include: (1) keeping
2239 disease-causing organisms in check, (2) moderating stormwater runoff, (3) filtering, binding, and biodegrading
2240 pollutants, (4) recycling and storing nutrients, and (5) serving as the basis for forest and agricultural fertility.
2241 More recently, the carbon storage properties of soils have been recognized as a major climate-moderating
2242 influence. The properties of a healthy soil are similar to those of a sponge, faucet, and filter. They soak up and
2243 store water, naturally regulate the flow of water, and bind and degrade pollutants. The presence of millions of
2244 macro and microorganisms in soil creates a vibrant soil culture where organic material is consumed and air and
2245 water are retained. Nutrients are made available to plants to allow healthy root growth and oxygen generation.

2246

2247 It is common for healthy native soils to be removed during land development. Even when soils are not removed,
2248 development and other human activity often cause soil compaction, removal, and erosion of healthy, native
2249 soils. Fewer organisms are present in disturbed soils. The resulting decrease in organic matter inhibits the soil’s
2250 ability to hold water, which increases stormwater runoff. In addition, plants cannot thrive in disturbed soils
2251 because of the lack of nutrients. This, in turn, causes people to use more chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and
2252 water to induce plant growth. The combination of increased stormwater runoff and increased fertilizer and
2253 pesticide use results in greater water pollution downstream.

2254

2255 Increasing the organic content in disturbed soils can help restore their environmental function. Composted
2256 organic materials that might be used include yard debris, food and wood wastes, soiled paper, biochar, biosolids
2257 and/or livestock wastes, but not others, such as fly ash from industrial smokestacks. Benefits of incorporating
2258 composted organic materials in soils include: improving stream habitat, supporting healthier plants, reducing
2259 stormwater runoff, and closing the recycling loop for organic materials. The transformation of degraded soils to
2260 enhance their ability to uptake and store carbon may be the one of the most effective actions that can be taken to
2261 mitigate the near-term effects of climate change.

2262
2263 It is preferable to leave native soil and vegetation in place as much as possible so that it can continue to function
2264 as a natural sponge and filter, minimizing erosion and stormwater runoff. Where soil is disturbed or removed,
2265 soil function can be improved by providing soil with adequate depth and organic matter content.

2266
2267 ~~((E-450) Site development practices should minimize soil disturbance and maximize
2268 retention of native vegetation and soils. Where soil disturbance is unavoidable,
2269 native soils should be stockpiled on-site and reused on-site in accordance with
2270 best management practices to the maximum extent practicable.~~

2271
2272 ~~E-451 King County shall require the use of organic matter to restore disturbed soils on
2273 site developments.~~

2274
2275 ~~Salmon play an important role in sustaining the productivity of soils in riparian and floodplain areas. Salmon
2276 mature in saltwater environments and then spawn and die in their original spawning streams. In doing so,
2277 salmon transport nutrients back to watersheds that eventually become available to vegetation.~~

2278
2279 ~~E-452 The role of salmon in transferring nutrients and maintaining the productivity of
2280 riparian and floodplain soils should be incorporated in the development of
2281 salmon and soil conservation plans.)~~

2282
2283 Organics comprise a large portion of the waste generated by King County residences, businesses and farms. This
2284 organic waste stream requires significant solid waste, farm management, and wastewater treatment resources.
2285 Many of these “waste materials” (yard debris, food and wood waste, soiled paper, biosolids, and agricultural
2286 livestock wastes), can be minimized, recycled, and reused to provide numerous uses that are beneficial to the
2287 environment and the economy.

2288
2289 King County has a long history of resource conservation and waste reduction and recycling. Programs have
2290 successfully captured organic materials for beneficial use such as yard debris, residential food waste, and
2291 biosolids applications to farms, forests and composting. However, large volumes of organic waste continue to be
2292 disposed of in the landfill. Significant volumes of livestock waste generated in the suburbs, Rural Areas and
2293 Natural Resource Lands are inadequately managed, which can adversely impact water quality and fish habitat.

2294

2295 Although efforts are underway to increase the amount of organic materials that are recycled, the region still lacks
2296 the capacity to process all of these materials. Along with its efforts to promote beneficial use of these products,
2297 King County is working with organic material processors and others to try and increase the processing capacity
2298 in the region through advancement of the Re+ program, which focuses on actions to minimize King County’s
2299 environmental footprint, create more green jobs, divert waste from the landfill, and ensure everyone in King
2300 County has equitable access to efficient waste services.

2301
2302 **E-453 King County should implement programs to improve availability and markets for**
2303 **organic materials for soils that have been disturbed by new and existing**
2304 **developments.**

2305
2306 ~~**((E-454 King County shall regard the region's organic waste materials as resources**~~
2307 ~~**which should be reused as much as possible, and minimize the disposal of such**~~
2308 ~~**materials.))**~~

2309
2310 **E-455 King County shall work with regional ((stakeholders)) partners to ensure a viable**
2311 **and safe organics recycling infrastructure that allows for yard, food, wood,**
2312 **biosolids, manure and other organic wastes to be turned into resources**
2313 **benefiting climate change, soil health, water quality, and maximizing landfill**
2314 **diversion, consistent with the County's zero waste of resources and Re+ goals.**

2315
2316 King County seeks to divert as much material as possible from disposal to reduce overall costs of solid waste
2317 management, conserve resources, protect the environment, and strengthen the county’s economy (see Chapter
2318 9((:)), Services, Facilities, and Utilities((, F-266))). In many cases, organic materials can be recycled into a
2319 beneficial, highly valued resource helping to meet these diversion goals. Beneficial uses of organic materials
2320 include, but are not limited to, the following: soil amendment, mulch, erosion control, and even energy
2321 production.

2322
2323 King County recognizes that in most cases, the best management method for yard debris and livestock wastes is
2324 to compost it on the property where it is generated. Examples of residential onsite yard debris management
2325 techniques include grasscycling (leaving the grass on the lawn when it is cut) and backyard composting.

2326
2327 **E-456 King County shall promote, encourage, and require, where appropriate, the**
2328 **beneficial use and reuse of organic materials and minimize their disposal,**
2329 **including but not limited to their use in the following activities: agriculture and**
2330 **silviculture; road, park and other public project development; site development**
2331 **and new construction; restoration and remediation of disturbed soils; nursery**
2332 **and sod production; and landscaping. For these purposes, organic materials do**
2333 **not include fly ash.**

2334

2335 **E-457** King County agencies shall use compost and recycled organic products, ~~((such~~
2336 ~~as compost,))~~ whenever feasible, and promote the application of ~~((organic~~
2337 ~~material))~~ compost to compensate for historic losses of organic content in soil
2338 caused by human actions, including development, landscaping agricultural
2339 practices, and resource extraction.

2341 **E-458** King County ~~((will))~~ shall seek to enhance soil quality~~((,))~~ and protect water
2342 quality and biodiversity across the landscape by developing policies, programs,
2343 and incentives that support the goal of no net loss of organic material.

2344
2345 Biosolids are the nutrient rich organic product from the wastewater treatment process which can be recycled as a
2346 soil amendment. At King County’s wastewater treatment plant, solids are removed from the wastewater and
2347 treated in large digesters where the organic solids are stabilized, reducing the volume by half. After digestion, a
2348 portion of water is removed, leaving the semisolid material ready for recycling.

2349
2350 The Biosolids Management Program's mission is to safely and sustainably return carbon and nutrients to the
2351 land through the use of biosolids. The Biosolids Management Program pursues environmental stewardship
2352 through diverse public-private partnerships. One hundred percent of county biosolids are beneficially used
2353 through the forestry and agriculture programs. ~~((A portion of the County’s biosolids are composted as a Class A~~
2354 ~~product.))~~

2355
2356 **E-459** King County supports and should explore ways to beneficially use biosolids
2357 locally, whenever feasible.

2358
2359 On-farm composting as a method of managing livestock waste and other organic waste materials is ~~((becoming))~~
2360 an important waste management strategy for farmers. Benefits of on-farm composting include:

- 2361 • Additional revenue from the sale of compost;
- 2362 • Reduced costs for water, fertilizers and pesticides, due to reduced water usage and reduced reliance on
2363 fertilizers and pesticides;
- 2364 • Reduced impacts to surface waters; and
- 2365 • Increased crop yields.

2366
2367 ~~((King County’s Livestock Management Ordinance, adopted in December 1993, sets manure management~~
2368 ~~standards in order to minimize impacts to water quality by preventing farm wastes from contaminating the~~
2369 ~~region’s watersheds. The Livestock Management Ordinance))~~ Regulations for managing livestock encourage~~((s))~~
2370 farmers to implement farm plans in collaboration with the King Conservation District to protect and enhance
2371 natural resources, including water quality. The King Conservation District provides technical assistance and
2372 education to agricultural landowners on how to implement best management practices, which include manure

2373 storage facilities and pasture renovation, as well as stream and wetland buffer fencing ((and clean water
2374 diversion)). The resulting farm plans can include provisions for onsite and offsite management of livestock
2375 wastes and strategies to integrate processing livestock wastes with other organic waste materials. These strategies
2376 should be consistent with the King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, including but not
2377 limited to on-farm composting and land application of processed yard debris. Farm plans that address livestock
2378 waste management further compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act and other federal and state
2379 mandates regarding water quality.

2380

2381 **E-460 King County shall promote livestock waste management that keeps waste out of**
2382 **stormwater runoff and from infiltration to groundwater, and enhances soil health**
2383 **by methods such as combining livestock waste with other plant and animal**
2384 **waste material for incorporation into crop soils.**

2385

2386 **~~((D-))~~ Aquatic Resources**

2387 King County's aquatic resources include rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, groundwater, and the marine waters of
2388 Puget Sound. These resources provide many beneficial functions, including fish and wildlife habitat; food
2389 supplies; flood risk reduction; water supply for agricultural, commercial, domestic and industrial use; energy
2390 production; transportation; recreational opportunities; and scenic beauty.

2391

2392 ~~((In order to))~~To preserve and enhance aquatic resources in King County, they must be managed as an integrated
2393 system together with terrestrial resources, and not as distinct and separate elements. The hydrologic cycle (the
2394 occurrence, distribution and circulation of water in the environment) is the common link among aquatic
2395 resources and describes their interdependence.

2396

2397 Use and modification of water resources and the surrounding terrestrial environment affects how the hydrologic
2398 cycle functions and can cause unintended detrimental impacts such as flooding, low stream and river flows,
2399 reduced groundwater availability, erosion, degradation of water quality, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and loss
2400 of archeological and traditional cultural resources that depend upon but do not damage natural resources. ~~((In
2401 order to))~~To minimize adverse impacts on the water resources of King County and ensure the continued ability to
2402 receive the beneficial uses they provide, the ~~((e))~~County will need to promote responsible land and water
2403 resource planning and use. These beneficial uses include fish and wildlife habitat, flood risk reduction, water
2404 quality control, sediment transport, energy production, transportation; recreational opportunities, scenic beauty,
2405 and water supply for agricultural, municipal, and industrial purpose.

2406

2407 **E-461 King County shall use incentives, regulations, capital projects, open space**
2408 **acquisitions, public education and stewardship, and other programs ((like)) such**
2409 **as recycled water to manage its aquatic resources (Puget Sound, rivers, streams,**
2410 **lakes, freshwater and marine wetlands, and groundwater) and to protect and**

2411 enhance their multiple beneficial uses. Use of water resources for one purpose
2412 should, to the fullest extent practicable, preserve opportunities for other uses.

2413
2414 **E-462** Development shall occur in a manner that supports continued ecological and
2415 hydrologic functioning of water resources and should not have a significant
2416 adverse impact on water quality or water quantity, or sediment transport, and
2417 should maintain base flows, natural water level fluctuations, unpolluted
2418 groundwater recharge in Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, and fish and wildlife
2419 habitat.

2420

2421 **~~((1.))~~ Watersheds**

2422 A watershed is an area that drains to a common outlet or identifiable water body such as Puget Sound, a river,
2423 stream, lake, or wetland. There are six major watersheds in King County (Cedar/Lake Washington,
2424 Green/Duwamish, Puget Sound, South Fork Skykomish, Snoqualmie, and White) that, in turn, contain
2425 numerous smaller catchments and water bodies. Surface and ground waters are managed most effectively by
2426 understanding and considering potential problems and solutions for an entire watershed. Because watersheds
2427 frequently extend into several jurisdictions, effective restoration and preservation planning and implementation
2428 must be coordinated.

2429

2430 **E-463** King County shall integrate watershed plans with marine and freshwater surface
2431 water, flood hazard management, stormwater, groundwater, drinking water,
2432 wastewater, and recycled water planning, as well as federal and state Clean
2433 Water Act compliance and monitoring and assessment programs, to provide
2434 efficient water resource management.

2435

2436 **E-464** King County shall protect and should enhance surface waters, including streams,
2437 lakes, wetlands, and the marine waters and nearshore areas of Puget Sound, on a
2438 watershed basis by analyzing water quantity and quality problems and their
2439 impacts to beneficial uses, including fish and wildlife habitat, flood risk
2440 reduction, and erosion control. Conditions of and impacts to the downstream
2441 receiving marine beaches and waters of Puget Sound shall be included in
2442 watershed management efforts.

2443

2444 ~~((Over the past several years King County has been working cooperatively with many of the water utilities, local
2445 governments, state agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in the region to gather data and
2446 information to support a regional water supply planning process. (For more information and specific policies
2447 related to regional water supply planning, please see Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities). This
2448 cooperative work includes assessments of current and future water demands and supplies, potential climate
2449 change impacts on water, opportunities for use of recycled water, and potential improvements to steam flows.~~

**((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)) TBD**

2450 These cooperative efforts will provide valuable information to inform not only water supply planning but also
2451 salmon recovery planning and projects.))

2452

2453 **E-465 King County should use the information from local and regional water supply**
2454 **planning processes to enhance the county’s water resource protection and**
2455 **planning efforts, including implementation of Water Resource Inventory Area**
2456 **salmon recovery plans.**

2457

2458 **E-466 As watershed plans are developed and implemented, zoning, regulations, and**
2459 **incentive programs ((may)) should be developed, applied, and monitored so that**
2460 **critical habitat in King County watersheds is capable of supporting sustainable**
2461 **and fishable salmonid populations. Watershed-based plans should define how**
2462 **the natural functions and values of watersheds critical to salmonids are**
2463 **protected so that the quantity and quality of water and sediment entering the**
2464 **streams, lakes, wetlands and rivers can support salmonid spawning, rearing,**
2465 **resting, and migration.**

2466

2467 ~~**((E-467 Responsibility for the costs of watershed planning and project implementation,**~~
2468 ~~**including water quality, groundwater protection, and fisheries habitat protection,**~~
2469 ~~**should be shared between King County and other jurisdictions within a**~~
2470 ~~**watershed.))**~~

2471

2472 King County contains a number of wetlands, floodplains, lakes and river and stream reaches that are important
2473 to the viability of fish and wildlife populations and are therefore considered biological, social and economic
2474 resources. Some resource areas, including Regionally Significant Resource Areas and Locally Significant
2475 Resource Areas, were previously identified through ~~((basin plans))~~ watershed planning efforts and other resource
2476 inventory efforts. Additional high-priority habitat areas have been identified through Water Resource Inventory
2477 Area-salmon recovery plans, ~~((“Waterways 2000,” Cedar River Legacy Program, acquisition plans)),~~ the Land
2478 Conservation Initiative, and through basin conditions maps used to establish protective buffers along wetlands
2479 and streams under the Critical Areas Ordinance. Protection and restoration of connections between rivers and
2480 their floodplains is increasingly recognized as a priority element of salmon recovery and climate resiliency
2481 efforts. The Clean Water Healthy Habitat strategic plan includes a 30-year goal for restoring connected
2482 floodplains with native vegetation. Additionally, criteria for the County’s primary local land conservation
2483 funding sources, Conservation Futures Tax, and King County Parks Levy, have been updated to help focus
2484 investment in areas of the county that have historically been underserved with access to quality green space.

2485

2486 These areas contribute to the resource base of the entire Puget Sound region by virtue of exceptional species and
2487 habitat diversity and abundance when compared to basins of similar size and structure elsewhere in the region.

2488 These areas may also support rare, endangered, or sensitive species, including Endangered Species Act-listed

2489 salmonids. They also provide wetland, lake, and stream habitat that is important for wildlife and salmonid
2490 diversity and abundance within the basin.

2491

2492 **E-468 King County’s Shoreline Master Program, watershed management plans, Water**
2493 **Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans, flood hazard management**
2494 **plans, master drainage plans, open space acquisition plans, and critical areas**
2495 **regulations should apply a tiered system of protection that affords a higher**
2496 **standard of protection for more significant resources.**

2497

2498 **E-469 ~~((A tiered system for protection of aquatic resources should be developed based~~**
2499 **~~on an assessment of basin conditions using Regionally Significant Resource~~**
2500 **~~Area and Locally Significant Resource Area designations, Water Resource~~**
2501 **~~Inventory Area Plans, habitat assessments completed for acquisitions plans, the~~**
2502 **~~Water Quality Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Loads, ongoing monitoring~~**
2503 **~~programs, and best available science.)) Through a coordinated approach of~~**
2504 **incentives and acquisitions, King County should prioritize, enhance, and protect**
2505 **a variety of ecosystems, including urban open space uplands, riparian areas,**
2506 **floodplains, and aquatic systems with the highest conservation value and those**
2507 **supporting equitable access to quality open space.**

2508

2509 **((2.)) Wetlands**

2510 Wetlands are valuable natural resources in King County. They include deep ponds, shallow marshes and
2511 swamps, wet meadows, and bogs. Wetlands comprise forested and scrub-shrub communities, emergent
2512 vegetation, and other lands supporting a prevalence of plants adapted to saturated soils and varying flooding
2513 regimes. Wetlands, with their highly diverse forms and diffuse distribution, can be particularly challenging to
2514 categorize and manage.

2515

2516 The federal and state governments also have roles in identifying and regulating certain types of wetlands and
2517 development activity. ~~((In order to))~~To streamline and synchronize regulatory standards for wetlands, the
2518 ~~((e))~~County relies on guidance from the Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Army Corps of
2519 Engineers Seattle District, and Environmental Protection Agency for wetland identification, delineation,
2520 categorization, and, where appropriate, mitigation.

2521

2522 ~~**((E-470 King County shall use current manuals and guidance from state and federal**~~
2523 ~~**governmental agencies and departments to identify, delineate, and categorize**~~
2524 ~~**wetlands and to establish mitigation requirements for wetlands.**~~

2525

2526 ~~**E-471 King County will apply the current scientifically accepted methodology for**~~
2527 ~~**wetland mitigation based on technical criteria and field indicators. Where**~~
2528 ~~**appropriate, King County should rely on publications and recommendations from**~~

2529 ~~state and federal agencies to ensure King County-approved mitigation will be~~
2530 ~~accepted by state and federal agencies with jurisdiction.~~

2531
2532 ~~Some wetlands are large and their physical boundaries as well as their functions and values extend beyond~~
2533 ~~individual jurisdictional boundaries.~~

2534
2535 ~~**E-472** King County shall communicate and coordinate with other jurisdictions and~~
2536 ~~tribes to establish uniform countywide wetlands policies that provide protection~~
2537 ~~of both regionally and locally highly-rated wetlands.)~~

2538
2539 Wetlands are productive biological systems, providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Wetlands also store flood
2540 waters and control runoff, thereby reducing flooding, downstream erosion, and other damage. Further, wetlands
2541 protect water quality by trapping sediments and absorbing pollutants. They allow rain and snowmelt to infiltrate
2542 into aquifers, recharging them and potentially making that water available for human use. They discharge
2543 groundwater, making it available to plants and animals. Wetlands store peak flows and discharge to streams in
2544 dry periods, thus enabling fish and riparian animal populations to survive. They may serve as outdoor
2545 classrooms for scientific study. Some are used for hiking, hunting, and fishing. These wetland functions and
2546 values need consideration from a watershed perspective. Measures to protect wetland functions and values need
2547 to be taken at both the site-specific and watershed scale. In the ~~((#))~~Urban ~~((g))~~Growth ~~((a))~~Area, land use
2548 authority is often shared by multiple jurisdictions at the scale of a drainage basin. Similarly, efforts to protect
2549 and restore wetlands may be sponsored by multiple parties, including local governments.

2550
2551 ~~**E-473** King County’s overall goal for the protection of wetlands is no net loss of~~
2552 ~~wetland functions and values within each drainage basin. Acquisition,~~
2553 ~~enhancement, regulations, and incentive programs shall be used independently~~
2554 ~~or in combination with one another to protect and enhance wetlands functions~~
2555 ~~and values. Watershed management plans, including Water Resource Inventory~~
2556 ~~Area plans, should be used to coordinate and inform priorities for acquisition,~~
2557 ~~enhancement, regulations, and incentive programs within unincorporated King~~
2558 ~~County to achieve the goal of no net loss of wetland functions and values within~~
2559 ~~each drainage basin.~~

2560
2561 Buffers are necessary but often insufficient to adequately protect wetland values and functions especially when
2562 wetlands are small and the adjacent watershed large. Consequently, the location of development in addition to
2563 its size is important in determining its impact on wetland functions and values.

2564
2565 The functions and values of a wetland will change as the surrounding land is altered by development and other
2566 human activities, and as local conditions are influenced by climate change. Silviculture, agriculture, and
2567 development-related changes in forest cover and impervious surface affect stormwater runoff patterns, flooding,
2568 water quality, and wetland hydrology.

2569

2570 **E-474 Development adjacent to wetlands shall be sited such that wetland functions and**
2571 **values are protected, an adequate buffer around the wetlands is provided, and**
2572 **significant adverse impacts to wetlands are prevented.**

2573

2574 The diversity of plants and animals found in wetlands generally far exceeds that found in terrestrial habitats in
2575 the Pacific Northwest. Habitat loss and fragmentation are considered the greatest threats to this native
2576 biodiversity. Wetlands in the Urban Growth Area will experience the largest reduction in the distribution and
2577 number of native animals and plants due to habitat loss and fragmentation. It is anticipated that climate change
2578 will exacerbate the adverse effects of habitat loss and fragmentation by further reducing existing wetland habitat
2579 and altering wetland hydroperiods thereby increasing the inter-habitat distances and potentially restricting the
2580 dispersal and movement of plants and wildlife between favorable wetlands and habitats.

2581

2582 Protecting wetland biodiversity depends upon supporting the natural processes (including hydrology, nutrient
2583 cycling, and natural disturbances) that shape wetland habitat, protecting wetlands functions and values from the
2584 impacts of adjacent land uses, maintaining biological linkages, and preventing fragmentation of wetland habitats.
2585 Small wetlands strategically located between other wetlands may provide important biological links or “stepping
2586 stones” between other, higher quality wetlands. Wetlands adjacent to habitat networks also are especially
2587 critical to wildlife because they allow individual animals to escape danger and populations to inter-disperse and
2588 breed. Wetlands adjacent to habitat networks should receive special consideration in planning land use.

2589

2590 **E-475 To improve adjacent wetlands and aquatic habitat, areas of native vegetation that**
2591 **connect wetland complexes should be protected. Whenever effective, incentive**
2592 **programs such as buffer averaging, density credit transfers, or appropriate**
2593 **non-regulatory mechanisms shall be used for this purpose.**

2594

2595 Many wildlife species require access to both wetlands and adjacent terrestrial lands to support them at different
2596 stages of their lives. For example, many amphibians breed in the water and need access to terrestrial habitat for
2597 feeding and for shelter during the winter. Fixed-width buffers alone are unlikely to adequately address these
2598 needs or entirely protect wetlands from surrounding human activity. Adjacent and accessible terrestrial habitat
2599 may be too small or fragmented to provide core feeding, overwintering, and other habitat needs.

2600

2601 **E-476 King County should identify upland areas of native vegetation that connect**
2602 **wetlands to upland habitats and that connect upland habitats to each other. The**
2603 **((e))County should seek protection of these areas through acquisition,**
2604 **stewardship plans, and incentive programs such as the Public Benefit Rating**
2605 **System and the Transfer of Development Rights Program.**

2606

2607 **E-477 The unique hydrologic cycles, soil and water chemistries, and vegetation**
2608 **communities of bogs and fens shall be protected through the use of incentives,**

2609 acquisition, best management practices, and implementation of the King County
2610 Surface Water Design Manual to control and/or treat stormwater within the
2611 wetland watershed.

2612
2613 **E-478** **Public access to wetlands for scientific, recreational, and traditional cultural use**
2614 **is desirable, providing that public access trails are carefully sited, sensitive**
2615 **habitats and species are protected, and hydrologic continuity is maintained.**

2616
2617 **E-479** **Regulatory approaches for protecting wetland functions and values, including**
2618 **the application of wetland buffers and the siting of off-site compensatory**
2619 **mitigation, should consider intensity of surrounding land uses and basin**
2620 **conditions. King County shall continue to review and evaluate wetland research**
2621 **and implement changes in its wetland protection programs based on such**
2622 **information.**

2623
2624 **E-480** **Enhancement or restoration of degraded wetlands may be allowed to maintain or**
2625 **improve wetland functions and values, provided that all wetland functions are**
2626 **evaluated in a wetland management plan, and adequate monitoring, code**
2627 **enforcement, and evaluation is provided and assured by responsible parties.**
2628 **The enhancement or ((R))restoration ((or enhancement)) must result in a net**
2629 **improvement to the functions and values of the wetland system. Within available**
2630 **resources, King County should provide technical assistance to small property**
2631 **owners as an incentive to encourage the enhancement or restoration ((or**
2632 **enhancement)) of degraded wetlands.**

2633
2634 **E-481** **Provided all wetland functions are evaluated, impact avoidance and minimization**
2635 **sequencing is followed, affected significant functions are appropriately**
2636 **mitigated, and mitigation sites are adequately monitored, alterations to wetlands**
2637 **may be allowed to:**
2638 **a. Accomplish a public agency or utility development;**
2639 **b. Provide necessary crossings for utilities, stormwater tightlines and**
2640 **roads; or**
2641 **c. Allow constitutionally mandated “reasonable use” of the property.**

2642
2643 When adverse impacts cannot be avoided, compensatory mitigation may be allowed. This means wetland
2644 enhancement, restoration, or creation to replace project-induced losses of wetland functions and values. The
2645 ((e))County recognizes that, especially in the Urban Growth Area, allowing alteration of low-function wetlands
2646 in exchange for compensatory mitigation that contributes to wetlands of higher functions and values within a
2647 connected wetland system may achieve greater resource protection than simply preserving the low functioning
2648 wetland.

2649

- 2650 **E-482** A small Category IV wetland that is less than 2,500 square feet and that is not
2651 part of a wetland complex may be altered to move functions to another wetland
2652 as part of an approved mitigation plan that is consistent with E-483 and E-484.
2653
- 2654 **E-483** Wetland impacts should be avoided if possible, and minimized in all cases.
2655 Where impacts cannot be avoided, they should be mitigated on site if the
2656 proposed mitigation is ~~((feasible))~~ practical, ecologically appropriate, and likely
2657 to continue providing equivalent or better biological functions in perpetuity.
2658 Where on-site mitigation is not possible or appropriate, King County may
2659 approve off-site mitigation.
2660
- 2661 **E-484** Mitigation projects should contribute to an existing wetland system or restore an
2662 area that was historically a wetland. Mitigation should only create new wetlands
2663 after site monitoring indicates that hydrologic conditions exist to support a new
2664 wetland. Mitigation sites should be strategically located to reduce habitat
2665 fragmentation or to restore and enhance area-specific functions within a
2666 watershed.
2667
- 2668 **E-485** Land used for wetland mitigation should be preserved in perpetuity. Monitoring
2669 and maintenance in conformance with King County standards should be
2670 provided or paid for by the project proponent until the success of the site is
2671 established. Long-term stewardship should occur at mitigation sites to ensure
2672 sites continue to provide desired functions and values.
2673
- 2674 Mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs are forms of watershed-based compensatory mitigation, with the goal
2675 of providing greater resource protection and benefit to the public. Both approaches can allow for the
2676 consolidation of multiple, small mitigation projects into a large-scale wetland or wetland complex, resulting in
2677 economies of scale in planning, implementation, and maintenance. Depending on their location and functions,
2678 mitigation banks and projects constructed using in-lieu fee programs can result in wetlands of greater hydrologic,
2679 chemical, and biological value because of their size and ecological context and the commitment to long-term
2680 management. These mitigation approaches also provide applicants with a range of options for meeting their
2681 off-site mitigation obligations.
2682
- 2683 Mitigation banking allows compensatory mitigation to occur prior to the loss of existing wetlands and their
2684 functions and values, thereby reducing “temporal” losses. Mitigation banking allows a project proponent to
2685 mitigate for their impacts by contributing fees to a bank sponsor for the creation or restoration of the bank site.
2686 In-lieu fee programs, such as King County’s Mitigation Reserves Program, allow an applicant to meet its off-site
2687 wetland mitigation requirements through payment of a fee to King County or another authorized agent with the
2688 capacity to design and construct, maintain, and monitor a successful mitigation project. Both types of programs
2689 enable fees to be pooled so that larger projects can be constructed to offset impacts elsewhere in a watershed.

2690

2691 Moreover, King County’s Mitigation Reserves Program enables such projects to be constructed on lands with
2692 degraded wetlands or aquatic areas or lands with the potential to reestablish wetlands or aquatic areas that could
2693 be restored or enhanced to benefit overall watershed functions. These Mitigation Reserve lands are managed for
2694 long term ecological protection, so that the landscape and stream basin context support a successful
2695 enhancement project. Such projects should be planned in a watershed context and may achieve multiple
2696 ecological objectives, including meeting salmon conservation and other habitat protection objectives as well as
2697 wetland enhancement needs.

2698

2699 **E-486 King County in partnership with other governmental entities and interested**
2700 **parties should encourage the development and use of wetland mitigation banks**
2701 **through which functioning wetlands or aquatic areas are enhanced, restored, or**
2702 **created prior to the impacting of existing wetlands or aquatic areas. The**
2703 **((e))County shall encourage establishment of such banks by established**
2704 **government entities as well as by private, entrepreneurial enterprises.**

2705

2706 ~~((In 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency jointly issued new~~
2707 ~~federal rules (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 230 and 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 332) regarding~~
2708 ~~compensatory mitigation for losses to functions and values of aquatic resources associated with unavoidable~~
2709 ~~permitted impacts. These rules require implementation of mitigation in a watershed context and consideration of~~
2710 ~~functional losses to resources from permitted impacts and functional gains at mitigation sites.))~~

2711

2712 King County ~~((revised its compensatory mitigation program in 2011 to comply with these new federal rules and~~
2713 ~~is well positioned to become)) is a regional service provider for compensatory in-lieu fee mitigation – both to~~
2714 ~~permittees in unincorporated King County and within cities ((when appropriate agreements are in place)). The~~
2715 ~~((revised)) County's compensatory mitigation program((, authorized by state and federal agencies in 2012,))~~
2716 offers private and public project proponents the opportunity to pay a fee to King County in lieu of completing
2717 their own mitigation. These fees in turn will be used to implement mitigation projects, equitably applied among
2718 larger- and smaller-scale developments, that address watershed needs as determined through analysis of best
2719 available science.

2720

2721 In approving mitigation proposals, King County should consider the ecological context of the impacted wetland,
2722 as well as the wetland impact acreage, functions, and values. Mitigation sites should be located in areas in which
2723 the project will enhance ecological conditions of the watershed and should first replace or augment the functions
2724 and values that are most important to the optimum functioning of the wetland being created, restored, or
2725 enhanced. These functions and values may differ from those lost as a result of the impacting development
2726 project. Wetland mitigation proposals should result in no net loss, and if possible, in an increase in overall
2727 wetland functions and values within the watershed in which the impacted site is located.

2728

**((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)) TBD**

2729 **E-487** King County should continue to implement and encourage use of its Mitigation
2730 Reserves Program to provide a fee-based option for permit applicants to mitigate
2731 for unavoidable impacts of permitted development on wetland and aquatic area
2732 functions and values. The fee structure shall be based on the full costs of land
2733 acquisition, site selection, design, construction, and long-term maintenance and
2734 monitoring. Mitigation projects implemented through the Mitigation Reserves
2735 Program should occur within a watershed context.

2737 **E-488** King County should be a regional service provider of compensatory mitigation
2738 through the Mitigation Reserves Program by working with local cities, other
2739 counties, and state agencies to establish partnerships for implementation of
2740 inter-jurisdictional in-lieu fee mitigation.

2741
2742 ~~((A large portion of western Washington farming occurs in lands that were once wetlands. Region-wide,
2743 agricultural lands have been targeted as mitigation sites because the relative cost of land is low and the likelihood
2744 of success in returning wetland functions is high. King County's Agricultural Production Districts that are
2745 located in floodplains and the poorly drained Osceola soils of the Enumclaw Plateau are no exception. Unless
2746 carefully sited and engineered, wetland mitigation projects can inadvertently raise water tables on adjacent
2747 agricultural properties. King County has joined other counties in discouraging the use of productive farmland
2748 for wetland mitigation, while working with farmers on wetland enhancement and restoration at a scale
2749 appropriate to sustaining their farms.))~~

2750
2751 Through the King County Mitigation Reserves Program, ~~((restoration))~~ mitigation sites are selected ~~((and
2752 pre-purchased in advance of))~~ to offset development related impacts. Selected sites, with wetland or aquatic area
2753 preservation, enhancement, restoration, or creation potential, will be ~~((purchased))~~ protected in perpetuity as
2754 open space and actively managed as mitigation sites ~~((and will be protected in perpetuity as open space)).~~
2755 Mitigation projects implemented through the Mitigation Reserves Program will preserve, enhance, restore,
2756 and/or create ecological functions at the site to compensate for wetland, stream, river, and/or buffer functions
2757 and values lost during unavoidable impacts associated with permitted construction of projects at other locations.
2758 Sites and projects through the Mitigation Reserves Program will occur where the projects will have sustainable
2759 long-term benefits to aquatic resources in the watershed, ensuring projects at protected sites occur in places with
2760 importance to ecological integrity of the watershed. King County's Mitigation Reserves Program ~~((has received
2761 approval from))~~ is approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ~~((the))~~ Environmental Protection Agency,
2762 ~~((and the))~~ Washington Department of Ecology, and various local, state, and federal agencies to ~~((serve as an
2763 in lieu fee program to mitigate))~~ provide mitigation for the impacts to wetlands and other aquatic resources
2764 subject to local, state, and federal regulations.

2765
2766 A large portion of western Washington farming occurs in lands that were once wetlands. Region-wide,
2767 agricultural lands have been targeted as mitigation sites because the relative cost of land is low and the likelihood
2768 of success in returning wetland functions is high. King County's Agricultural Production Districts that are

2769 located in floodplains and the poorly drained Osceola soils of the Enumclaw Plateau are no exception. Unless
2770 carefully sited and engineered, wetland mitigation projects can inadvertently raise water tables on adjacent
2771 agricultural properties. King County has joined other counties in discouraging the use of productive farmland
2772 for wetland mitigation, while working with farmers on wetland enhancement and restoration at a scale
2773 appropriate to sustaining their farms.

2774

2775 **E-489 Wetland mitigation projects should avoid impacts to and prevent loss of farmable**
2776 **land within Agricultural Production Districts. Creation of wetland mitigation**
2777 **banks ~~((are))~~ shall not be allowed in the Agricultural Production Districts when**
2778 **the purpose is to compensate for wetland impacts from development outside the**
2779 **Agricultural Production Districts.**

2780

2781 **((3.)) Lakes**

2782 There are approximately 700 lakes in King County ranging in size from less than one acre to Lake Washington’s
2783 roughly 21,500 acres. These lakes provide habitat that is essential for various life stages of many species of fish
2784 and wildlife, including salmonids, as well as recreational opportunities and scenic beauty. Watershed
2785 ~~((Development, shoreline alternation, and stormwater runoff into lakes can alter their functioning and lead to~~
2786 ~~eutrophication (increases in nutrients), loss of ((shoreline)) habitat, and threats to human and ecosystem health.~~
2787 ~~Although sewage treatment has greatly reduced pollution in urban lakes like Lake Washington, stormwater~~
2788 ~~runoff polluted by oil, metals, sediments, pet waste, lawn fertilizers, and ((pesticides)) toxic chemicals can~~
2789 ~~threaten ((human health, aquatic life, and habitat. Construction of bulkheads and docks also has the potential to~~
2790 ~~impact habitat by altering shoreline vegetation and natural erosion patterns)) lake ecosystems and those who use~~
2791 them.

2792

2793 King County conducts water quality monitoring assessment on lakes throughout ~~((King County, in some cases~~
2794 ~~supported by interlocal agreements with cities)) the county, including sediment quality, habitat, biotic resources,~~
2795 and hydrology. ~~((Some of the earliest evidence of climate change includes temperature changes in regional lakes.~~
2796 ~~Changes in annual temperature cycles in King County’s regional lakes, particularly Lake Sammamish, Lake~~
2797 ~~Union, and Lake Washington, provide some of the most accurate measures of climate change available locally.))~~
2798 This monitoring supports restoration and protection of lakes in King County, as well as improves understanding
2799 of climate change, watershed development, stormwater impacts, and swimming, fishing, and drinking water
2800 uses.

2801

**((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)) TBD**

2802 King County also conducts specialized monitoring assessments for public health and safety. During the summer
2803 months, the ((e))County conducts regular monitoring at public swimming beaches and contaminate monitoring
2804 of some fish species. When monitoring indicates a public health hazard, the County works collaboratively with
2805 state agencies and local jurisdictions, and ((the)) information is provided to Public Health -- Seattle & King
2806 County((, which can issue a temporary closure order. The Washington State Department of Health issues fish
2807 and shellfish consumption advisories to protect human health. There are consumption advisories for a number of
2808 species in Lake Washington. King County recently implemented a monitoring program to track the level of
2809 select contaminants in some fish species in Lake Washington. These data are used to evaluate the potential for
2810 both human health (through consumption) and ecological impacts)). This can result in public warnings,
2811 consumption advisories, management recommendations, and a temporary closure order if necessary. King
2812 County also offers technical response assistance to harmful algal bloom incidents.

2813

2814 **E-490** Lakes ~~((should))~~ **shall** be protected through management of lake watersheds and
2815 **shorelines. Lakes ((sensitive to nutrients shall)) should also** be protected
2816 **through the management of nutrients that stimulate potentially harmful algae**
2817 **blooms and aquatic plant growth. Where sufficient information is available,**
2818 **measurable standards for lake quality should be set and management plans**
2819 **established to meet the standards. Formation of lake management districts or**
2820 **other financing mechanisms should be considered to provide the financial**
2821 **resources necessary to support actions for protection of ((sensitive)) lakes.**

2822

2823 **E-491** King County, in partnership with other governments and community groups,
2824 **should monitor and assess lake water and sediment quality, physical habitat,**
2825 **((and)) biotic resources, and hydrology. Assessment should identify trends and**
2826 **describe impacts on human and ecosystem health, aquatic life, and wildlife**
2827 **habitat.**

2828

2829 **E-491a** ~~((The e))~~ **King County** should collaborate with other ~~((affected))~~ jurisdictions,
2830 **Public Health - Seattle & King County((, the State Department of Health, and the**
2831 **State Department of Ecology)), and state agencies to identify and address**
2832 **pollutant sources adversely impacting aquatic life and/or human and ecosystem**
2833 **health((; through local or grant funding opportunities, the county should reduce**
2834 **or remove these inputs)).**

2835

2836 **E-492** Swimming beaches on lakes should be monitored for ~~((bacterial))~~ **fecal**
2837 **contamination and algal toxins. When data shows public health to be at risk,**
2838 **Public Health - Seattle & King County should take appropriate action to address**
2839 **public health risks.**

2840

2841 **((4.)) Groundwater Resources**

2842 Protecting groundwater is an important regional issue because groundwater provides approximately 30((%))
2843 percent of the water used in King County and is the primary source of water in the Rural Areas geography. On
2844 Vashon-Maury Island and in other sole-source aquifer areas, it is the only source of drinking water.

2845
2846 The natural hydrologic system can be altered by development practices and overuse of the aquifer. The result
2847 may be depletion of aquifers. Groundwater is also subject to contamination from human activity. Once a source
2848 of groundwater is contaminated it may be lost forever. The cost of protection is considerably less than the cost of
2849 remediation and replacement. Having accurate, up-to-date information on groundwater quality and quantity is
2850 essential for managing this resource. Mapping risk could be achieved for a variety of pollutants or pollutant
2851 classes by integrating groundwater protection level, distance to groundwater, soil type, pollutant mobility, and
2852 land use information into a new map layer for each pollutant. Finally, public education (particularly for
2853 individual well owners) and coordinated groundwater management efforts will help to protect this resource over
2854 the long-run.

2855
2856 **E-493 King County shall identify and map areas in unincorporated King County that are**
2857 **considered Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and sole-source aquifers. The**
2858 **((e))County shall periodically update this map with new information from adopted**
2859 **groundwater and wellhead protection studies and other relevant sources. King**
2860 **County should develop and maintain map layers of groundwater risk level when**
2861 **funding is available.**

2862
2863 **E-494 King County should protect the quality and quantity of groundwater countywide**
2864 **by:**
2865 **a. Implementing adopted Groundwater Management Plans;**
2866 **b. Reviewing and implementing approved Wellhead Protection Programs in**
2867 **conjunction with cities, state agencies and groundwater purveyors;**
2868 **c. Developing, with affected jurisdictions, best management practices for**
2869 **development and for forestry, agriculture, and mining operations based**
2870 **on adopted Groundwater Management Plans and Wellhead Protection**
2871 **Programs. The goals of these practices should be to promote aquifer**
2872 **recharge quality and to strive for no net reduction of recharge to**
2873 **groundwater quantity;**
2874 **d. Refining regulations to protect Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and**
2875 **well((-))head protection areas;**
2876 **e. Educating the public about Best Management Practices to protect**
2877 **groundwater;**
2878 **f. Encouraging forest retention and active forest stewardship;**

- 2879 g. Incorporating into its land use and water service decisions consideration
- 2880 of potential impacts on groundwater quality and quantity, and the need
- 2881 for long-term aquifer protection;
- 2882 h. Coordinating groundwater management efforts with cities, water
- 2883 districts, groundwater committees, and state and federal agencies;
- 2884 i. Requiring the proper decommissioning of any well abandoned in the
- 2885 process of connecting an existing water system to a Group A water
- 2886 system; and
- 2887 j. When funding is available, monitoring groundwater status and trends,
- 2888 especially for the groundwater protection planning areas established by
- 2889 King County, and evaluating the groundwater monitoring results, along
- 2890 with groundwater monitoring performed by public water systems, plus
- 2891 their annual quantities of groundwater pumped over the five((-))-year
- 2892 period. Findings as an indicator of environmental quality should be
- 2893 reported for each groundwater management area.

2894

2895 **E-495** King County should protect groundwater recharge quantity and quality by

2896 promoting low impact development and other methods that infiltrate stormwater

2897 runoff where site conditions permit and where pollution source controls and

2898 stormwater treatment can prevent potential groundwater contamination.

2899

2900 **E-496** ~~((In making future zoning and land use decisions that are subject to~~

2901 ~~environmental review,))~~ King County ~~((shall))~~ should periodically evaluate and

2902 monitor groundwater policies, their implementation costs, and the impacts upon

2903 the quantity and quality of groundwater. The depletion or degradation of aquifers

2904 needed for potable water supplies should be avoided or mitigated, and the need

2905 to plan and develop feasible and equivalent replacement sources to compensate

2906 for the potential loss of water supplies should be considered.

2907

2908 **E-497** King County should protect groundwater in the Rural Area by:

2909 a. Preferring land uses that retain a high ratio of permeable to impermeable

2910 surface area, and that maintain and/or augment the natural soil's

2911 infiltration capacity and treatment capability for groundwater;

2912 b. Evaluating impacts on groundwater, where appropriate, during review of

2913 commercial, industrial and residential subdivision development projects

2914 that are proposed to be located within critical aquifer recharge areas,

2915 and, where appropriate, requiring mitigation for anticipated groundwater

2916 impacts to domestic water supply resulting from these projects; and

2917 c. Requiring standards for maximum vegetation clearing limits, impervious

2918 surface limits, and, where appropriate, infiltration of surface water.

2919

2920 Climate change has the potential to impact future groundwater availability. Warmer temperatures in the Pacific
2921 Northwest are projected to lead to greater demand for water in the summer and fall, while reduced snow pack
2922 and associated stream flows could reduce seasonal groundwater recharge. Further analysis of the potential
2923 impacts of climate change on groundwater supplies in King County is needed to understand and mitigate for
2924 potential impacts.

2925

2926 **E-498** King County should, in partnership with water utilities, ~~((evaluate the likely~~
2927 ~~effects of)) work to ensure that climate change impacts on ((aquifer recharge and
2928 ~~groundwater supplies and develop a strategy to mitigate potential impacts in~~
2929 ~~coordination with other climate change initiatives)) groundwater are being
2930 accounted for in water supply planning and management, such as by
2931 a. Evaluating effects of climate change on aquifer recharge and
2932 groundwater supplies; and
2933 b. Developing strategies through climate change initiatives with cities,
2934 water districts, groundwater committees, state and federal agencies, and
2935 Indian tribes to mitigate impacts of climate change.
2936~~~~

2937 **~~((5.))~~ Rivers, Streams and Floodplains**

2938 There are approximately ~~((3,100))~~ 6,400 miles of rivers ~~((and))~~, streams, and creeks in King County and more
2939 than ~~((52,000))~~ 59,000 acres of floodplains along rivers, streams, and marine shorelines. The river and stream
2940 channels, the surrounding riparian (streamside) areas and upland areas, their floodplains all contribute to the
2941 functioning and integrity of rivers and streams. Many rivers and streams provide habitat that is essential for
2942 various life stages of many species of wildlife and fish, including salmonids.

2943

2944 Rivers, streams and floodplains are dynamic systems. When flood waters overtop banks, floodplains temporarily
2945 store that water. Depending on the depth and flow, floods can dramatically alter river and stream courses,
2946 creating new channels, eroding banks, and depositing sediment and gravel. Flooding and erosion can also
2947 dislodge trees. These changes slow flood flows and help to support dynamic and complex habitat for fish and
2948 wildlife. At the same time, they can create public safety issues for people living along and recreating in rivers.

2949

2950 In addition, public access to rivers and streams is both a requirement of the Shoreline Management Act and a
2951 goal for King County to support the regional economy and provide recreational opportunities for the
2952 community. People enjoy rivers and streams for the scenic and recreation values, including boating, floating,
2953 swimming, fish and wildlife viewing, and fishing. Management of these systems needs to consider not only
2954 habitat protection, but also public health and safety and opportunities for education and stewardship.

2955

2956 **E-498a** The existing flood storage and conveyance functions and ecological values of
2957 floodplains, wetlands, and riparian ((corridors)) areas shall be protected, and

2958 should(~~(, where possible,)~~) be restored and enhanced ((or restored)) through
2959 integrated actions that provide multiple benefits.

2961 **E-499** ~~((Rivers and streams are inherently dangerous.))~~ King County should coordinate
2962 across ((e))_County departments and with other agencies and organizations to
2963 promote public awareness of the dynamics and dangers of river and stream
2964 systems and the need for personal responsibility when living near or recreating
2965 in or on rivers and streams.

2967 **E-499a** When King County places large wood in rivers and streams for habitat
2968 restoration or enhancement, it should do so in a manner that minimizes danger
2969 to the public.

2971 Specific policies addressing management of large wood are found in the King County Flood Hazard
2972 Management Plan. In urban areas, rivers and streams in some cases also serve as stormwater drainage systems.
2973 During the winter months, stormwater runoff during storms can bring pollutants to these water bodies. During
2974 the summer months, lawn irrigation and other water uses can also carry pollutants to rivers and streams.

2976 **E-499b** River and stream channels, stream outlets, headwater areas, riparian corridors,
2977 and areas where dynamic ecological processes are present should be preserved,
2978 protected and enhanced for their hydraulic, hydrologic, ecologic and aesthetic
2979 functions, including their functions in providing large wood to salmonid-bearing
2980 streams. ~~((Management of))~~ Actions taken along river and stream channels
2981 should ((consider other beneficial uses of these water bodies, including
2982 recreation)) provide multiple benefits, resiliency to climate change, and ensure
2983 flood risk reduction actions benefit all communities, especially frontline
2984 communities, consistent with equity and racial and social justice goals and the
2985 policies of the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan or successor plans.

2987 **E-499c** To protect or improve adjacent wetlands and aquatic habitat, the designation of
2988 buffers for aquatic areas, including rivers and streams, should take into account
2989 watershed-scale actions to mitigate the impacts of upland development on
2990 flooding, erosion, and habitat.

2992 **E-499d** King County shall continue to monitor and assess river and stream flows, water
2993 and sediment quality, physical habitats, and biotic resources in rivers and
2994 streams. Assessment shall identify trends and describe impacts on human
2995 health and safety, aquatic life, and wildlife habitat.

2996

2997 **E-499e To maintain and restore stream health, sources of uncontrolled stormwater flows**
2998 **contributing to peak flows in small streams should be managed using on-site**
2999 **structural or non-structural flow control techniques.**

3000
3001 Most streams in King County originate in either mountainous terrain or on rolling glacial uplands. These
3002 streams often descend through steep, narrow ravines before reaching the floodplain. At the point where these
3003 streams leave their ravines and flow onto the floodplain, the channel gradient (slope) and confinement decrease
3004 quickly, dramatically reducing the streams' ability to carry sediment. These are areas of natural sediment
3005 deposition and channel migration. The combination of sediment deposition and repeated channel migration
3006 creates fan-shaped depositional features known as alluvial "fans."

3007
3008 During periods of heavy rainfall, streams often carry large sediment loads from upstream that deposit on
3009 downstream alluvial fans. Landslides, beaver dam failures and other natural disturbances can create episodes of
3010 particularly high rates of sediment production and delivery. In many stream systems, instances of heavy
3011 sediment deposition may occur episodically with years or decades of apparent stability in the intervening periods.
3012 In many instances, sediment production and tributary or stream flow rates are exacerbated by upland land use
3013 conditions and associated stormwater effects.

3014
3015 Alluvial fans share many of the ecological attributes and land use risks associated with channel migration hazard
3016 areas and landslide hazards, though they are unique in many respects. In a natural environment, alluvial fans
3017 often provide some of the best available spawning habitat in a tributary stream, while also providing a source of
3018 gravel for areas downstream. In some heavily altered streams, the alluvial fan may represent the only remaining
3019 areas that are suitable for spawning. Alluvial fans can also form the highest ground available in the floodplain,
3020 and have historically been used for construction of buildings (including farm buildings), roads and other
3021 structures. Unfortunately, they are inherently unstable environments in which to build. During high flows
3022 coupled with sediment deposition, a stream may jump its bank in the area of the alluvial fan, in some cases
3023 damaging private property, disrupting agricultural activities, destroying culverts and road crossings, stranding
3024 fish, and creating risks to public safety. Protecting buildings, roads, and crops on and along alluvial fans often
3025 requires extensive, ongoing maintenance activities. Maintenance activities can have adverse effects on habitat,
3026 and in some circumstances may not be permissible under state regulations.

3027
3028 ~~((The Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands chapter calls for alluvial fan pilot projects to test best
3029 management practices and innovative solutions for reducing hazards to agricultural landowners and protecting
3030 and restoring habitat.))~~

3031
3032 **E-499f King County should improve the management of alluvial fans by developing and**
3033 **clarifying definitions of alluvial fans, mapping the locations of existing alluvial**
3034 **fans, and developing appropriate management strategies. Strategies should**
3035 **protect intact habitat ~~((and)),~~ restore degraded habitat, and reduce threats to**
3036 **public safety~~((, and accommodate))~~ in the context of existing land uses. Best**

3037 Available Science and ((F))findings from Alluvial Fan Management Pilot Projects
3038 Reports should inform management strategies for alluvial fans, including
3039 potential regulatory changes.
3040

3041 **((G.)) Puget Sound**

3042 There are approximately 110 miles of marine shoreline in King County, including 51 miles in unincorporated
3043 areas. Shorelines provide important functions for maintaining a healthy ecosystem and also provide essential
3044 habitat for a variety of important and listed species, including mammals, birds, fish, and invertebrates. In
3045 addition to recreational opportunities, the marine nearshore environment provides essential habitat for a variety
3046 of species including juvenile salmonids, forage fish, and several commercially important shellfish species. Kelp
3047 and eelgrass populations are particularly important for providing food and habitat, especially for juvenile life
3048 stages for a variety of key fish and invertebrate species. The intertidal area of marine beaches are the only
3049 spawning habitats for Pacific sand lance and surf smelt, which form the base for much of the food chain in Puget
3050 Sound and are highly susceptible to impacts from residential development of shoreline areas. Marine resources
3051 and shorelines, especially embayments, are susceptible to impacts from water pollution, changes in upland
3052 vegetation, alteration of natural bluff and beach erosion patterns, and alteration of nearshore substrates and
3053 aquatic vegetation.

3054
3055 The majority of marine waters within King County are subtidal waters, which provide important ecosystem
3056 functions and essential habitat for a variety of important species, including marine mammals, birds, salmonids,
3057 and other fish and invertebrates. Subtidal waters support geoduck, shrimp, and ~~((bottomfish))~~ commercial and
3058 tribal fisheries ((as well as)), and also provide critical rearing habitats for salmonids and migratory pathways for
3059 marine mammals ~~((and salmonids))~~. Resident killer whales are often observed in King County subtidal waters
3060 feeding on salmonids, and Biggs' whales are often seen feeding on seals and sea lions. Adult life stages of many
3061 species, such as rockfish and Dungeness crab, use subtidal waters extensively. In addition, subtidal waters
3062 provide an important connection to Pacific Ocean waters as well as waters within other parts of Puget Sound.
3063 Subtidal habitat is susceptible to impacts from water pollution, over-utilizing of biological resources, and climate
3064 change.

3065
3066 King County conducts water quality monitoring in marine offshore and nearshore areas throughout King
3067 County as part of the Marine Monitoring Program. Nutrients, chlorophyll, and dissolved oxygen are measured
3068 along with other physical and chemical parameters. Biological parameters, such as ~~((chlorophyll))~~ fecal indicator
3069 bacteria and phytoplankton and zooplankton community structure are also assessed. Offshore sediment quality
3070 is assessed in various subtidal areas and nearshore sediments are assessed throughout King County. The
3071 Washington State Department of Health issues fish and shellfish consumption advisories to protect human
3072 health. There are consumption advisories for a number of species within King County marine waters. King
3073 County recently implemented a monitoring program to track the level of select contaminants in some species of
3074 fish and shellfish in Elliott Bay and King County's marine waters. These data are used to evaluate the potential
3075 for both human health (through consumption) and ecological impacts.

3076

3077 King County’s freshwater and saltwater environments are integrally linked. Water, sediments, and nutrients
3078 move from upland areas to Puget Sound. Many species, including salmon, spend critical periods of their lives in
3079 both fresh and salt water. Salmon migrating from saltwater to their spawning areas bring marine-derived
3080 nutrients back to the upland areas. Given the functional linkages between freshwater and saltwater
3081 environments, it is critical that planning and management be integrated.

3082

3083 **E-499g** King County should collaborate with ~~((the))~~ federal and state agencies,
3084 ~~((including))~~ the Puget Sound Partnership~~((s))~~, cities, Indian tribes, other
3085 counties, and universities to monitor and assess Puget Sound marine waters,
3086 nearshore areas, and embayments. Monitoring and assessment should:
3087 a. _____ Address water and sediment quality, bioaccumulation of chemicals,
3088 physical habitat, ~~((and))~~ biotic resources, and hydrology (~~--Assessment~~
3089 should); and
3090 b. _____ Identify trends and describe impacts on human and ecosystem health
3091 and safety, aquatic life, and wildlife habitat.

3092

3093 **E-499gg** ~~((The e))~~ King County should collaborate with other ~~((affected))~~ jurisdictions,
3094 ~~Public Health -- Seattle & King County, ((the State Department of Health, and the~~
3095 ~~State Department of Ecology)), and state agencies to identify and address~~
3096 pollutant sources adversely impacting aquatic life and/or human and ecosystem
3097 health(~~;~~ ~~through local or grant funding opportunities, the county should reduce~~
3098 or remove these inputs)).

3099

3100 **E-499h** King County should protect and enhance the natural environment in those areas
3101 recommended or adopted as Aquatic Reserves by Washington State Department
3102 of Natural Resources. This should include participation in management planning
3103 for the aquatic reserves and working with willing landowners adjacent to the
3104 reserve on restoration and acquisition projects that enhance the natural
3105 environment.

3106

3107 **E-499hh** King County shall continue to support efforts of the Poverty Bay Shellfish
3108 Protection District to safeguard against threats to water quality that limit access
3109 to existing commercial shellfish harvesting areas.

3110

3111 **E-499hhh** King County should continue to support regional program and actions to monitor
3112 and address fecal pollution of King County lakes, streams, and beaches, such as
3113 the Pollution Identification and Control Program being run in collaboration with
3114 the King Conservation District and Public Health – Seattle & King County.

3115

3116 Human waste contains high levels of nutrients and pathogens. These pollutants can enter Puget Sound marine
3117 waters from a variety of pathways including combined sewer overflow outfalls, septic systems, stormwater
3118 runoff, ships and boats, and rivers and streams. Nutrients are also present in treated wastewater effluent. Public
3119 Health – Seattle & King County is responsible for assuring that onsite sewage systems in King County meet state
3120 and local regulations. In addition, Public Health – Seattle & King County is required to identify areas where
3121 marine water quality is threatened or impaired as a result of contamination from onsite sewage systems, to
3122 designate these areas as Marine Recovery Areas, Public Health – Seattle & King County has developed a Marine
3123 Recovery Areas plan for Vashon-Maury Island to identify failed septic systems within the Marine Recovery
3124 Areas, and to assure that these systems are repaired and maintained.

3125
3126 The State Department of Health conducts shoreline surveys, which identifies pollution sources that may impact
3127 water quality. Marine water sampling is to determine fecal coliform bacteria levels in the marine waters.
3128 Shellfish growing areas are classified determining whether ~~((or not))~~ shellfish in the area can be harvested for
3129 human consumption. Public Health – Seattle & King County, in partnership with Department of Natural
3130 Resources and Parks and King Conservation District, has implemented the Quartermaster Pollution
3131 Identification and Correction programs to address the fecal coliform discharges that ~~((caused the shellfish beds to
3132 be prohibited from))~~ limit commercial harvesting.

3133
3134 The Marine Recovery Areas/Pollution Identification and Correction program has successfully returned portions
3135 of Quartermaster Harbor to harvestable condition and is continuing work on Vashon-Maury Island to address
3136 fecal coliform sources such as properties that have on-site sewage systems that pre-date regulatory oversight
3137 systems or that have failing systems. In addition to Quartermaster Harbor, other ~~((King County))~~ commercial
3138 shellfish beds that are listed as threatened or concerned in King County are East Passage and Colvos Passage on
3139 Vashon, and Poverty Bay on the mainland.

3140
3141 Most landowners act as responsible managers of their septic systems and maintain them effectively. However,
3142 those septic systems that are not maintained can fail, and impact the environment. The County and the State
3143 should work with landowners by providing technical assistance and support to prevent failures, take action to
3144 correct failing systems and address the associated problems.

3145
3146 **E-499i King County should work with landowners, other jurisdictions, the state**
3147 **Department of Health, sewer districts, and the Puget Sound Partnership to**
3148 **proactively address failing septic systems with a priority in environmentally**
3149 **sensitive areas, including constrained shoreline environments.**

3150

3151 **~~((7-)) Beavers and Beaver Activity~~**

3152 Beaver ponds, created when beavers dam watercourses, provide a protective pool for a beaver lodge and
3153 environmental benefits. They help retain stormwater runoff, trap sediment and pollutants, maintain stream flow
3154 during summer, reduce downstream flooding and erosion, raise groundwater levels and help create diverse plant

3155 and animal habitat. Beaver ponds also provide significant environmental benefits and functions for salmon
3156 rearing habitat, floodplain connectivity, wood inputs, increased complexity of aquatic systems, and biodiversity.

3157
3158 Beaver dams may also cause upstream flooding of roads, utilities, and both public and private property, and
3159 create the potential for downstream risk to public safety and infrastructure should dam failure occur. If a dam is
3160 harmed or removed, the beavers will typically repair the damage quickly, because their survival depends on
3161 having the entrance to their lodge underwater.

3162
3163 ~~((For over 150 years beavers and humans were able to coexist in King County, because beaver populations were~~
3164 ~~kept in balance through trapping and human development was confined to areas without large beaver~~
3165 ~~populations. However, as the urban and suburban areas of King County extended out into areas with an~~
3166 ~~abundance of beaver habitat and beaver populations increased, beavers have begun to come into greater conflict~~
3167 ~~with humans.~~

3168
3169 ~~These growing conflicts were exacerbated in 2000 with the passage of Initiative Measure 713 (I-713), a law that~~
3170 ~~prohibited the use of body-gripping traps with the exception of a Conibear trap in water, a padded leg hold trap,~~
3171 ~~or a non-strangling type foot snare, all of which require a special permit (see Revised Code of Washington~~
3172 ~~77.15.194). The results of these changes were that fewer beavers are being trapped and more beavers are~~
3173 ~~repopulating historic habitat.~~

3174
3175 ~~Fifteen years since I-713 went into effect, beavers continue to repopulate the water bodies of King County.~~
3176 ~~Non-lethal/engineered solutions (beaver deceivers and pond levelers) help control water levels of beaver ponds~~
3177 ~~and are part of the solution for co-existing with beavers. But these solutions are not always sufficient and will~~
3178 ~~likely become less and less feasible in terms of maintenance capacity as beaver populations continue to expand.)~~

3179
3180 **E-499ii King County supports the coexistence of beavers and people in rural King**
3181 **County. ~~((King County should prepare a beaver management strategy to guide a~~**
3182 **~~program on issues such as where and how beavers and humans can co-exist~~**
3183 **~~with or without engineered solutions and where beavers should be excluded or~~**
3184 **~~removed.))~~**

3185
3186 **~~((E.)) Watershed-Based Salmon Recovery~~**

3187 The protection and recovery of salmonid species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act and
3188 encompassed by Indian tribal treaty rights are and will continue to be a significant priority for King County. The
3189 listing of a species under the Endangered Species Act and decline of Indian tribal treaty right protected species
3190 are cause for great concern, because wild Pacific salmon have great environmental, cultural, economic,
3191 nutritional, recreational, and symbolic importance to local communities, in particular Indian tribal communities,
3192 in the entire Puget Sound region.

3193

**((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)) TBD**

3194 It is King County's goal to ensure the recovery and maintenance of salmon populations to sustainable and
3195 harvestable levels, and to accrue the ecological, cultural, economic, and local food supply benefits that will be
3196 provided by healthy salmon stocks. King County ~~((will))~~ pursues salmon conservation strategies that sustain the
3197 region's vibrant economy. Successful restoration and maintenance of healthy salmon populations ~~((will))~~
3198 requires time, money and effort, and collaboration with federal, state, tribal and local governments, as well as
3199 businesses, environmental groups, and residents.

3200

3201 ~~((The increasing number and diversity of Endangered Species Act federally protected species in King County and
3202 around the Puget Sound calls for the development and implementation of species conservation actions that are
3203 embedded within a strategy that addresses natural resource management issues at the ecosystem scale. Although
3204 species are listed one at a time, managing them toward recovery and robust health that way increases the
3205 likelihood that conservation efforts will be incomplete, redundant, and more expensive.~~

3206

3207 ~~As a means to address salmonid listings and to sustain this precious resource for generations to come, I))~~ Local
3208 governments in the Puget Sound region, in cooperation with state and tribal governments and other ~~((major
3209 stakeholders))~~ partners, have developed long-term salmon habitat conservation strategies at the Watershed
3210 Resource Inventory Area level. The boundaries of Water Resource Inventory Areas are defined under state
3211 regulations, and generally adhere to the watershed boundaries of major river or lake systems.

3212

3213 King County participated as an affected jurisdiction in the development Water Resource Inventory Area plans
3214 for Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (Cedar/Sammamish Watershed), Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (the
3215 Green/Duwamish Watershed), Water Resource Inventory Area 7 (the Snohomish/Snoqualmie/Skykomish
3216 Watershed), about half of which is in King County, and Water Resource Inventory Area 10 (the White/Puyallup
3217 Watershed), a small percentage of which is in King County. Additionally, King County has acted as a service
3218 provider at the direction of multi-jurisdictional forums for the development and implementation of the salmon
3219 recovery plans for Water Resource Inventory Areas 8 and 9, and for the King County portion of Water Resource
3220 Inventory Area 7.

3221

3222 **E-499j King County shall continue to participate in the Water Resource Inventory Area**
3223 **salmon recovery plan implementation efforts and in other regional efforts to**
3224 **recover salmon and the ecosystems they depend on, such as the Puget Sound**
3225 **Partnership. King County's participation in planning and implementation efforts**
3226 **shall be guided by the following principles:**

3227

a. **Focus on federally listed salmonid species and declining stocks
3228 protected under Indian tribal treaty rights first, take an ecosystem
3229 approach to habitat management and seek to address management
3230 needs for other species over time;**

3231

b. **Concurrently work on early actions, long-term projects and programs
3232 that will lead to improvements to, and information on, habitat conditions
3233 in King County that can enable the recovery of endangered or threatened**

- 3234 salmonids, while maintaining the economic vitality and strength of the
- 3235 region;
- 3236 c. Address both King County’s growth management needs and habitat
- 3237 conservation needs;
- 3238 d. Use best available science as defined in Chapter 365-195 Washington
- 3239 Administrative Code ((365-195-905 through 365-195-925));
- 3240 e. Improve water quality, water quantity and channel characteristics;
- 3241 f. Coordinate with key decision-makers and ~~((stakeholders))~~ partners; and
- 3242 g. Develop, implement and evaluate actions within a watershed-based
- 3243 program of data collection and analysis that documents the level of
- 3244 effectiveness of specific actions and provides information for adaptation
- 3245 of salmon conservation and recovery strategies.
- 3246

3247 The Water Resource Inventory Area plans recommend an array of actions including the restoration, acquisition
3248 and preservation of landscapes, municipal programmatic activities, and public outreach and education. The
3249 plans suggest that programmatic activities for salmon habitat conservation can generally be accomplished with
3250 the following three tools: regulation, incentives, and education. Consequently, in addition to capital projects,
3251 local governments, including King County, will need to incorporate salmon recovery objectives and strategies
3252 into their normal operations, making best use of a wide range of their authorities and programs.

3253

3254 **E-499k King County should use the recommendations of approved Water Resource**
3255 **Inventory Area salmon recovery plans to inform the updates to development**
3256 **regulations as well as operations and capital planning for its floodplain**
3257 **management, fish passage, surface water management, transportation,**
3258 **wastewater treatment, parks, and open space programs.**

3259

3260 **E-499I King County should seek to support Water Resource Inventory Area salmon**
3261 **recovery plan goals of maintaining intact natural landscapes through:**

- 3262 a. Retaining low density land use designations such as Agriculture,
- 3263 Forestry and Rural Area designations;
- 3264 b. Promoting Current Use Taxation and other incentives;
- 3265 c. Promoting stewardship programs including development and
- 3266 implementation of Forest Plans, Farm Plans, and Rural Stewardship
- 3267 Plans;
- 3268 d. Promoting the use of ~~((L))~~low ~~((H))~~impact ~~((D))~~development methods; and
- 3269 e. Acquiring property or conservation easements in areas of high
- 3270 ecological importance with unique or otherwise significant habitat
- 3271 values.
- 3272

3273 Many of the ~~((e))~~County’s ~~((functional))~~ plans, programs and development regulations assist in the ~~((e))~~County’s
3274 effort to conserve and recover Endangered Species Act listed species. These include the code provisions

((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)) TBD

3275 governing zoning, critical areas, clearing and grading, landscaping, and the shoreline master program. County
3276 ~~((plans))~~ documents guiding operations and regulations include the Surface Water Design Manual, the ~~((f))~~Flood
3277 ~~((h))~~Hazard ~~((m))~~Management ~~((p))~~Plan, and ~~((r))~~Regional ~~((w))~~Wastewater ~~((s))~~Services ~~((p))~~Plan. Finally the
3278 ~~((e))~~County’s reliance on best management practices for vegetation management~~((r))~~; use of insecticides,
3279 herbicides, and fungicides~~((,))~~; and pest management~~((, as well as for))~~; management of agricultural and forest
3280 lands also play a crucial role in protecting Endangered Species Act listed species.

3281

3282 **E-499m King County ~~((will))~~ shall monitor and evaluate programs and regulations to**
3283 **determine their effectiveness in contributing to Endangered Species Act listed**
3284 **species conservation and recovery, and ~~((will))~~ shall update and enhance**
3285 **programs and plans as necessary. King County should amend regulations, plans**
3286 **and best management practices to enhance their effectiveness in protecting and**
3287 **restoring salmonid habitat, using a variety of resources, including best available**
3288 **science as defined in Chapter 365-195 Washington Administrative Code**
3289 **~~((365-195-905 through 365-195-925))~~.**

3290

3291 **E-499n Through the Watershed Resource Inventory Area planning process, geographic**
3292 **areas vital to the conservation and recovery of listed salmon species are**
3293 **identified. King County ~~((will))~~ shall evaluate this information to determine**
3294 **appropriate short and long-term strategies, including, but not limited to:**
3295 **designation of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, development**
3296 **regulations (special district overlays, zoning, etc.), acquisitions, facility**
3297 **maintenance programs, and capital improvement projects.**

3298

3299 **E-499o King County may use its authority under the Growth Management Act, including**
3300 **its authority to designate and protect critical areas, such as fish and wildlife**
3301 **habitat conservation areas, to preserve and protect key habitat for listed**
3302 **salmonid species by developing and implementing development regulations and**
3303 **nonregulatory programs.**

3304

3305 **E-499p King County shall, in cooperation with the cities, ensure a no net loss of housing**
3306 **capacity that preserves the ability to accommodate adopted growth targets, while**
3307 **pursuing compliance with Endangered Species Act requirements. To achieve**
3308 **this goal, densities shall be increased on buildable lands, consistent with H-110.**

3309

3310 Local governments primarily have authority and influence over land use actions affecting habitat. However,
3311 protecting and restoring habitat is just one piece of the salmon recovery puzzle. Management of fish harvest,
3312 hatchery, hydropower, and water storage actions is also critical, and actions need to be coordinated with entities
3313 having authority in these areas.

3314

3315 **E-499q King County should continue to take actions that ensure its habitat restoration**
3316 **and protection actions are implemented as part of a watershed-based salmon**
3317 **conservation strategy that integrates habitat actions with actions taken by**
3318 **harvest and hatchery managers. Harvest and hatchery managers specifically**
3319 **include Indian tribes with treaty-reserved fishing rights, the Washington**
3320 **Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the**
3321 **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Appropriate venues for this coordination include**
3322 **watershed plan implementation groups and other local or regional salmon**
3323 **management entities that rely on actions by habitat, harvest, and hatchery**
3324 **managers to achieve specific goals and objectives.**
3325

3326 To ensure the long-term success of salmon recovery actions, King County will need to develop and implement a
3327 program that provides for monitoring the effectiveness of recovery actions and the status and trends of priority
3328 fish populations and habitat conditions. Both types of monitoring provide valuable information to redirect and
3329 adapt salmonid recovery strategies and actions over time. ~~((Please-s))~~ See the Monitoring and Adaptive
3330 Management Section at the end of this chapter for policies related to this topic.
3331

3332 **~~((F-))~~ Flood Hazard Management**

3333 Floodplains are lands adjacent to lakes, rivers and streams that are subject to periodic flooding. Floodplains
3334 naturally store flood water, contribute to groundwater recharge, protect water quality and are valuable for
3335 recreation, agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat. Floodplains also provide a deposition zone for sediments
3336 mobilized by rivers and streams. Wetlands are often an integral part of floodplains.
3337

3338 There are two primary types of flood hazards: inundation and channel migration. Inundation is defined as
3339 floodwater and debris flowing through an area that is not normally under water. Such events can cause minor to
3340 severe damage, depending on the velocity and depth of flows, the duration of the flood event, the quantity of logs
3341 and other debris carried by flows, and the amount and type of development and personal property in the
3342 floodwater's path. Floodplains are designated based on the predicted frequency of flooding for a particular area.
3343 For example, a 100-year floodplain is a land area that has a one percent probability of experiencing flooding in
3344 any given year. Inundation hazards can come from major rivers, smaller tributary streams, local stormwater
3345 runoff, high lake levels, high groundwater levels, coastal storm surge, and tidal action.
3346

3347 Channel migration results from erosion wears away of a riverbank by flowing water. Ongoing erosion of one
3348 riverbank coupled with sediment deposition along the opposite bank results in the lateral movement or migration
3349 of a channel across its floodplain. When this shift is abrupt it is called channel avulsion. Channel migration can
3350 lead to flood and erosion damage to structures, farms, and critical infrastructure. At the same time, it is a natural
3351 process that forms complex fish habitat by creating braided channels and causing trees to fall into rivers. Bank
3352 stabilization actions to limit channel migration have negative impacts on channel processes and reduce salmonid
3353 habitat quality and quantity. Channel migration hazard areas are designated based on geomorphic analyses and

3354 review of historical channel migration patterns and rates, consistent with the King County Flood Hazard
3355 Management Plan and the Shoreline Management Act.

3356
3357 Development can reduce the floodplain's ability to store and convey floodwaters, thereby increasing the velocity
3358 and depth of floodwaters in other areas. In addition, floodplain development puts humans in harm's way and
3359 often occurs at the expense of important fish and wildlife habitat. King County has adopted the Flood Hazard
3360 Management Plan as a functional element of the King County Comprehensive Plan to detail regional policies,
3361 programs, and projects to reduce the risk to people and property from river flooding and channel migration in
3362 King County and to provide guidance for decisions related to land use and floodplain management activities.

3363
3364 **E-499qq** King County shall implement a comprehensive local floodplain management
3365 program that, consistent with the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan or
3366 successor plans; protects lives((,)); minimizes damage and disruption to
3367 infrastructure and critical facilities((,)); preserves and restores natural floodplain
3368 functions((,)); uses integrated approaches to provide multiple benefits; is
3369 resilient to climate change; supports floodplain management actions that benefit
3370 frontline communities; and ensures that new development does not put people in
3371 harm's way or cause adverse flooding impacts elsewhere((, consistent with the
3372 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan)).

3373
3374 **E-499qqq** King County shall continue to exceed the federal minimum standards stipulated
3375 by the National Flood Insurance Program for unincorporated areas to better
3376 protect public safety, reduce the risk of flood and channel migration hazards to
3377 existing public and private property, and prevent new at-risk development.

3378
3379 **E-499r** King County's floodplain land use and floodplain management activities shall be
3380 carried out in accordance with policies, programs and projects detailed in the
3381 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan, or successor plans.

3382
3383 **~~((G-)) Hazardous Waste~~**

3384 Throughout King County, businesses use and generate hazardous materials as part of their normal operations.
3385 There are numerous rules and requirements for the proper management of these materials and requirements can
3386 vary slightly by jurisdiction. Often the businesses will learn of these requirements after they have found out that
3387 they are not in compliance. To help mitigate the potential harmful effects to human health and the environment
3388 and to minimize the economic impacts to businesses that may generate hazardous chemicals, King County
3389 provides education and technical assistance to businesses on requirements for proper management and disposal
3390 of hazardous chemicals, as well as information on less toxic alternatives.

3391

3392 Contacting businesses with information on proper hazardous waste disposal as early as possible in the business
3393 development phase can help to prevent improper disposal of hazardous waste and associated risks to public
3394 safety and the environment. Taking a preventative approach can also help to avoid costly code violations.

3395

3396 **E-499t King County should review new business permit and change of use applications**
3397 **for businesses that propose to use hazardous chemicals or generate hazardous**
3398 **waste as part of their operations. The ((e))County should offer to provide**
3399 **technical assistance related to hazardous waste disposal requirements, ((spill**
3400 **response,)) and non-toxic alternatives.**

3401

3402 ~~((V.))~~ **Geologically Hazardous Areas**

3403 King County is located at a tectonically active convergent plate margin, which is characterized by dynamic
3404 geologic processes including active mountain building, abundant seismic activity and volcanism. In addition,
3405 the relatively recent glacial history has resulted in the creation of numerous steep and unstable hillsides
3406 throughout the county, many of which are prone to naturally occurring landslides. Snow avalanches are also a
3407 common occurrence in the Cascade Mountains in ~~((E))~~eastern King County.

3408

3409 Often times the result of these naturally occurring events can be beneficial to the environment, by providing
3410 gravel and woody debris in streams and rivers, and continuing the process of natural regeneration. Salmon need
3411 gravel for spawning and in-stream debris for cover and to provide shade and regulate temperature. King County
3412 must balance the positive benefits of these natural occurrences with any adverse impacts that pose a threat to
3413 public health and safety. The ((e))County must also strike a balance between allowing naturally occurring
3414 landslides and erosion, and the need to prevent the unnatural acceleration of landslides and erosion due to
3415 development activities.

3416

3417 Coal mines have created additional areas of subsidence and instability in addition to those ((which)) that occur
3418 naturally. When human activity occurs in areas subject to such active geologic processes, the potential
3419 consequences to life, property and environmental integrity can be enormous. If geologic processes are
3420 recognized and appropriately addressed in the course of development activities, adverse consequences can be
3421 substantially reduced if not completely eliminated.

3422

3423 ~~((A.))~~ **Erosion Hazard Areas**

3424 Virtually any area in King County can experience soil erosion if subjected to inappropriate grading and
3425 construction practices. The ((US)) United States Department of Agriculture's ((Soil)) Natural Resources
3426 Conservation Service has identified certain soil types in King County as being especially subject to erosion, if
3427 disturbed. These Erosion Hazard Areas may not be well suited to high-density developments and intensive land
3428 uses because of the sensitivity of these soils to disturbance.

3429

3430 ~~((E-501~~ ~~Grading and construction activities shall implement erosion control best~~
3431 ~~management practices and other development controls as necessary to reduce~~
3432 ~~sediment and pollution discharge from construction sites to minimal levels.))~~

3433

3434 **E-502** Land uses permitted in Erosion Hazard Areas shall minimize soil disturbance and
3435 should maximize retention and replacement of native vegetative cover.

3436

3437 **E-503** Slopes with a grade of 40((%)) percent or more shall not be developed unless the
3438 risks and adverse impacts associated with such development can be reduced to
3439 a non-significant level. ~~((No disturbance zones shall be designated where basin~~
3440 ~~plans identify the need to prevent erosion damages in areas that are extremely~~
3441 ~~sensitive to erosion impacts. Properly designed stormwater tightlines may be~~
3442 ~~allowed within designated no-disturbance zones.))~~

3443

3444 ~~((Vegetation is an important component of the natural environment. This general term refers to all plant life~~
3445 ~~growing at, below or above the soil surface. It includes trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses and aquatic plants.~~
3446 ~~Vegetation, especially forests, provides many significant ecological functions. Vegetation absorbs, filters and~~
3447 ~~slows surface water flow. This is particularly important over aquifer recharge areas. Native vegetation also~~
3448 ~~provides wildlife habitat to which native species are well adapted. Forests are key components in atmospheric~~
3449 ~~cycles; they absorb carbon dioxide, produce oxygen and filter particulate matter. Additionally, they absorb noise~~
3450 ~~and are aesthetically pleasing.~~

3451

3452 ~~Noxious weeds are nonnative invasive plants that pose a threat to health and safety, agriculture, wildlife,~~
3453 ~~wetlands and recreational areas. They tend to spread in areas that have been disturbed by urban development~~
3454 ~~and agriculture and are difficult to eradicate once they become established. Without natural predators, some~~
3455 ~~noxious weeds can displace native plant communities, reducing plant diversity. Invasive plants also decrease the~~
3456 ~~quality of wildlife habitats, reduce visual quality, and increase maintenance and production costs for natural~~
3457 ~~resource managers and farmers.~~

3458

3459 ~~**E-504** King County should protect native plant communities by encouraging~~
3460 ~~management and control of nonnative invasive plants, including aquatic plants.~~
3461 ~~Environmentally sound methods of vegetation control should be used to control~~
3462 ~~noxious weeds.~~

3463

3464 ~~**E-506** The use of native plants should be encouraged in landscaping requirements and~~
3465 ~~erosion control projects, and in the restoration of stream banks, lakes,~~
3466 ~~shorelines, and wetlands.~~

3467

3468 ~~E-507~~ ~~_____ In response to watershed-based salmon conservation Water Resource Inventory~~
3469 ~~Area plans and as part of King County’s continued basin planning and~~
3470 ~~stewardship programs, King County may adopt vegetation retention goals for~~
3471 ~~specific drainage basins. These goals should be consistent with R-334, as~~
3472 ~~applicable. The county should adopt incentives and regulations to attain these~~
3473 ~~goals, and the county should monitor their effectiveness.))~~
3474

3475 **~~((B-))~~ Landslide Hazard Areas**

3476 Certain hillsides in King County are either naturally unstable or susceptible to instability when disturbed. These
3477 hillsides contain slopes greater than 15(~~(%)~~) percent, are underlain by impermeable soils, and are subject to
3478 seepage. They also include areas that have experienced landslides in the past.

3479
3480 Many of the largest and most active landslides in King County are associated with the steep slopes adjacent to
3481 river corridors or along marine shorelines where glacial strata are eroded and steepened. Areas undergoing rapid
3482 undercutting due to stream bank erosion, wave action or human alteration of stormwater discharge are
3483 potentially unstable and such areas may be prone to damaging landslides.

3484
3485 Construction in areas susceptible to landslides is expensive and difficult. Landslides on such slopes following
3486 development can result in enormous public and private costs and severe threats to human health and safety.
3487 Such landslides can also cause severe natural resource damage.

3488
3489 ~~((Partly in response to the 2014 State Route 530 Landslide,))~~ King County has undertaken an effort to refine
3490 ~~((our))~~ its knowledge of landslide hazard areas using updated mapping methods. King County ~~((initiated a~~
3491 ~~project in 2014 to map and characterize))~~ has mapped and characterized landslide hazard areas using the best
3492 available Light Detection And Ranging imagery and recent geologic mapping to identify potential areas at risk of
3493 landsliding. Known and potential landslide hazard areas can be indicated by the known presence of shallow
3494 landslides, deep-seated slumps, debris fans and flows, rockfalls, avalanches, unstable and over-steepened slopes
3495 along river and stream channels, long runout presence or potential. ~~((The results of this work will be))~~ This
3496 mapping is used to inform future planning, outreach, and regulatory decisions.

3497
3498 **E-507a** **King County should work with partner jurisdictions to ~~((maintain a))~~ periodically**
3499 **review and update the map and inventory of known and potential landslide**
3500 **hazard areas in unincorporated King County ~~((that is based upon the best~~**
3501 **available information)) consistent with best available science and current data.**
3502 **This information ~~((will))~~ shall be used to inform future planning and guide**
3503 **development regulations.**

3504
3505 **E-507b** **King County should make landslide hazards information readily available to the**
3506 **public ~~((in order))~~ to improve the general understanding of landslides and their**

3507 associated hazards. This may include making information available on a public
3508 website and providing outreach and assistance to current and prospective
3509 property owners and developers.

3510
3511 **E-508** Landslide hazard areas shall not be developed unless the risks and adverse
3512 impacts associated with such development are eliminated or minimized so that
3513 they are at a non-significant level. Development proposed in areas affected by
3514 landslide hazards shall be adequately reviewed and mitigated as needed to
3515 eliminate or minimize risk to the development as well as to ensure the
3516 development does not increase landslide or erosion hazards that would
3517 adversely impact adjacent properties or natural resources.

3518
3519 **E-508a** King County shall consider landslide hazards and related flooding hazards in the
3520 context of hazard communication, operational preparedness and emergency
3521 response.

3522

3523 ~~**((C.)) Seismic Hazard Areas**~~

3524 ~~King County is an earthquake-prone region subject to ground shaking, seismically induced landslide and~~
3525 ~~liquefaction of soil. Areas with low density soils are likely to experience greater damage from earthquakes.~~

3526

3527 ~~**E-509** In areas with severe seismic hazards, special building design and construction~~
3528 ~~measures should be used to minimize the risk of structural damage, fire and~~
3529 ~~injury to occupants and to prevent post-seismic collapse.~~

3530

3531 ~~**D.)) Volcanic Hazard Areas**~~

3532 King County is located in a region characterized by active volcanism. The volcanic hazard that poses the
3533 greatest risk to safety and wellbeing of county residents would be from a lahar (volcanic mudflow) originating on
3534 ~~((Mt.))~~ Mount Rainier and flowing down the White River valley (possibly overflowing into the lower Green
3535 River Valley). Ongoing investigations by the ~~((U.S.))~~ United States Geological Survey continue to clarify the
3536 nature of this hazard. Current information provides the basis for taking steps to mitigate that risk.

3537

3538 **E-510** King County should work with the U.S. Geological Survey to identify lahar hazard
3539 areas and shall work with local governments to assess the risk to county
3540 residents from lahars and to implement appropriate emergency planning and
3541 implement appropriate development standards.

3542

3543 **~~((E.))~~ Coal Mine Hazard Areas**

3544 King County has a long and varied history of underground and surface coal mining. Some coal mining was
3545 conducted by large, well-capitalized mining companies that used methods such as detailed underground and
3546 surface mapping and protection of surface improvements. Other mines were small operations or re-mining
3547 operations that sought to maximize coal extraction with less regard for surface impacts or mapping. Some
3548 intensively developed areas of King County are located over abandoned underground coal workings, including
3549 Talbot Hill and the north Benson Hill of Renton, the Spring Glen area around Cascade Vista, East Fairwood,
3550 Black Diamond, southwest Issaquah, and the Newcastle/Coal Creek area.

3551
3552 The greatest dangers to people, wildlife and surface facilities typically exist around mine portals, timber chutes,
3553 air shafts, and workings which have collapsed to the surface. Other areas were deep mined by “room and pillar”
3554 mining techniques in which “pillars” of coal were left to provide support for the mining of adjacent “rooms.”
3555 Once abandoned, pillars would collapse and rooms of mined-out coal would fill with collapsed roof material,
3556 coal debris and water. Regional downwarping of these areas was generally not observable and usually happened
3557 in the early years following mining of a section. Deep mined areas with a high ratio of overburden/cover-to-void
3558 usually present no hazards for surface development. However, areas with low overburden/cover-to-void ratio
3559 present higher risks and may require more advanced investigations and construction techniques for development.
3560 Mine portals, timber chutes, airshafts, and workings which have collapsed to the surface require the greatest need
3561 for detailed engineering studies to ensure that these sites are safe for new, productive use.

3562
3563 **E-511 King County ~~((will))~~ shall encourage efforts by public and private property**
3564 **owners and the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement to return**
3565 **lands to their highest productive use by safely minimizing or eliminating coal**
3566 **mine hazards.**

3567
3568 **E-512 King County shall require all development proposals potentially subject to coal**
3569 **mine hazards to assess the mine-related hazards, including risks to structures,**
3570 **improvements, occupants and public health and safety.**

3571
3572 **E-513 King County shall allow development within coal mine hazard areas if the**
3573 **proposal includes appropriate mitigation for identified, mine-related hazards**
3574 **using best available engineering practices and if the development is in**
3575 **compliance with all other local, state, and federal requirements.**

3576
3577 ~~**((E-514 King County shall require all landowners proposing new development in coal**~~
3578 ~~**mine hazard areas to document the potential hazard on the title of the parcel or**~~
3579 ~~**parcels being developed. This notice may include reference to any available**~~
3580 ~~**technical studies or detailed hazard delineations.))**~~

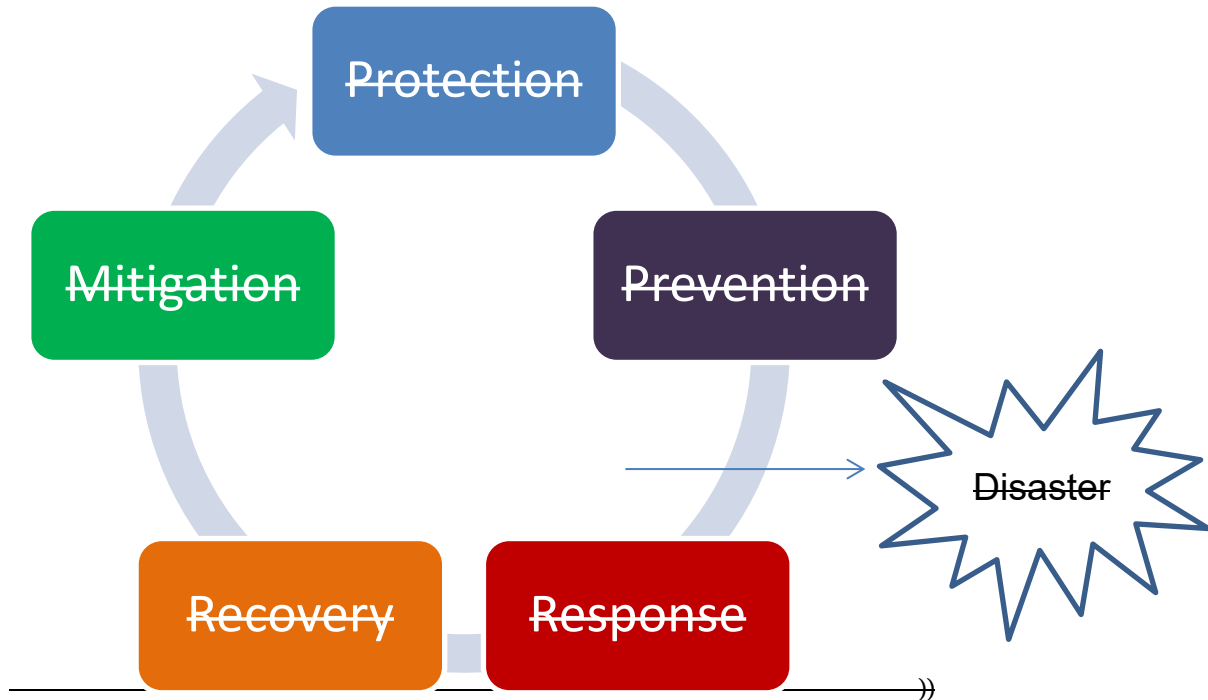
3581

3582 ~~((VI.))~~ **Planning for Disasters**

3583 King County has an active planning program, that goes beyond the land use and supporting services planning,
3584 that occurs through the Comprehensive Plan. Based on the five phases of emergency management (protection,
3585 prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation), ~~((F))~~this work takes into account mitigation of hazard impacts
3586 prior to disasters, as well as the rebuilding of communities following a disaster. ~~((The following diagram~~
3587 ~~illustrates the facets of planning for disasters.~~

3588
3589

Figure: Resilient King County Planning Model



3590
3591

3592 King County is susceptible to multiple hazards including earthquakes, flooding, and landslides. ~~((Based on the~~
3593 ~~five phases of emergency management (depicted above), t))~~The process of mitigation allows the ~~((e))~~County to
3594 build more resilient communities by assessing vulnerabilities~~((,))~~ and ~~((taking))~~ take sustained action to
3595 permanently eliminate or reduce risk to future disasters. These actions can inform land use planning, such as in
3596 ~~((the C))~~critical ~~((A))~~areas ~~((Ordinance))~~ regulations.

3597

3598 When a disaster does occur, the process of recovery allows the ~~((e))~~County to review the Comprehensive Plan
3599 and its core principles, develop a recovery strategy by engaging the community, and rebuild the community in a
3600 way that sustains physical, emotional, social, and economic well-being.

3601

3602 **E-601 King County shall ~~((incorporate into))~~ consider high priority strategies and**
3603 **actions identified in the King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, or**
3604 **successor plans, in its land use and transportation planning, economic**

3605 development efforts, and natural resource management ~~((the most promising~~
3606 ~~actions))~~ to reduce impacts from natural hazards, such as earthquake, flooding,
3607 and landslide risk.
3608

3609 ~~((VII.))~~ **Monitoring and Adaptive Management**

3610 King County’s environment is constantly changing in response to land and water management actions that are
3611 within its control, as well as climate cycles and geologic processes that are beyond human control. The
3612 ~~((e))~~County makes significant investments in projects, programs, and policy implementation to help ensure that
3613 its environment supports a range of ecological, cultural, and economic values that are fundamental to the
3614 region’s quality of life.

3615
3616 King County’s policies, regulations, and actions to protect and restore the environment need to be assessed on an
3617 ongoing basis to ensure that they are having the intended effect, and that they are responding to changing
3618 conditions. Efforts to protect the environment ~~((will also need to reflect))~~ requires continuous improvements in
3619 knowledge about the natural environment and how human ~~((activity impacts))~~ activities affect ecological
3620 systems~~((, and uncertainties about ecological and biological processes))~~.

3621
3622 Assessing the effectiveness of specific and cumulative actions requires data collected within rigorous monitoring
3623 programs. Monitoring provides essential information to track: (1) changes in the natural and built environment,
3624 (2) implementation of planned and required actions (like construction of wetland mitigation projects), and (3)
3625 effectiveness of environmental protection actions. Monitoring information ~~((can support))~~ is essential to
3626 supporting a formal Adaptive Management program to modify policies, goals, and management decisions as
3627 necessary, and inform regulatory change.

3628
3629 Adaptive management can be used to help ~~((insure))~~ ensure that projects, programs, and policies are moving the
3630 county toward its environmental goals over time. Adaptive Management is defined as the process of making
3631 hypotheses of management outcomes, collecting data relevant to those hypotheses, and then using monitoring
3632 data to inform changes to policies and actions to better achieve intended goals. Adaptive management concepts
3633 are often applied in programs intended to address complex natural resource management problems, for example
3634 in Water Resource Inventory Area plans for salmon recovery or in Habitat Conservation Plans to comply with
3635 the Endangered Species Act. The Washington Administrative Code calls for local governments to use
3636 monitoring and adaptive management to address uncertainties in best available science for protecting critical
3637 areas like wetlands.

3638
3639 King County conducts a diverse array of monitoring activities, ~~((ranging from project specific))~~ including permit-
3640 required monitoring of Capital Improvement Projects and legally required monitoring of municipal wastewater
3641 and stormwater discharges in compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ~~((permit~~
3642 ~~requirements, to))~~. Effectiveness monitoring is used to evaluate projects and programs to improve project

3643 designs and ecosystem management activities. Ambient monitoring is performed watershed-wide ((ambient
3644 monitoring of)), encompassing groundwater, rivers, streams, lakes, and marine waters of Puget Sound to the
3645 extent that funding allows. For example, King County maintains a continuous water quality monitoring
3646 program for freshwater streams, rivers, lakes, and marine waters. This long-term monitoring program informs
3647 the County's understanding of changes in water quality over time ((including those caused by climate change,
3648 and contributes to)) allowing for the identification of emerging pollution issues and sources of water pollution.
3649 ((The monitoring program also allows the quantification of water quality and aquatic habitat improvements.))
3650 The status and trends information provided by long-term monitoring programs allows for better understanding of
3651 how systems are responding to pressures like climate change and human impacts The data collected by these
3652 programs additionally provides the necessary baseline information for many scientific studies conducted in King
3653 County wetlands, lakes, streams, and marine waters by ((e))County scientists, as well as scientists at universities
3654 and state and federal agencies.

3655
3656 Financial resources for environmental protection programs, including monitoring, are limited((—Because
3657 baseline monitoring does not result in an actual project “on the ground,” and often is not mandated, it may)) and
3658 generally do not compete well with other priorities for limited funding. However, investments in monitoring will
3659 provide essential information for evaluating the effectiveness of current actions and guiding future policy
3660 decisions, priorities, and investments. To make the most efficient use of limited resources, it is critical that the
3661 ((e))County look for opportunities to coordinate its data collection and dissemination efforts so that they can
3662 meet as many information needs as possible. The ((e))County should also partner with entities conducting
3663 monitoring, including other governments and universities.

3664
3665 When data are collected, it is important that its usefulness is maximized. “Metadata” is background information
3666 on data, and is necessary to facilitate the understanding, use, storage, sharing, and management of data. For
3667 example, metadata can describe how a particular data set was collected, provide definitions for types of data, and
3668 describe the reliability of the data.

3669 **E-701** **King County should conduct a comprehensive and coordinated program of**
3670 **environmental monitoring and assessment to track long-term changes in climate**
3671 **~~((e.g.))~~ such as precipitation((,)) and temperature), water quality and quantity,**
3672 **toxics in fish and shellfish, land use, land cover and aquatic and terrestrial**
3673 **habitat, natural resource conditions, and biological resources as well as the**
3674 **effectiveness of policies, programs, regulations, capital improvement projects,**
3675 **and stormwater treatment facility design. This monitoring program should be**
3676 **coordinated with other jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, Indian tribes,**
3677 **and universities to ensure the most efficient and effective use of monitoring data.**
3678
3679

3680 E-702 King County should seek to develop and maintain a publicly accessible,
3681 geo-spatial database on environmental conditions to inform policy decisions,
3682 support technical collaboration, and inform the public. All King County
3683 monitoring data should be supported by metadata.

3684
3685 E-703 King County should establish a decision-support system suitable for adaptive
3686 management that uses data from its environmental monitoring programs.

3687
3688 **~~((A-)) Performance Measurement((7)) and Performance Management ((and~~**
3689 **~~KingStat))~~**

3690 Like adaptive management in realm of science, performance management includes collecting data, analyzing
3691 data to inform decision-making, and making programmatic course corrections based on this analysis.

3692
3693 King County reports to the public both community-level conditions and agency performance measures.
3694 Monitoring data referenced in this chapter serves as a core element of helping elected officials and the public stay
3695 informed about the state of the environment and the effectiveness of agency programs.

3696
3697 ~~((The executive's KingStat program is using environmental monitoring data to assess environmental conditions,~~
3698 ~~develop appropriate county responses, and provide an opportunity to collaborate and partner with other~~
3699 ~~organizations in making improvements. With respect to environmental conditions, data used in KingStat~~
3700 ~~includes marine water, freshwater, terrestrial habitat, fish and wildlife, atmosphere, and resource consumption.))~~

3701
3702 E-704 King County should continue to collect data on key natural resource
3703 management and environmental parameters for use in ~~((KingStat, King County's~~
3704 ~~Strategic Plan implementation goals and objectives, and other)) environmental~~
3705 ~~benchmarking programs. Findings should be reported to the public, partner~~
3706 ~~agencies, and decision-makers. The information collected should be used to~~
3707 ~~inform decisions about policies, work program priorities and resource allocation.~~

3708
3709 **~~((B-)) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Compliance~~**

3710 King County operates under a number of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits, including a
3711 general Phase I Municipal Stormwater permit, and a number of general Industrial and Sand and Gravel
3712 Stormwater permits for Transit, Solid Waste and Roads facilities. There are individual wastewater permits for
3713 wastewater treatment plants and a solid waste management facility. King County also is issued construction
3714 stormwater permits for capital projects involving land disturbance. Complying with these permits is a high
3715 priority for King County as part of its strategy for protecting ground and surface water quality.

3716

3717 E-705 King County shall fully comply with the monitoring requirements in its National
3718 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, including seeking compliance
3719 strategies that are cost-effective and useful.
3720

3721 ~~((C-))~~ **Water Resource Inventory Areas Salmon Recovery Plan**
3722 **Implementation**

3723 The Puget Sound region has responded commendably to the listing of Puget Sound Chinook. In King County,
3724 more than 40 jurisdictions have joined together to cooperatively lead salmon recovery in the ~~((C))~~ county's
3725 watersheds. In the ~~((40))~~ 17 years since the plans were adopted (2006-~~((2015))~~ 2022), King County has
3726 implemented ~~((65))~~ 80 priority salmon restoration capital projects within its jurisdiction ~~((and has initiated work
3727 on an additional 33))~~ in addition to dozens of small habitat projects, such riparian restoration on private lands.
3728 King County has identified nearly 100 additional capital projects for future implementation. ~~((In))~~ Since 2011,
3729 NMFS has conducted ~~((a))~~ several five-year assessments of progress to implement the Puget Sound Salmon
3730 Recovery Plan. The assessments have repeatedly concluded that good habitat projects are being implemented
3731 across Puget Sound, but that the pace of salmon recovery implementation is too slow primarily due to
3732 insufficient funding. This is true in King County, as well; though, in recent years King County has developed
3733 significant additional sources of local revenue to advance restoration. ~~((The salmon recovery plans for the
3734 Snoqualmie portion of WRIA 7, WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 hit their ten year mark in 2015.))~~ King County has
3735 renewed interlocal agreements with its ~~((43))~~ 44 jurisdictional partners to continue to fund salmon recovery
3736 coordination in those watersheds ~~((for the next decade))~~ through at least 2025, with the expectation of renewal
3737 for another 10 years beyond that date.

3738
3739 Key conclusions and recommendations from the five-year assessments ~~((completed in 2011))~~ include:

- 3740 • Habitat continues to decline, and the region needs to increase its scrutiny of the sources of habitat
3741 decline and the tools used to protect habitat sites and ecosystem process.
- 3742 • Habitat protection needs improvement, and salmon recovery lead entities and regional groups should
3743 advocate for stronger regulatory programs to protect habitat.
- 3744 • While extensive habitat work has taken place across King County and in the broader Puget Sound,
3745 funding has fallen well short of the need as identified in the work plans that have been developed in
3746 each watershed. Moreover, most sources only fund on-the-ground projects rather than the staffing that
3747 is needed to plan and coordinate overall recovery efforts.
- 3748 • ~~((Adaptive Management Plans are not completed: A process should be established to recognize
3749 changes that are being made to Recovery Plan strategies as implementation proceeds.))~~

3750
3751 Although Water Resource Inventory Area plans are Chinook salmon-focused, they are expected to also provide
3752 the basis for recovery planning for other listed aquatic species, including Orcas, steelhead and bull trout.
3753

3754 E-706 King County should work with other Water Resource Inventory Area salmon
3755 recovery plan partners to establish a program (framework and methodology) for
3756 monitoring project specific and cumulative effectiveness of King County
3757 salmonid recovery actions. This program should include data collection and
3758 analysis and should provide information to guide an adaptive management
3759 approach to salmonid recovery.

3761 E-707 King County shall continue to coordinate with other governments, agencies,
3762 Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations and others to develop and
3763 implement regional and watershed-based Monitoring and Adaptive Management
3764 programs focused on achieving salmon recovery goals. The programs shall
3765 continue to include monitoring of salmon populations and habitat status and
3766 trends over time in order for the ((e))County and its partners in salmon recovery
3767 to be able to access the overall trajectory of salmon recovery efforts.

3769 **~~((D-)) Effectiveness of Critical Areas Regulations~~**

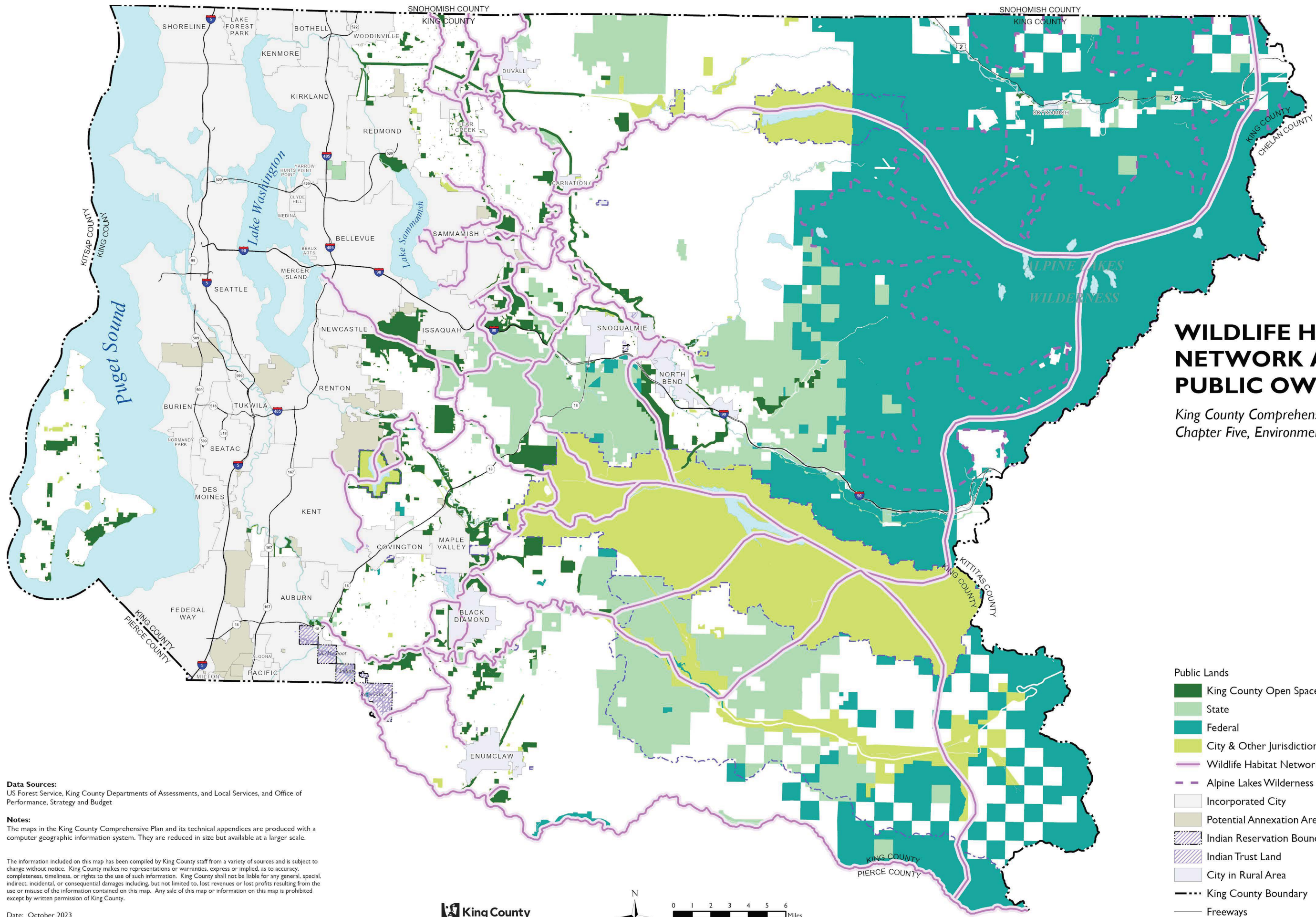
3770 Under the Growth Management Act, all counties and cities are required to periodically review their
3771 comprehensive plans and development regulations, including critical area regulations, for consistency with the
3772 Growth Management Act. Growth Management Act also requires local governments to include best available
3773 science in the development of land use policies and regulations to protect the functions and values of critical
3774 areas. Washington State Department of Commerce procedural criteria for adoption of comprehensive plans and
3775 development regulations provide direction on how local governments should include best available science in
3776 their critical area regulations ((Washington Administrative Code)) Chapter 365-195 Washington Administrative
3777 Code). The procedural criteria call for the use of a precautionary approach, in which development and land use
3778 activities are strictly limited until the uncertainty is sufficiently resolved, where the science is uncertain.

3779
3780 Coupled with this precautionary approach should be an adaptive management program that allows for changes
3781 to regulations as new information comes in to address uncertainties. ((The a))Adaptive management program is
3782 dependent upon a monitoring program that is designed to obtain the information needed to determine the
3783 effectiveness of regulations.

3784
3785 E-708 King County should implement a framework for effectiveness monitoring of
3786 critical areas regulations, and use monitoring data to inform the future review
3787 and updates of its critical areas policies and regulations.

3788

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WILDLIFE HABITAT NETWORK AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP 2024

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024
Chapter Five, Environment

- Public Lands**
- King County Open Space System
 - State
 - Federal
 - City & Other Jurisdiction
- Wildlife Habitat Network**
- Wildlife Habitat Network
 - Alpine Lakes Wilderness
- Other Features**
- Incorporated City
 - Potential Annexation Areas
 - Indian Reservation Boundary
 - Indian Trust Land
 - City in Rural Area
 - King County Boundary
 - Freeways
 - Municipal Watershed

Data Sources:
US Forest Service, King County Departments of Assessments, and Local Services, and 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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Date: October 2023
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CHAPTER 6 SHORELINES

8 ~~((I.))~~ Introduction

9 ~~((A.))~~ Recitals

10 King County adopts the following, which are based on the Shoreline Management Act legislative findings in
11 Revised Code of Washington 90.58.020. These recitals represent King County's belief and agreement that a
12 coordinated approach to utilizing, managing, and protecting the shoreline resource is necessary and essential.
13 These recitals apply to the shoreline jurisdiction.

- 14 1. Shorelines are some of the most valuable and fragile of King County's natural resources. There
15 is appropriate concern throughout the county relating to the utilization, protection, restoration,
16 and preservation of the shoreline jurisdiction.
- 17 2. Ever increasing pressures of additional use are being placed on the shoreline jurisdiction,
18 which in turn necessitates increased coordination in its management and development.
- 19 3. Much of the shoreline jurisdiction and the uplands adjacent thereto are in private ownership.
20 Unrestricted construction on the privately owned or publicly owned shorelines is not in the
21 best public interest; and therefore, coordinated planning is necessary (~~(in order)~~) to protect the

- 22 public interest associated with the shoreline jurisdiction while recognizing and protecting
23 private property rights consistent with the public interest.
- 24 4. There is a clear and urgent demand for a planned, rational, and concerted effort, jointly
25 performed by federal, state, and local governments, to prevent the inherent harm in an
26 uncoordinated and piecemeal development of King County's shoreline jurisdiction.
- 27 5. It is the intent of King County to provide for the management of the shoreline jurisdiction by
28 planning for and fostering all reasonable and appropriate uses. This program is designed to
29 ~~((insure))~~ ensure the development in a manner that, while allowing for limited reduction of
30 rights of the public in the navigable waters, will promote and enhance the public interest.
- 31 6. King County shoreline policies are intended to protect against adverse effects to the public
32 health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic
33 life, while protecting generally public rights of navigation and corollary rights incidental
34 thereto.
- 35 7. In the implementation of this chapter, the public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and
36 aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible
37 consistent with the overall best interest of the state, the county, and the people generally. To
38 this end uses shall be preferred which are consistent with control of pollution and prevention of
39 damage to the natural environment or are unique to or dependent upon use of the state's
40 shoreline.
- 41 8. Alterations of the natural condition of the shoreline jurisdiction, in those limited instances
42 when authorized, shall be given priority for single ~~((family residences))~~ detached homes and
43 their appurtenant structures, ports, shoreline recreational uses including but not limited to
44 parks, marinas, piers, and other improvements facilitating public access to shorelines,
45 industrial and commercial developments that are particularly dependent on their location on or
46 use of the shoreline jurisdiction, and other development that will provide an opportunity for
47 substantial numbers of the people to enjoy the shorelines.
- 48 9. Shorelines and shorelands in King County shall be appropriately designated and these
49 classifications shall be revised when circumstances warrant, regardless of whether the change
50 in circumstances occurs through man-made causes or natural causes. Any areas resulting from
51 alterations of the natural condition of the shorelines and shorelands no longer meeting the
52 definition of "shorelines of the state" shall not be subject to the provisions of King County
53 Shoreline Master Program.
- 54 10. Permitted uses in the shorelines zone shall be designed and conducted in a manner to
55 minimize, insofar as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the
56 shoreline jurisdiction and any interference with the public's use of the water.
- 57

58 **~~((B.))~~ About King County and King County Shorelines**

59 **~~((1.))~~ Geography**

60 King County covers 2,130 square miles and extends from Puget Sound in the west to 8,000-foot Mt. Daniel at
61 the Cascade crest in the east. King County’s shoreline jurisdiction includes saltwater coastline, river floodplains,
62 and extensive lakes and streams.

63
64 **~~((2.))~~ King County’s shoreline jurisdiction**

65 King County’s diverse shorelines fringe or flow into Puget Sound. Puget Sound and surrounding lowland lakes
66 and river valleys are relatively young in geologic terms. Puget Sound is a glacially-carved, deep fjord between
67 the Cascade and Olympic mountains.

68
69 Puget Sound is King County’s link to the Pacific Ocean via two connections: the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the
70 Strait of Georgia. Water, people and a diverse array of fish and wildlife travel freely between the ocean and King
71 County via Puget Sound and these Straits.

72
73 Puget Sound is a large estuary complex created by the freshwater it receives from streams, rivers and springs and
74 tidal exchange introduced through the two Straits. It is one of the more prominent and productive estuaries in
75 the world. In 1988, it was identified as an Estuary of National Significance by the United States government.
76 Within Puget Sound are numerous small to large estuaries. The largest estuary in King County is the
77 Green-Duwamish, although it is now a small remnant of its pre-development state.

78
79 Puget Sound consists of five basins. King County’s portion of Puget Sound lies within the Central Basin and
80 includes Vashon-Maury Island. The Central or Main Basin extends from Admiralty Inlet to Tacoma Narrows.
81 It is the largest and deepest of the basins. The major drainages to the Central Basin, including Cedar River/Lake
82 Washington watershed (including Lake Sammamish and the Sammamish River), the Green-Duwamish
83 watershed, and Puyallup River/White River watershed, drain a total area of about 2,700 square miles and
84 contribute slightly less than 20(~~(%)~~) percent of Puget Sound’s freshwater input. The Snohomish watershed
85 (including the Snoqualmie River Basin that lies mostly in King County) outlet into Puget Sound lies in Everett.

86
87 Puget Sound is located in a region that has great overlap between valuable natural resources and a burgeoning
88 human population. The productivity, diversity and value of the resources are greatly affected by the extent and
89 density of the population. Due to proximity to transportation routes and abundant food and water resources,
90 most of the region’s human development since the mid-1800s, when settlers of European descent started to
91 explore and develop the region, has occurred along Puget Sound’s shorelines, large lakes, and rivers.

92

93 **~~((C.))~~ Washington State’s Shoreline Management Act**

94 **~~((1.))~~ Overview of Shoreline Management Act**

95 Washington’s Shoreline Management Act was passed by the Legislature in 1971 and adopted by the public in a
96 1972 referendum. The goal of the Shoreline Management Act is “to prevent the inherent harm in an
97 uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state’s shorelines.”

98

99 The Act establishes a broad policy giving preference to uses that:

- 100 • Protect the quality of water and the natural environment,
- 101 • Depend on proximity to the shoreline (“water-dependent uses”), and
- 102 • Preserve and enhance public access or increase recreational opportunities for the public along
103 shorelines.

104

105 The Shoreline Management Act establishes a balance of authority between local and state government. Cities
106 and counties are the primary regulators but the state, through the Department of Ecology, has authority to
107 review local shoreline master programs and shoreline permit decisions.

108

109 Under the Shoreline Management Act, each city and county adopts a Shoreline Master Program that is based on
110 the Department of Ecology’s Shoreline Master Program rules or guidelines, but tailored to the specific needs of
111 the community. More than 200 cities and all 39 counties have Shoreline Master Programs. Local Shoreline
112 Master Programs combine both plans and regulations. The plans are a comprehensive vision of how shoreline
113 areas will be used and developed over time. Regulations are the standards that shoreline projects and uses must
114 meet.

115

116 The Department of Ecology provides technical assistance to local governments undertaking Master Program
117 amendments. Master Programs and Master Program amendments are only effective after approval from the
118 Department of Ecology. In reviewing Master Programs, the Department of Ecology is limited to a decision on
119 whether ~~((or not))~~ the Program is consistent with the policy and provisions of the Shoreline Management Act
120 and the Department of Ecology’s guidelines.

121

122 Local governments may modify Master Programs to reflect changing local circumstances, new information, or
123 improved shoreline management approaches. All changes to Master Programs require public involvement and
124 approval from the Department of Ecology. At a minimum, local governments must hold public hearings.

125

126 In 2003, the Department of Ecology adopted revised state guidelines. Cities and counties with Shoreline Master
127 Programs are required to update their Shoreline Master Programs to bring them into compliance with these new
128 state guidelines.

129

130 **~~((2.))~~ History of shoreline management in King County**

131 King County adopted its original Shoreline Master Program through two ordinances adopted by the King
132 County Council and approved by the King County Executive, John Spellman, on May 2, 1978. Ordinance 3692
133 adopted the Shoreline Master Plan, which established the goals, objectives, and policies of the King County
134 Shoreline Master Program. Ordinance 3688 adopted the development regulations that implemented the
135 Shoreline Master Plan. By a letter dated June 30, 1978, the Department of Ecology stated that it had approved
136 King County’s Shoreline Master Program.

137
138 The 1978 Shoreline Master Plan addressed the required elements of the shoreline guidelines originally adopted
139 by the Department of Ecology in 1972. The 1978 Plan established goals, objectives, and policies for eight
140 different shoreline elements. For each of the four shoreline environments, it also established general policies.

141
142 The 1978 Plan stated that:
143 "Each environment represents a particular emphasis in the type of uses and the extent of development that
144 should occur within it. The system is designed to encourage uses in each Environment which enhance the
145 character of the Environment while at the same time requiring reasonable standards and restrictions on
146 development so that the character of the Environment is not destroyed."

147
148 Finally, the 1978 Shoreline Master Program included general policies for a variety of different shoreline use
149 activities, including agriculture, mining, recreation, and residential development. Associated shoreline
150 regulations establish the designation criteria, the allowed uses, and development standards for the four shoreline
151 environments recognized by the 1972 state guidelines.

152
153 In 1990, the King County Council adopted regulations governing environmentally sensitive areas, some of which
154 include areas also within shoreline jurisdiction. (Ordinance 9614) King County updated its critical areas
155 regulations effective January 1, 2005. (Ordinances 15032, 15033, and 15034) King County's Critical Areas
156 Regulations and its Shoreline Master Program both provide that the regulations that are most protective of the
157 environment apply in the case of a conflict.

158
159 **~~((3.))~~ Shoreline jurisdiction under the Shoreline Management Act**

160 Shorelines of the State in King County, as defined by the Shoreline Management Act, include the total of all
161 shorelines and shorelines of statewide significance. Shorelines include shorelands, which are defined as those
162 lands extending landward for 200 feet from the ordinary high water mark, floodways and contiguous floodplain
163 areas landward 200 feet from such floodways, and all associated wetlands and river deltas. King County
164 currently includes the 100-year floodplain in its shoreline jurisdiction. Shoreline jurisdiction under the Shoreline
165 Management Act does not include Indian tribal reservation lands or lands held in trust by the federal government
166 for ~~((the))~~ Indian tribes.

167

168 Table S-1 below shows the number of shoreline miles managed under King County's Shoreline Master Program.

169

170 **Table S-1. Miles of shoreline under King County's jurisdiction**

Shoreline (miles)		
Lake	River/Stream	Marine
((234)) 229	((4,696)) 1,690	51

171

172 ~~((D-))~~ **King County's Shoreline Master Program**

173 The Shoreline Master Program adopted by King County provides a legal framework for decision making on land
174 use and other activities that complies with the Shoreline Management Act. This section describes the elements
175 of the Shoreline Master Program, with the details being further developed throughout this chapter.

176

177 ~~((1-))~~ **Components of the Shoreline Master Program**

178 The King County Shoreline Master Program consists of this chapter and the implementing shoreline
179 management regulations.

180

181 This chapter describes King County's shoreline goals and policies. It addresses the shoreline jurisdiction, overall
182 shoreline policy goals, shoreline element policies, Shoreline Master Program relationship to other laws, shoreline
183 environment designations, environmental protection, shoreline use and modification, and administrative
184 policies. The following documents provide supporting information for these goals and policies:

185

186 **King County Shoreline Protection and Restoration Plan (September 2010):** The Shoreline Protection and
187 Restoration Plan summarizes the methods and results of King County's shoreline analysis with respect to
188 restoration planning, the elements and applicability of the restoration plan, and the ways in which shoreline
189 restoration is expected to occur over time.

190

191 **King County Shoreline Public Access Plan (September 2010):** The Shoreline Public Access Plan includes
192 an inventory of existing formal and informal shoreline public access opportunities in the unincorporated
193 area, and identifies gaps in public access opportunities. The Shoreline Public Access Plan describes King
194 County's priorities for providing new public access to major shorelines in the unincorporated area.

195

196 **King County Shoreline Cumulative Impacts Assessment (September 2010):** The Shoreline Cumulative
197 Impacts Assessment provides a mechanism for examining the potential success of ~~((e))~~ County policies and
198 regulations in meeting the goal of no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

199

200 **King County Shoreline Inventory and Characterization (May 2007):** The Shoreline Inventory and
201 Characterization includes the data and analytic methods used to develop King County's shoreline inventory
202 and shoreline characterization (including evaluation of existing physical and shoreline ecological processes

203 and functions, public access and recreation, land use and economic development, public facilities and
204 utilities, and archaeological and historic resources). In addition, the Shoreline Inventory and
205 Characterization includes methodologies for cumulative impact analysis associated with shoreline
206 management and comprehensive shoreline restoration planning. ~~((Specific data can be found at:
207 <http://www.kingcounty.gov/shorelines>))~~

208
209 **King County Shoreline Map Folio and List (September 2010):** The Shoreline Map Folio includes all maps
210 produced and referenced as part of the Shoreline Master Program, with the exception of those maps
211 included in this chapter. The King County Shoreline List includes all streams and lakes within the shoreline
212 jurisdiction. ~~((All geographic information can be found at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/shorelines>))~~

213
214 The terms “Shoreline Master Program,” “Shoreline Program” and “Program” are all used throughout this
215 chapter to describe King County’s shoreline policies (this chapter) and shoreline management regulations in their
216 entirety.

217

218 **~~((2.))~~ Shoreline policies**

219 The Shoreline Master Program contains specific policies relating to a wide variety of shoreline uses and issues.

220

221 Shoreline policies establish broad shoreline management directives. They are statements of intent by King
222 County that direct or authorize a course of action or specify criteria for regulatory or non-regulatory action. The
223 policies serve as the basis for regulations that govern use and development along the shoreline.

224

225 King County’s shoreline policies must:

- 226 1. Be consistent with the Shoreline Management Act;
- 227 2. Address the Master Program elements of Revised Code of Washington 90.58.100;
- 228 3. Include policies for environmental designations as described in Washington Administrative Code
229 173-26-211;
- 230 4. Be designed and implemented in a manner consistent with all relevant constitutional and other legal
231 limitations on regulation of private property; and
- 232 5. Be consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan and functional plans ~~((adopted as components
233 of the Comprehensive Plan))~~.

234

235 Shoreline policies provide a comprehensive foundation for the Shoreline Master Program regulations, which are
236 more specific standards that are used to evaluate shoreline development proposals. King County must evaluate
237 permit applications in light of the shoreline policies and may approve a permit only after determining that the
238 development conforms to the policies in the Shoreline Master Plan.

239

240 In addition, shoreline policies assist in prioritizing King County’s spending on facilities and services within
241 shorelines of the state. Finally, the shoreline policies provide direction for regional issues such as resource
242 management, environmental protection, transportation, inter-governmental coordination and regional planning.

243 **~~((3.))~~ Shoreline Environments**

244 The Shoreline Management Act requires that shoreline management programs classify shoreline areas into
245 specific environment designations. The Department of Ecology's guidelines recommend six different
246 environment designations, but does not require that local programs adopt this particular scheme. King County's
247 1978 Shoreline Master Program adopted the four environment designations recommended by the Department of
248 Ecology at that time: Urban, Rural, Conservancy, and Natural. ~~((In this update))~~ Subsequently, King County
249 ~~((is adopting))~~ adopted eight environment designations in total, based on the recommendations from the
250 Department of Ecology. These environment designations are~~(:))~~ discussed in the "Shoreline Environment
251 Designations" section of this chapter.

252

253 ~~**(High Intensity Shoreline Environment:** Applied to areas that provide high intensity water-oriented~~
254 ~~commercial, transportation, and industrial uses.~~

255

256 ~~**Residential Shoreline Environment:** Applied to accommodate residential uses at urban densities, while~~
257 ~~allowing for non-residential uses that are consistent with the protection of the shoreline jurisdiction.~~

258

259 ~~**Rural Shoreline Environment:** Applied to accommodate rural residential shoreline development, while~~
260 ~~allowing for rural non-residential uses that are consistent with the protection of the shoreline.~~

261

262 ~~**Conservancy Shoreline Environment:** Applied to protect and conserve the shoreline for ecological, public~~
263 ~~safety, and recreation, purposes. Includes areas with important shoreline ecological processes and functions,~~
264 ~~valuable historic and cultural features, flood and geological hazards and recreational opportunities.~~
265 ~~Residential areas can also be designated as conservancy shorelines.~~

266

267 ~~**Resource Shoreline Environment:** Applied to allow for mining and agriculture land uses, except for~~
268 ~~shorelines that are relatively intact or that have minimally degraded shoreline processes and functions.~~

269

270 ~~**Forestry Shoreline Environment:** Applied in areas to allow for forest production and protect municipal~~
271 ~~water supplies.~~

272

273 ~~**Natural Shoreline Environment:** Applied to shorelines that are relatively intact or have minimally degraded~~
274 ~~shoreline processes and functions that are intolerant of human use.~~

275

276 ~~**Aquatic Shoreline Environment:** Applied to the areas waterward of the ordinary high water mark.)~~

277

278

279 **((4.)) Shoreline program elements**

280 The Shoreline Management Act identifies eight “program elements” that must be addressed and included in
281 local shoreline master programs:

282

283 **Economic development element** that considers the location and design of industries, industrial projects of
284 statewide significance, transportation facilities, port facilities, tourist facilities, commerce, and other
285 developments that are particularly dependent on shorelines of the state.

286

287 **Public access element** that considers public access to publicly owned land along shorelines of the state.

288

289 **Recreational element** that identifies recreational opportunities along shorelines, such as parks, tidelands,
290 beaches, and recreational areas, and that pursues acquisition through implementation of the King County
291 Shoreline Master Program.

292

293 **Circulation element** that consists of the general location and extent of existing and proposed major
294 thoroughfares, transportation routes, terminals, and other public utilities and facilities.

295

296 **Land use element** that considers the general distribution and location, as well as the extent of use on the
297 shorelines and adjacent areas for housing, business, industry, transportation, agriculture, natural resources,
298 recreation, education, public buildings and grounds, and other categories of public and private use of the
299 land.

300

301 **Conservation element** that addresses the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to,
302 scenic vistas, aesthetics, and vital estuarine areas for fish and wildlife.

303

304 **Historic, cultural, scientific and educational element** that prevents the destruction of or damage to any site
305 having historic, cultural, scientific, or educational value as identified by the appropriate authorities,
306 including affected Indian ((~~¶~~))tribes, and the state office of archaeology and historic preservation.

307

308 **Flood hazard element** that considers the prevention and minimization of flood damages.

309

310 **((5.)) Shoreline modifications and uses**

311 The Shoreline Management Act requires that local Shoreline Master Programs distinguish between shoreline
312 modifications and shoreline uses.

313

314 **Shoreline modifications** are generally related to construction of a physical element such as a dike, breakwater,
315 dredged basin, or fill, but can include other actions such as clearing, grading or application of chemicals. A
316 shoreline modification is usually undertaken in support of or in preparation for a shoreline use.

317

318 **Shoreline uses** are classified as "water-dependent," "water-related," "water-enjoyment," or "water-oriented."

319

320 **A water-dependent use** is a use or portion of a use that cannot exist in a location that is not adjacent to the
321 water and that is dependent on the water by reason of the intrinsic nature of its operations.

322

323 **A water-related use** is a use or portion of a use that is not intrinsically dependent on a waterfront location
324 but whose economic viability is dependent upon a waterfront location because:

325 (a) The use has a functional requirement for a waterfront location such as the arrival or shipment of
326 materials by water or the need for large quantities of water; or

327 (b) The use provides a necessary service supportive of the water-dependent uses and the proximity of the
328 use to its customers makes its services less expensive or more convenient.

329

330 **A water-enjoyment use** is a recreational use or other use that facilitates public access to the shoreline as a
331 primary characteristic of the use; or a use that provides for recreational use or aesthetic enjoyment of the
332 shoreline for a substantial number of people as a general characteristic of the use and which, through
333 location, design and operation, ensures the public's ability to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of the
334 shoreline. ~~((In order to))~~ To qualify as a water-enjoyment use, the use must be open to the general public and
335 the shoreline-oriented space within the project must be devoted to the specific aspects of the use that fosters
336 shoreline enjoyment.

337

338 **A water-oriented use** is a use that is water-dependent, water-related, water-enjoyment, or a combination of
339 such uses.

340

341 ~~((H.))~~ **Shoreline Jurisdiction**

342 ~~((A))~~ **King County's Responsibility to Regulate Shorelines**

343 ~~((1.))~~ **King County assumes primary responsibility for shoreline planning and 344 regulation**

345 King County has primary responsibility for shoreline management planning and for the administration of
346 shoreline regulations within its jurisdiction.

347

348 **S-101** King County has primary responsibility within its boundaries for planning
349 required by the Shoreline Management Act and for administering its shoreline
350 regulatory program.
351

352 King County recognizes that its Shoreline Master Program is subject to review and approval by the Washington
353 State Department of Ecology and that the Shoreline Master Program must be consistent with the policies and
354 provisions of the Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 Revised Code of Washington (~~(90.58)~~)).
355

356 **((2.)) King County’s Shoreline Master Program is intended to be consistent with**
357 **the Shoreline Management Act & Guidelines**

358 King County’s Shoreline Master Program is intended to be consistent with the required elements of the
359 Department of Ecology’s guidelines for implementing the Shoreline Management Act that are found in Chapters
360 173-26 and 173-27 of the Washington Administrative Code. King County’s Shoreline Master Program shall be
361 interpreted consistently with the Shoreline Management Act. In the event of a conflict between Shoreline
362 Management Act and King County’s Shoreline Master Program, the Shoreline Master Program should be
363 interpreted to give meaning and effect to the Shoreline Management Act.
364

365 **S-102** King County’s Shoreline Master Program is to be interpreted consistently with
366 the policies and requirements of the Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58
367 Revised Code of Washington (~~(90.58)~~)).
368

369 **S-103** King County’s Shoreline Master Program is to be interpreted consistently with
370 the required elements of the shoreline guidelines found in Chapters 173-26 and
371 173-27 of the Washington Administrative Code.
372

373 **((3.)) King County’s Shoreline Master Program is to be liberally construed**

374 The Shoreline Management Act explicitly provides that it is exempt from the rule of strict construction and must
375 be liberally construed to give full effect to the Act’s objectives and purposes. By adopting a liberal standard of
376 construction, the state Legislature demonstrated the importance it attached to protecting the shoreline and
377 accomplishing the goals and policies of the Shoreline Management Act. Consistent with this mandate, and
378 because King County believes that accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Shoreline Management Act
379 within the county is of primary importance, the Shoreline Master Program is to be liberally construed to
380 accomplish its objectives and purpose.
381

382 **S-104** King County’s Shoreline Master Program is exempted from the rules of strict
383 construction and shall be construed liberally to give full effect to its objectives
384 and purpose.
385

386 **~~(B.)~~ Shoreline Jurisdiction**

387 **~~(1.)~~ Shoreline jurisdiction extends over all “shorelines” and “shorelines of**
388 **statewide significance” within unincorporated King County**

389 The Shoreline Management Act applies to all “shorelines of the state.” “Shorelines of the state” are defined to
390 include “shorelines” and “shorelines of statewide significance.” It is important to understand the distinction
391 between the terms “shorelines” and “shorelines of statewide significance.” Both terms are used throughout the
392 Shoreline Management Act and define the scope of King County’s shoreline jurisdiction. The distinction is
393 important because the Shoreline Management Act imposes greater and more specific obligations when dealing
394 with shorelines of statewide significance.

395

396 **~~(a.)~~ “Shorelines”**

397 Shorelines are defined in the Shoreline Management Act as follows:

398 “Shorelines” means all of the water areas of the state, including reservoirs, and their associated
399 shorelands, together with the lands underlying them; except (i) shorelines of statewide significance; (ii)
400 shorelines on segments of streams upstream of a point where the mean annual flow is 20 cubic feet per
401 second or less and the wetlands associated with such upstream segments; and (iii) shorelines on lakes
402 less than 20 acres in size and wetlands associated with such small lakes.

403

404 **~~(b.)~~ “Shorelines of statewide significance”**

405 Shorelines of statewide significance, as specifically defined in the Shoreline Management Act include:

- 406 • Those areas of Puget Sound between the ordinary high water mark and the line of extreme low tides;
- 407 • Lakes, whether natural, artificial or a combination thereof, with a surface acreage of 1,000 acres or
408 more measured at the ordinary high water mark; and
- 409 • Natural rivers or segments thereof downstream of a point where the mean annual flow is measured at
410 1,000 cubic feet per second or more.

411

412 In unincorporated King County, the water bodies that qualify as shorelines of statewide significance include:

- 413 • The marine waters around Vashon-Maury Island
- 414 • Northeast Lake Washington (north of Kirkland) and southwest Lake Washington (west of Renton)
- 415 • Lake Sammamish at Marymoor State Park and Lake Sammamish State Park
- 416 • Mud Mountain Reservoir and White River from river mile 15.5 to river mile 46 (excluding the
417 Muckleshoot Indian Reservation between river mile 8.9 and river mile 15.5)
- 418 • Green River from its confluence with the Duwamish River to river mile 95
- 419 • Duwamish River from river mile 3.5 to river mile 5
- 420 • Chester Morse Lake (Reservoir)

- 421 • Tolt Reservoir
- 422 • Mainstem Snoqualmie River to river mile 43 and Middle Fork Snoqualmie River to river mile 39
- 423 • South Fork Skykomish River to river mile 30

424

425 Associated shorelands that are adjacent to shorelines of statewide significance are included within the shoreline
426 of statewide significance jurisdiction.

427

428 **~~((e-))~~ “Shorelands”**

429 Shorelines includes “associated shorelands” which are defined in the Shoreline Management Act as follows:

430 “Shorelands” or “shoreland areas” means those lands extending landward for two hundred feet in all
431 directions as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark; floodways and
432 contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such floodways; and all wetlands and river deltas
433 associated with the streams, lakes, and tidal waters which are subject to the provisions of [Chapter 90.58
434 RCW].

435

436 **~~((d-))~~ Shoreline jurisdiction**

437 King County’s shoreline jurisdiction consists of the combination of shorelines, shorelines of statewide
438 significance, and shorelands.

439

440 **S-105 King County’s shoreline jurisdiction extends over all shorelines of the state, as**
441 **that term is defined in the Shoreline Management Act, in unincorporated King**
442 **County. This includes jurisdiction over shorelines, shorelines of statewide**
443 **significance, and shorelands.**

444

445 **~~((e-))~~ Options to extend geographic jurisdiction over shorelines and shorelines of statewide**
446 **significance**

447 The Shoreline Management Act gives King County two options concerning the scope of its shoreline
448 jurisdiction.

449

450 The first option allows the ~~((e))~~ County to include 100-year floodplains:

451 Any county or city may determine that portion of a one-hundred-year flood plain to be included in its
452 master program as long as such portion includes, as a minimum, the floodway and the adjacent land
453 extending landward two hundred feet therefrom. (Revised Code of Washington 90.58.030(2)(d)(i))

454

455 In its original Shoreline Master Program adopted in 1977, King County included the 100-year floodplain. The
456 continued regulation of the 100-year floodplain is necessary to comply with certain federal requirements under

457 the National Flood Insurance Program. Therefore, King County continues to extend its shoreline jurisdiction to
458 cover 100-year floodplains.

459

460 **S-106 King County includes within its shoreline jurisdiction the 100-year floodplains of**
461 **shorelines of the state.**

462

463 The second option allows the extension of shoreline jurisdiction to include land necessary for buffers for critical
464 areas that extend beyond the 200 foot shoreland jurisdiction:

465 Any city or county may also include in its master program land necessary for buffers for critical areas,
466 as defined in chapter 36.70A RCW, that occur within shorelines of the state, provided that forest
467 practices regulated under chapter 76.09 RCW, except conversions to nonforest land use, on lands
468 subject to the provisions of this subsection (2)(d)(ii) are not subject to additional regulations under
469 [Chapter 90.58 RCW].(Revised Code of Washington 90.58.030(2)(d)(ii)

470

471 King County is not exercising its option to extend its shoreline jurisdiction to include lands for buffers for critical
472 areas.

473

474 **S-107 Where critical areas are located within the unincorporated King County**
475 **shorelands, the shoreline jurisdiction shall not include the critical area buffers**
476 **that extend outside of the shoreline jurisdiction boundary.**

477

478 **~~((2.))~~ Jurisdictional map**

479 Applying these definitions within King County has involved an extensive survey of the shoreline jurisdiction,
480 which is discussed in detail in the King County Shorelines Inventory and Characterization (May 2007). The
481 Shorelines of the State map at the end of this chapter shows the complete scope of King County's shorelines and
482 shorelines of statewide significance.

483

484 **~~((III.))~~ Shoreline Policy Goals**

485 **~~((A.))~~ Introduction to Shoreline goals**

486 King County's shoreline has a long history of settlement because of the abundant natural resources, availability
487 of water, and usefulness as transportation routes. The shoreline also draws people to enjoy the aesthetic and
488 recreational value that marine beaches, lakes, and rivers provide. The shoreline supports some of the region's
489 most important industries, such as shipping, fishing, and tourism.

490

491 Because of the unique and irreplaceable value of the shorelines of the state, King County recognizes that it is in
492 the public interest to protect shoreline ecological processes and functions, while allowing reasonable and

493 necessary use of shorelines to support the regional economy and provide recreational opportunities for the
494 public.

495

496 The high demand for shoreline use over time has degraded shoreline ecological processes and functions in many
497 areas. Many segments of King County's shoreline jurisdiction are devoid of native vegetation, the banks are
498 hardened with additions of rock and other materials, sediment movement is no longer driven by natural forces,
499 and valuable fish and wildlife habitat is gone or impaired to a significant extent. Unaltered shorelines are
500 increasingly rare. It has become critical to restore and enhance degraded shorelines.

501

502 A vast majority of the shoreline jurisdiction, particularly in the lower parts of the regional watersheds and along
503 the marine shorelines, is in private ownership, giving the residents of King County an important role in
504 protecting unique and irreplaceable shoreline values. The challenge for King County is to manage these lands in
505 a manner that protects, restores, and enhances King County's shoreline jurisdiction, while respecting private
506 property rights and protecting the public interest.

507

508 King County has established a set of general policy goals that provide overarching guidance for discretionary
509 decision-making, support shoreline regulations, and define the vision that King County has for the use,
510 protection, restoration and enhancement of the shorelines of the state. These policy goals reflect the wide range
511 of Shoreline Management Act mandates, while at the same time preserving the maximum possible flexibility for
512 King County to address the unique shoreline conditions within its jurisdiction.

513

514 **((B-)) Statement of Applicability**

515 The Shoreline Management Act includes a requirement ~~((that))~~ for development proposals ~~((must))~~ to obtain a
516 shoreline ~~((substantial development))~~ permit. However, the Shoreline Management Act includes a number of
517 exemptions from this requirement. ~~((For example, proposals to construct a single family residence or to
518 construct a bulkhead to protect a single family residence are exempt from the requirement to obtain a substantial
519 development permit. Activities that do not require a shoreline substantial development permit can,))~~ Because
520 even exempt projects can still have negative impacts, individually and cumulatively, ~~((adversely impact adjacent
521 properties and natural resources. King County has both the authority and the responsibility to enforce Shoreline
522 Master Program regulations on all uses and development in the shoreline jurisdiction. In order to ensure that
523 permit exempt activities comply with the Shoreline Management Act and the County's Shoreline Master
524 Program,))~~ King County generally requires applicants with exempt projects to apply for a shoreline exemption.

525

526 Because there has been confusion in the past regarding the scope of the Shoreline Management Act, the
527 Department of Ecology requires that all Master Programs contain the following policy statement:

528

529 **S-201** All proposed uses and development occurring within King County's shoreline
530 jurisdiction ~~((must))~~ shall conform to the Shoreline Management Act and to King
531 County's Shoreline Master Program.
532

533 **~~((C.))~~ Shoreline Preferred Uses**

534 The Shoreline Management Act establishes mandatory preferences for uses that are unique to or dependent upon
535 a shoreline location. These preferred uses apply to the entire shoreline jurisdiction, both the shorelines and
536 shorelines of statewide significance. The Shoreline Management Act preferred uses are recognized in the
537 following policies.
538

539 **S-202** In establishing and implementing shoreline policies and development
540 regulations, King County shall give preference to uses that are unique to or
541 dependent upon a shoreline location.
542

543 **S-203** King County, when determining allowable uses and resolving use conflicts in the
544 shoreline jurisdiction, shall apply the following preferences and priorities in the
545 order listed below:

- 546 a. Reserve appropriate areas for protecting and restoring shoreline
547 ecological processes and functions to control pollution and prevent
548 damage to the natural environment and to public health.
- 549 b. Reserve shoreline areas for water-dependent and associated
550 water-related uses. Harbor areas, established pursuant to Article XV of
551 the State Constitution, and other areas that have reasonable commercial
552 navigational accessibility and necessary support facilities, such as
553 transportation and utilities, should be reserved for water-dependent and
554 water-related uses that are associated with commercial navigation,
555 unless adequate shoreline is reserved for future water-dependent and
556 water-related uses and unless protection of the existing natural resource
557 values of such areas preclude such uses. Shoreline mixed-use
558 developments may be allowed if they include and support
559 water-dependent uses and address specific conditions that affect
560 water-dependent uses.
- 561 c. Reserve shoreline areas for other water-related and water-enjoyment
562 uses that are compatible with ecological protection and restoration
563 objectives.
- 564 d. Locate single ~~((family))~~ detached residential uses where they are
565 appropriate and can be developed without significant impact to shoreline
566 ecological processes and functions or displacement of water-dependent
567 uses.

568 e. Limit nonwater-oriented uses to those locations that are inappropriate
569 for higher priority uses or locations where the nonwater-oriented uses
570 demonstrably contribute to the objectives of the Shoreline Management
571 Act.

572
573 **S-204** In particular circumstances, the preferred use policies, the local economic and
574 land use conditions, and the policies and regulations that assure protection of
575 shoreline resources may result in a determination that other uses may be
576 considered as necessary or appropriate. These other uses may be
577 accommodated, provided that the preferred uses are reasonably provided for
578 throughout the shoreline jurisdiction.
579

580 **~~(D-)~~ General Policy Goals**

581 The Shoreline Management Act policies of protecting shoreline ecological processes and functions, fostering
582 reasonable use, and maintaining the public right of navigation and corollary uses result in certain mandatory
583 policy goals for the shoreline jurisdiction.
584

585 These policies apply to both shorelines and shorelines of statewide significance. The policies are not ranked in a
586 specific order. King County reserves the right to balance these general policies based on the unique
587 circumstances, location, and physical condition of the shoreline.
588

589 **S-205** The following policy goals apply to all of the shoreline jurisdiction. The goals are
590 not ranked in importance and have been assigned a number for identification
591 purposes only.

- 592 a. The use of the shoreline jurisdiction for those economically productive
593 uses that are particularly dependent on shoreline location or use.
- 594 b. The use of the shoreline jurisdiction for public access and recreation.
- 595 c. Protection and restoration of the ecological processes and functions of
596 shoreline natural resources.
- 597 d. Protection of the public right of navigation and corollary uses of waters
598 of the state.
- 599 e. The protection and restoration of buildings and sites having historic,
600 cultural, and educational value.
- 601 f. Planning for public facilities and utilities correlated with other shorelines
602 uses.
- 603 g. Prevention and minimization of flood damage.
- 604 h. Recognizing and protecting private property rights.
- 605 i. Preferential accommodation of single ~~((family))~~ detached residential
606 uses.

607 j. Coordination of shoreline management with other relevant local, state
608 and federal programs.
609

610 ~~((E.))~~ Shorelines of Statewide Significance Policy Goals

611 The Shoreline Management Act identifies certain shorelines as "shorelines of statewide significance" and raises
612 their status by setting use priorities and by calling for a higher level of effort in implementing the Shoreline
613 Master Program. The state ~~((t))~~ Legislature has declared that the interest of all people shall be paramount in the
614 management of shorelines of statewide significance.

615

616 **S-206** The interests of all people shall be paramount in the management of shorelines
617 of statewide significance within King County.

618

619 The ~~((t))~~ Legislature has established policy goals that govern shorelines of statewide significance. Significantly,
620 these policy goals are ranked in order of preference, ~~((i.e.,))~~ meaning the first goal must be given priority over all
621 subsequent goals.

622

623 The following policy recognizes and accepts the policy goals as directed by the Shoreline Management Act for
624 shorelines of statewide significance:

625

626 **S-207** In developing and implementing its Shoreline Master Program for shorelines of
627 statewide significance, King County shall give preference, in the following order
628 of preference, to uses that:

- 629 a. Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest;
630 b. Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
631 c. Result in long-term over short-term benefit;
632 d. Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
633 e. Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines;
634 f. Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline; and
635 g. Provide for any other element as defined in Revised Code of Washington
636 90.58.100.

637

638 **S-208** In developing and implementing policies relating to shorelines of statewide
639 significance, King County shall provide for optimum implementation of policies
640 that satisfy the statewide interest.

641

642 ~~((F.))~~ State-Owned Shoreline Policy Goals

643 The state also owns property within King County. The Shoreline Management Act requires that certain policies
644 be adopted with regard to shoreline land owned by the state. This is distinct from shorelines of statewide
645 significance, which may or may not be in state ownership. Because state-owned shoreline is often adapted to

646 providing recreational activities for the public, King County has given special consideration to these factors in
647 developing the Shoreline Master Program.

648

649 **S-209 King County should encourage and help facilitate the use of state-owned**
650 **shorelines for public recreational activities, where appropriate.**

651

652 **~~((G-))~~ Balancing Policy Goals**

653 The policy goals for the management of the shoreline jurisdiction have the potential for conflict. King County
654 shorelines are considered among the most valuable and fragile of King County’s natural resources. These
655 shorelines are valuable for economically productive industrial and commercial uses, recreation, navigation,
656 residential amenity, scientific research, and education. They are fragile because shorelines depend upon a
657 balance between physical, biological, and chemical systems that may be significantly altered by both natural
658 forces (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, storms, droughts, floods) and human activities (industrial,
659 commercial, residential, recreation, navigational). Unbridled use of the shorelines ultimately could destroy their
660 utility and value for human use.

661

662 **S-210 The policy goals of King County’s Shoreline Master Program relate both to the**
663 **use and protection of the extremely valuable and vulnerable shoreline resources**
664 **of the state.**

665

666 **S-211 King County shall accommodate in the shoreline jurisdiction all reasonable and**
667 **appropriate uses consistent with protecting against adverse effects to the public**
668 **health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and**
669 **consistent with public rights of navigation.**

670

671 **S-212 ~~((The policy of achieving))~~ Development regulations shall provide both shoreline**
672 **use and protection ~~((is reflected in the provision that))~~ by requiring permitted**
673 **uses in the shoreline jurisdiction ~~((shall))~~ to be designed and conducted in a**
674 **manner to avoid or minimize, in so far as practical, any resultant damage to the**
675 **ecology and environment of the shoreline area and the public’s use of the water.**

676

677 **S-213 King County shall balance shoreline use and shoreline protection when meeting**
678 **the policy goals of the Shoreline Management Act.**

679

680 **~~((H-))~~ Multiple Approaches to Accomplishing Policy Goals**

681 The policy goals in the Shoreline Master Program may be achieved through a variety of methods that go beyond
682 simply regulating development within the shoreline jurisdiction. There are a wide range of non-regulatory tools
683 available that provide incentives for property owners to work cooperatively with King County to achieve these

684 policy goals. In addition, King County works closely with other public and non((-))profit groups to achieve
685 mutually beneficial objectives.

686

687 **S-214**

**The King County Shoreline Master Program policies may be achieved by a
688 number of different means, both regulatory and non-regulatory. These include,
689 but are not limited to:**

690

a. Regulations controlling development within the shoreline jurisdiction;

691

**b. Acquisition of land and easements by purchase, lease, or gift, either
692 alone or in concert with other local governments;**

693

**c. Accepting grants, contributions, and appropriations from any public or
694 private agency or individuals;**

695

d. Public facility and park planning;

696

e. Watershed planning;

697

f. Voluntary salmon recovery projects; and

698

**g. Incentive programs, such as the transfer of development rights or the
699 public benefit rating system.**

700

701 ~~((IV.))~~ **Shoreline Element Policy Goals**

702 ~~((A.))~~ **Need for shoreline elements**

703 The Shoreline Management Act requires local master programs to include a number of elements that range from
704 use of shorelines for economic benefit and accommodating necessary infrastructure to protecting both cultural
705 and natural resources. These elements are addressed separately throughout this chapter and are based on the
706 following overarching King County Shoreline Master Program element policy goals.

707

708 ~~((B.))~~ **Economic Development Element**

709 King County's economy is the largest and most significant ~~((in the Puget Sound Region and))~~ among counties in
710 Washington State. With almost half of the state's nonagricultural jobs and almost 83,900 businesses, it is
711 essential that the King County accommodate the industries and infrastructure to support a healthy and vibrant
712 economy. Most of the county's industry and infrastructure lies within the incorporated cities and is not subject to
713 the King County Shoreline Master Program. However, there are some portions of the shoreline jurisdiction in
714 unincorporated King County that provide for economic development of the region.

715

716 **S-301**

**King County should plan for the location and design of industries, transportation
717 facilities, port facilities, tourist facilities, commerce, and other developments that
718 are particularly dependent on their location on or use of the shorelines of the
719 state.**

720

720

721 **~~((C.))~~ Public Access Element**

722 King County believes the shoreline should be accessible to the general public to enjoy and use within the
723 limitations of private property rights and ecological considerations. Since a significant amount of shoreline
724 property is in private ownership, the responsibility to maintain and provide public access falls primarily on public
725 projects. Not all sites are appropriate for use by the public and must be evaluated carefully to ensure that public
726 access can be safely provided without harm. Provisions should also be retained and sought to provide
727 opportunities for the public to enjoy views of the water and shoreline.

728

729 **S-302**

King County shall:

730

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.**

731

732

733

734

b. **Protect the rights of navigation and the space necessary for water-dependent uses.**

735

736

c. **To the greatest extent feasible 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.**

737

738

739

740

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.**

741

742

743

744 When planning shoreline public access, King County should try to achieve an integrated system that can
745 supplement, and be coordinated with, multimodal transportation planning. King County has identified areas of
746 potential public access that will be assessed in more detail through shoreline permits and public projects. The
747 King County Shoreline Public Access Plan (July 2009) provides details on the analysis of existing shoreline
748 public access in King County, identified public access gaps and opportunities, and the resulting shoreline Public
749 Access Plan.

750

751 **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.

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757

758 **S-304** Public agencies, including local governments, port districts, state agencies, and
759 public utility districts, should include public access in their development
760 proposals if public access is compatible with the activity and can be provided
761 safely. An assessment of the impact of public access on the shoreline and
762 constructed features should also be conducted.

764 **S-305** King County shall require public access to shorelines of the state for
765 water-enjoyment, water-related, and nonwater-dependent non-residential uses
766 and for subdivisions of land into more than four parcels unless:
767 a. The development proposal is not compatible with public access;
768 b. There is a safety or security concern;
769 c. Inclusion of public access will have an environmental impact that cannot
770 be mitigated; or
771 d. There are legal limitations on allowing public access.

773 **S-306** King County shall adopt development regulations that establish maximum
774 building height limits, setbacks, and view corridors to minimize the impact to
775 existing views from public property or a substantial number of residences.
776 Where providing direct public access or allowing for water dependent shoreline
777 uses conflicts with maintaining existing views, the direct public access or water
778 dependent shoreline uses shall have priority.

780 **~~(D.)~~ Recreational Element**

781 Shorelines provide many opportunities for recreation, such as boating, swimming, beach combing, hiking, and
782 nature viewing. Since much of the shoreline jurisdiction is in private ownership, using public lands for
783 recreation will become increasingly important. Opportunities should be sought through public projects to protect
784 and enhance recreational opportunities.

786 **S-307** King County should protect and, when possible, expand recreational
787 opportunities, including but not limited to parks, beaches, tidelands, swimming
788 beaches and boat launches.

790 **S-308** King County should evaluate opportunities to acquire shoreline property for
791 purposes of public recreation from willing sellers of private property.

793 **~~(E.)~~ Circulation Element**

794 Circulation and transportation planning is conducted at many levels in King County. The overarching
795 transportation planning agency in the Puget Sound region is the Puget Sound Regional Council, an association
796 of cities, ~~((towns,))~~ counties, ports, and state agencies that serves as a forum for developing policies and making

797 decisions about growth and transportation issues in the Puget Sound region. At the local level, cities and
798 counties approve local circulation patterns for their individual jurisdictions. King County should consider the
799 policy goals in this Shoreline Master Program when participating in regional and local transportation planning
800 discussions.

801

802 **S-309 The King County Shoreline Master Program should guide the ((e))County's**
803 **transportation plans and projects within the shoreline jurisdiction.**

804

805 **~~((F.))~~ Land Use Element**

806 Land use in King County is established through implementation of the Washington State Growth Management
807 Act. To implement the Growth Management Act, King County relies primarily on the King County
808 Comprehensive Plan and functional plans that are adopted as part of this Comprehensive Plan for facilities and
809 services. This Comprehensive Plan establishes an Urban Growth Area and designates land use and zoning for
810 the unincorporated portions of King County. It also delineates and protects Agricultural Production Districts,
811 Forest Production Districts, and mineral resource sites.

812

813 **S-310 The King County Comprehensive Plan should consider the policy goals of the**
814 **King County Shoreline Master Program when designating land use and zoning on**
815 **shorelines of the state and adjacent lands.**

816

817 **~~((G.))~~ Conservation Element**

818 The Shoreline Management Act requires local master programs to include a conservation element for the
819 preservation of natural resources, including critical areas, scenic vistas, aesthetics, and vital freshwater, saltwater
820 and estuarine areas for fish and wildlife.

821

822 **~~((I.))~~ Critical areas**

823 King County's critical areas ordinance is based on best available science and protects coal mine hazard areas;
824 erosion hazard areas; flood hazard areas; seismic hazard areas; landslide hazard areas; volcanic hazard areas;
825 steep slope hazard areas; critical aquifer recharge areas; wetlands; aquatic areas (including lakes, rivers and
826 streams and marine areas); and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The Growth Management Act requires that
827 a Shoreline Master Program provide a level of protection for critical areas located within shorelines that assures
828 no net loss of shoreline ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources. Policy S-403 adopts
829 this requirement.

830

831 Past development of the shorelines has degraded the habitat for many species by activities such as armoring
832 banks against wave action and the erosive force of water flowing downstream; removal of vegetation;
833 straightening channels; installing in-stream structures for flood control, hydroelectricity, and water supply; and

834 allowing stormwater runoff that degrades water quality. Degraded shorelines should be restored and shorelines
835 that are in good condition should be preserved.

836

837 **S-311 King County shall protect shoreline critical areas and, where possible, should**
838 **restore degraded habitat and critical area functions and values.**

839

840 **((2)) Scenic vistas**

841 The natural topography of King County provides numerous scenic vistas of the shoreline. King County should
842 ensure that development occurring both within and outside the shorelines of the state avoids impacts on scenic
843 vistas and protects view corridors while balancing other policy goals of this plan.

844

845 **S-312 King County should consider and, when possible, require protection of scenic**
846 **vistas of the shoreline jurisdiction when reviewing public and private**
847 **development proposals.**

848

849 **((3)) Aesthetics**

850 Natural shorelines are visually aesthetic in their natural state. When these shorelines are altered through
851 development, the aesthetic value of the shoreline should be preserved as much as possible. In areas where
852 shorelines have already been developed with little consideration of the aesthetics, restoration should return the
853 shoreline to an aesthetically-pleasing environment.

854

855 **S-313 King County should ensure that public and private development proposals**
856 **protect and restore the aesthetic quality of shorelines in the project design.**

857

858 **((H-)) Historic, Cultural, Scientific and Educational Element**

859 The historic, cultural, scientific, and educational element provides for protection and restoration of historic
860 resources. Historic resources include historic building, sites, objects, districts and landscapes, prehistoric and
861 historic archaeological resources, and traditional cultural places.

862

- 863 **S-314** Historic resources in the shoreline jurisdiction should be protected to prevent
864 the destruction of, or damage to, any site having archaeological, historic,
865 cultural, or scientific value through coordination and consultation with the
866 appropriate local, state and federal authorities, including affected Indian tribes.
867 a. Sites should be protected in collaboration with appropriate Indian tribal,
868 state, federal, and other local governments. Cooperation among public
869 and private parties ~~((is to))~~ should be encouraged in the identification,
870 protection, and management of cultural resources.
871 b. Where appropriate, access to such sites should be made available to
872 parties of interest. Access to such sites ~~((must))~~ shall be designed and
873 managed in a manner that gives maximum protection to the resource.
874 c. Opportunities for education related to archaeological, historical, and
875 cultural features should be provided where appropriate and incorporated
876 into public and private programs and development.
877
- 878 **S-315** King County should work with Indian tribal, state, federal, and local governments
879 to maintain an inventory of all known historic resources. King County shall
880 protect these inventories from public disclosure to the extent permitted or
881 required under applicable federal and state law. As appropriate, such sites
882 should be preserved and restored for study, education, and public enjoyment to
883 the maximum possible extent.
884
- 885 **S-316** Provisions for historic resource preservation, restoration and education should
886 be incorporated with open space or recreation areas in site development plans
887 whenever compatible and possible.
888
- 889 **S-317** Cooperation among involved private and public parties should be encouraged to
890 achieve these historic, cultural, scientific, and educational objectives.
891
- 892 **S-318** Private and public owners of historic resources should be encouraged to provide
893 public access and educational opportunities at levels consistent with long term
894 protection of both historic values and shoreline ecological processes and
895 functions. Site-specific conditions may require public site access to be
896 restricted at times, but educational means should be provided whenever
897 possible.
898
- 899 **S-319** Historic resource development should be planned and carried out so as to
900 prevent impacts to the resource. Impacts to neighboring properties and other
901 shoreline uses should be limited to temporary or reasonable levels.
902

903 **S-320** Owners of historic resource are encouraged to make substantial development
904 plans known well in advance of application so that appropriate agencies, such as
905 the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation,
906 Indian ~~((T))~~tribes, and others, may have ample time to assess the site and make
907 arrangements to preserve historic, cultural, scientific, and educational values as
908 applicable.

909
910 **S-321** If development is proposed adjacent to an historic resource, the proposed
911 development should be designed and operated so as to be compatible with
912 continued protection of the historic, cultural or archaeological resource.
913

914 ~~((V.))~~ **Shoreline Plan Relationship to Other Laws**

915 ~~((A.))~~ **Washington’s Growth Management Act**

916 The Growth Management Act, passed by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 and 1991, seeks to further
917 protect the quality of life in Washington State. The Growth Management Act requires that the state’s most
918 populous and fastest growing counties and their cities prepare comprehensive land use plans that anticipate
919 growth for a 20-year horizon. Smaller communities and those communities that are experiencing a slow rate of
920 growth may choose to plan under the Growth Management Act, but are not required to do so. Comprehensive
921 Plans adopted in accordance with the Growth Management Act must manage growth so that development is
922 directed to designated urban areas and away from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The Growth
923 Management Act also requires local governments to designate and protect critical areas and to identify and
924 protect natural resource lands, which include commercially significant forestry, agriculture, and mining areas. In
925 1997, the Washington State Legislature amended both the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline
926 Management Act in an effort to achieve consistency between the two statutes. Among the amendments to the
927 Growth Management Act was a provision that makes the policies and goals of the Shoreline Management Act
928 also policies and goals of the Growth Management Act. See Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.480.

929
930 ~~S-401~~ ~~The King County Shoreline Master Program must be consistent with the~~
931 ~~Washington State Growth Management Act.~~

932 933 ~~B.~~ ~~King County Countywide Planning Policies~~

934 King County, along with the City of Seattle, City of Bellevue, and suburban cities established the Growth
935 Management Planning Council to prepare a coordinated policy framework for future development in King
936 County. In July 1992, the Growth Management Planning Council adopted Phase 1 of the Countywide Planning
937 Policies. Phase 2 was adopted in 1994. The King County Countywide Planning Policies have been ratified by a
938 majority of the jurisdictions in King County and therefore apply to all jurisdictions. The Countywide Planning
939 Policies address critical areas, land use patterns, transportation, community character and open space, affordable

940 ~~housing, development and provision of urban services, siting of public capital facilities, economic development,~~
941 ~~and regional financing and governance.~~

942

943 ~~**S-402** ————— **The King County Shoreline Master Program must be consistent with and**~~
944 ~~**coordinated with the King County Countywide Planning Policies.**~~

945

946 **~~C.)~~ Critical Areas Regulations**

947 Critical areas located within shorelines are regulated under the Shoreline Management Act and implemented
948 through local Shoreline Master Programs. The Growth Management Act requires that shoreline master
949 programs provide a level of protection for shoreline critical areas that assures no net loss of shoreline ecological
950 functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources.

951

952 **S-403** **The King County Shoreline Master Program and implementing regulations shall**
953 **provide a level of protection for critical areas in the shoreline jurisdiction that**
954 **assures no net loss of shoreline ecological functions necessary to sustain**
955 **shoreline natural resources.**

956

957 The Shoreline Management Act provides options for assuring consistency with the Growth Management Act
958 protection of critical areas. These options range from including the Growth Management Act critical areas
959 regulations in the Shoreline Master Program to preparing a discrete set of shoreline regulations.

960

961 **S-404** **The King County Shoreline Master Program includes by reference portions of the**
962 **King County critical areas regulations into the Shoreline Master Program to meet**
963 **the requirements of Revised Code of Washington 90.58.090((3) and**
964 **90.58.090(4)).**

965

966 **~~(D.)~~ Zoning, Clearing and Grading, and Stormwater Regulations**

967 King County has adopted a wide array of development regulations that protect various aspects of the
968 environment and implement other King County policies. These regulations generally include King County's
969 surface water management regulations, clearing and grading regulations, and zoning. In the shoreline
970 jurisdiction, the Shoreline Master Program may impose additional requirements. Shoreline development
971 regulations must:

- 972 1. Be sufficient in scope and detail to ensure implementation of the Shoreline Management Act statewide
973 shoreline management policies, this chapter, and the King County Comprehensive Plan and functional
974 plans adopted to implement the Comprehensive Plan;
- 975 2. Include regulations that apply to the environmental designations classified under Washington
976 Administrative Code 173-26-211;

- 977 3. Include general regulations, specific use regulations that address issues of concern in regard to specific
- 978 uses, and modification regulations;
- 979 4. Include clearing and grading and stormwater regulations that protect the ecological processes and
- 980 functions of the shorelines; and
- 981 5. Design and implement regulations and mitigation standards in a manner consistent with all relevant
- 982 constitutional and other legal limitations on the regulation of private property. (Revised Code of
- 983 Washington 90.58.100)

984
985 However, to the extent that it can, consistent with requirements of the Shoreline Management Act, King County

986 will rely on its existing regulations to meet the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act.

987
988 **S-405** **To the maximum extent practical, King County's Shoreline Master Program shall**

989 **rely on King County's existing regulations, including critical areas regulations,**

990 **surface water management regulations, clearing and grading regulations, and**

991 **zoning ((in order)) to comply with the Shoreline Management Act and the**

992 **Ecology's guidelines.**

993
994 **~~(E.)~~ Flood Hazard Management Plan**

995 The King County Flood Hazard Management Plan directs floodplain management within King County. This

996 Plan was developed in coordination with incorporated cities within King County as directed by Revised Code of

997 Washington 86.12.210 and is binding on each jurisdiction located within King County. The goals of the King

998 County Flood Hazard Management Plan are:

- 999 1. To reduce the risks from flood and channel migration hazards.
- 1000 2. To avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of flood hazard management.
- 1001 3. To reduce the long-term costs of flood hazard management.

1002 Flood hazard regulations are implemented within unincorporated King County. Each jurisdiction within King

1003 County is required under the Flood Hazard Management Plan to adopt flood hazard management regulations

1004 that meet the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

1005
1006 In 2007, the King County Council approved the formation of a countywide Flood Control Zone District under

1007 the authority in Revised Code of Washington 86.15.025. The overarching countywide strategies and objectives

1008 include:

- 1009 1. Improving levee protection through major commercial, industrial and residential areas;
- 1010 2. Improving flood water conveyance and capacity;
- 1011 3. Reducing hazards by removing flood, erosion, and landslide prone residential structures;
- 1012 4. Providing safe access to homes and businesses by protecting key transportation routes;
- 1013 5. Minimizing creation of new risks to public safety from development pressure.

1014

1015 The King County Flood Control Zone District is governed by a District Board of Supervisors that consists of the
1016 members of the King County Council. An advisory committee advises the board of supervisors of the Flood
1017 Control Zone District on regional flood protection issues by providing recommendations to the board of
1018 supervisors on the district's work program and budget, including capital improvement program projects. King
1019 County will rely on the Flood Hazard Management Plan and the Flood Control Zone District to meet the
1020 general shoreline master program provisions for flood hazard reduction in Washington Administrative Code
1021 173-26-221((3)).

1022

1023 **S-406** **The King County Shoreline Master Program ((will)) shall rely on the policies and**
1024 **programs established in the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan and**
1025 **flood hazard regulations to meet the requirements of the Shoreline Management**
1026 **Act and the Department of Ecology’s guidelines for flood hazard reduction.**

1027

1028 **~~(VI.)~~ Shoreline Environment Designations**

1029 **~~(A.)~~ Introduction to shoreline environment designations**

1030 Shoreline management addresses a wide range of physical conditions and development settings. The Shoreline
1031 Master Program classifies shoreline reaches into defined environment designations, based on the existing use
1032 pattern, the current biological and physical character of the shoreline, and the goals and aspirations of the
1033 community. King County prescribes environmental protection measures, allowable use provisions, and
1034 development standards for each shoreline environment designation.

1035

1036 King County has established eight shoreline environment designations:

- 1037 • ~~(A.)~~ High Intensity Shoreline
- 1038 • ~~(B.)~~ Residential Shoreline
- 1039 • ~~(C.)~~ Rural Shoreline
- 1040 • ~~(D.)~~ Conservancy Shoreline
- 1041 • ~~(E.)~~ Resource Shoreline
- 1042 • ~~(F.)~~ Forestry Shoreline
- 1043 • ~~(G.)~~ Natural Shoreline
- 1044 • ~~(H.)~~ Aquatic

1045

1046 This section sets forth the purpose, criteria, and management policies for each shoreline environment. The
1047 Shoreline Environment Designation maps at the end of this chapter show how the environment designations
1048 apply to shoreline reaches within the shoreline jurisdiction in unincorporated King County. Shoreline areas that
1049 meet the jurisdictional criteria, but that are not mapped or designated, are assigned a Conservancy designation
1050 until the Shoreline Master Program is amended to assign a shoreline environment to that shoreline reach.

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1080

Environment Designation Criteria

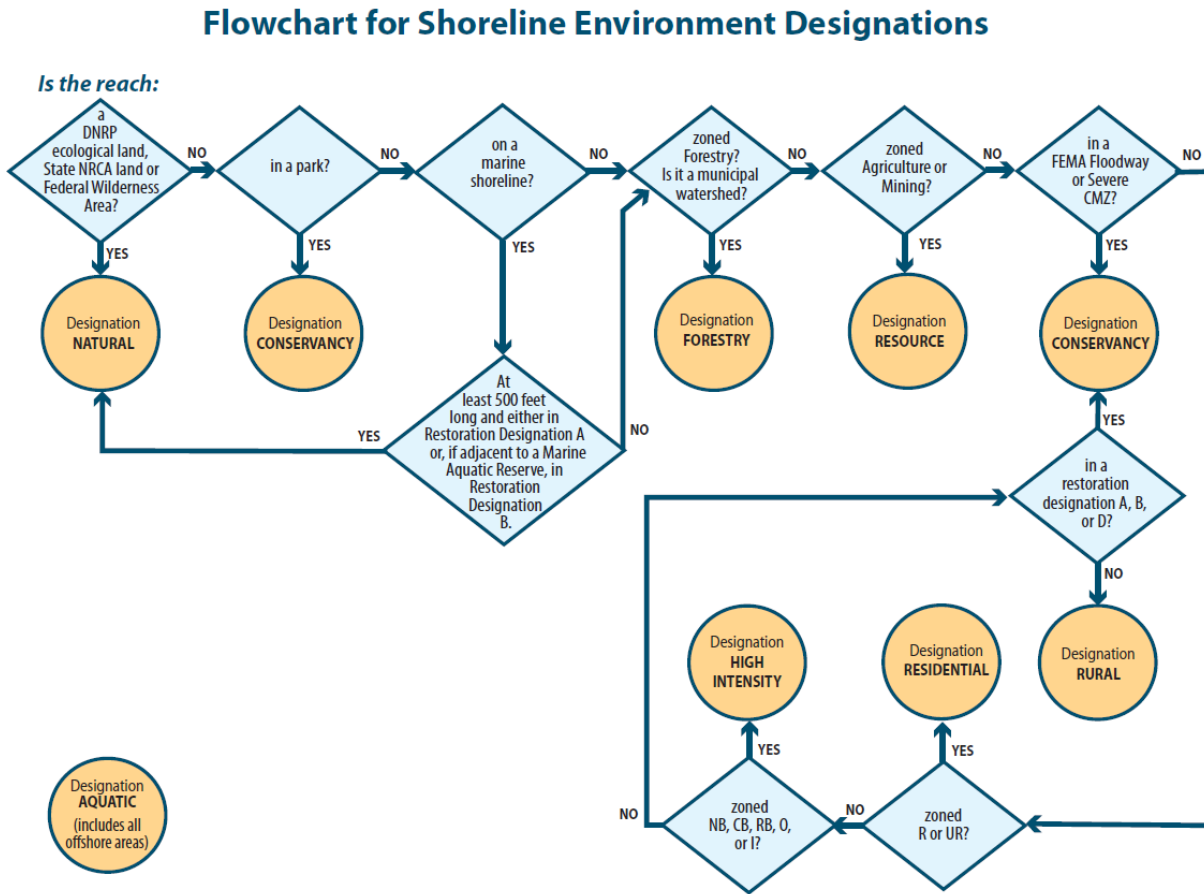
King County has a long history of comprehensive planning and basin planning. Beginning in the 1980s, basin plans were developed throughout the county and helped identify fragile aquatic resources. Relying on these plans, King County has assigned zoning that is appropriate given the nature of the resources 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 that the shoreline environment designations help King County achieve the goals of the Shoreline Management Act. These factors include, 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;
- Federal, state, county, Indian 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.

1081 **Figure S-1: Pathway of decisions in applying criteria to produce shoreline designations.**



1082

1083

1084 The shoreline environment designations take into account several elements. Areas currently meeting the criteria
 1085 for high levels of protection are given greater levels of protection. The determination of whether an area deserves
 1086 a greater level of protection is based either on its current ownership and condition, ((e.g.)) such as publicly
 1087 owned natural areas or wilderness areas, or on its restoration rating. The restoration rating is discussed in more
 1088 detail below. Zoning is also an important criterion. King County has for years implemented zoning as a means
 1089 to protect more sensitive areas from intense development. Shoreline environment designations also take into
 1090 account whether a reach is located within a floodway and severe channel migration hazard area and gives
 1091 greater protection to these areas due to their importance in maintaining shoreline ecological processes and
 1092 functions and because of public health and safety concerns.

1093

1094 The restoration rating (see King County Shoreline Protection and Restoration Plan (July 2009)) is included in
 1095 the designation as a way to incorporate more strongly the current degree of alteration along the shoreline, the
 1096 biological importance of the reach in a watershed context, and the restoration priorities associated with the
 1097 combination of the two analyses. The restoration designations are largely concerned with whether it is most
 1098 appropriate to implement measures to protect or conserve a site, restore it to a previous condition, or undertake
 1099 projects to enhance its current condition or to create new features with shoreline ecological processes and

1100 functions. These ratings also provide guidance on areas where it is important to protect existing shoreline
 1101 ecological processes and functions.

1102

1103 Restoration ratings combine the reach characterization based on the results from an alterations analysis with the
 1104 context of basin analyses (See Table S-2). The reach or drift cell characterization is an assessment of the extent
 1105 to which ecosystem structure, processes, and, ultimately, functions for a reach or drift cell are affected by
 1106 anthropogenic factors. Scores resulting from this assessment are indicative of the degree to which shoreline
 1107 ecological processes have been altered and impaired. The reach characterizations are found in King County
 1108 Shoreline Inventory and Characterization: Methodology and Results (May 2007). The basin analysis is based on
 1109 the Basin Condition Map adopted by the King County Council in King County Code 21A.24.065.

1110

1111 **Table S-2. Restoration scores 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

1112

1113 Each designation has specific restoration goals associated with it, based on the conditions observed onsite and in
 1114 the basin. Depending on condition, as indicated by the degree of alteration, reaches and drift cells were placed
 1115 into one of nine categories of preferred actions. These range from preservation and conservation under the
 1116 highest conditions (high basin and reach conditions, ((i.e.,)) meaning the least altered from natural) to
 1117 enhancement and creation under the poorest condition (low basin and reach conditions, the most altered from
 1118 natural).

1119

1120 The various actions are defined as follows:

1121

- **Preserve** – To protect intact processes, often through acquiring lands or easements to exclude activities that may negatively affect the environment.

1122

1123

- **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.

1124

1125

- 1126 • **Restore** – To transform degraded conditions to a close approximation of historical conditions.
1127 Restoration generally involves more intense and extensive modification and manipulation of site
1128 conditions than would occur with enhancement projects. Example actions include levee breaching,
1129 removal, or setback.
- 1130 • **Enhance** – To improve a targeted ecological attribute and/or process. Example actions may include
1131 culvert replacement, riparian plantings and fencing, invasive species removal, and streambank
1132 stabilization.
- 1133 • **Create** – To construct or place habitat features where they did not previously exist (~~(in order)~~) to foster
1134 development of a functioning ecosystem. Examples include tidal channel excavation and the placement
1135 of dredge material intended to create marsh or other habitat. Creation represents the most experimental
1136 approach and, therefore, may have a lower degree of success, particularly when landscape-scale
1137 ecological processes are not sufficient to support the created habitat type.
1138

1139 The marine shoreline, which in unincorporated King County occurs only around Vashon-Maury Island, is
1140 treated a little differently than freshwater shorelines in the designation strategy. This is in recognition of both the
1141 differing character of marine shorelines, which are subject to tidal influences, wakes from large commercial
1142 vessels, and some variation in the ecological processes affecting them, as well as the creation of the Maury Island
1143 Environmental Aquatic Reserve along Maury Island and Quartermaster Harbor shorelines by the Washington
1144 state Department of Natural Resources. More protection by shoreline designation was afforded to marine
1145 shorelines with active feeder bluffs and little alteration to processes. As a result, in these areas, areas with a
1146 restoration rating of A or B were designated natural in recognition of the importance of conserving existing
1147 shoreline ecological functions and processes in this area.
1148

1149 **~~(B-)~~ High Intensity Shoreline Environment**

1150 **Purpose**

1151 The purpose of the High Intensity Shoreline Environment is to provide for high intensity water-oriented
1152 commercial and industrial uses.
1153

1154 **High Intensity Designation Criteria**

- 1155 **S-501** **A shoreline may be designated High Intensity if the shoreland is characterized by**
1156 **high intensity development or uses or is zoned Neighborhood Business (NB),**
1157 **Commercial Business (CB), Regional Business (RB), Office (O), or Industrial (I),**
1158 **and:**
- 1159 **a.** **The shoreland does not contain limitations on urban uses, such as**
1160 **geological hazards or flood hazards; and**
 - 1161 **b.** **The shoreline does not provide important shoreline ecological**
1162 **processes and functions that would be significantly compromised by**
1163 **high intensity residential, commercial, or industrial use.**

1164

1165 **High Intensity Management Policies:**

1166 **S-502** In the High Intensity Shoreline Environment, King County shall give priority to
1167 non-residential land uses that are water-dependent or water-related.

1168

1169 **S-503** King County shall discourage non-water-oriented, non-residential land uses in
1170 the High Intensity Shoreline Environment. Shoreline mixed-use developments
1171 that include and support water dependent uses may be allowed. King County
1172 should allow non-water-oriented land uses in the High Intensity Shoreline
1173 Environment only in limited situations and only if they do not conflict with or limit
1174 opportunities for water-dependent uses or are located on sites where there is no
1175 direct access to the shoreline.

1176

1177 **S-504** Prior to allowing expansion of a high intensity non-water-oriented use in the
1178 shoreline environment, King County shall determine that there is no feasible
1179 alternative for locating the expansion outside of the shoreline jurisdiction.

1180

1181 **S-505** King County should require visual or physical public shoreline access to be
1182 provided whenever feasible in the High Intensity Shoreline Environment.

1183

1184 **S-506** King County shall protect the aesthetic character of the shoreline in the High
1185 Intensity Shoreline Environment through development regulations, including
1186 sign controls, development siting criteria, screening requirements and
1187 architectural standards, landscaping requirements and maintenance of natural
1188 vegetation.

1189

1190 **S-507** King County shall require that the scale and intensity of new uses and
1191 development within the High Intensity Environment is compatible with, and
1192 protects or enhances, the existing character of the area.

1193

1194 **~~(C.)~~ Residential Shoreline Environment**

1195 **Purpose**

1196 The purpose of the Residential Shoreline Environment is to accommodate residential and commercial uses on a
1197 scale appropriate with urban residential zones.

1198

1199 **Residential Shoreline Designation Criteria**

1200 **S-508** A shoreline may be designated Residential Shoreline if the shoreland is
1201 characterized by urban levels of residential development or uses or is zoned
1202 Urban Residential (R) or Urban Reserve (UR) and:
1203 a. The shoreland does not contain limitations on urban uses, such as
1204 geological hazards or flood hazards; and
1205 b. The shoreline not provide important shoreline ecological processes and
1206 functions that would be significantly compromised by urban levels of
1207 residential development.
1208

1209 **Residential Shoreline Environment Management Policies:**

1210 **S-509** King County shall require that the scale and intensity of new uses and
1211 development within the Residential Shoreline Environment is compatible with((,))
1212 and protects or enhances the existing character of the area.
1213

1214 **S-510** King County should encourage public or private outdoor recreation facilities that
1215 are compatible with the character of the area in the Residential Shoreline
1216 Environment. Water-dependent and water-enjoyment recreation facilities that
1217 provide opportunities for people to access and enjoy the shoreline are preferred
1218 uses in the Residential Shoreline Environment.
1219

1220 **S-511** King County should discourage non-water-oriented commercial uses in the
1221 Residential Shoreline Environment. A non-water-oriented commercial use may
1222 be allowed as part of a shoreline mixed-use development or if the
1223 non-water-oriented use provides a substantial benefit with respect to the goals
1224 and policies of this Program, such as providing public access or restoring
1225 degraded shorelines.
1226

1227 **~~((D-))~~ Rural Shoreline Environment**

1228 **Purpose**

1229 The purpose of the Rural Shoreline Environment is to accommodate land uses normally associated with rural
1230 levels of development while providing appropriate public access and recreational uses to the maximum extent
1231 practicable.
1232

1233 **Rural Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria**

- 1234 **S-512** A shoreline may be designated Rural Shoreline if the shoreland is characterized
1235 by rural levels of development or if the shoreland is zoned Rural Area (RA-2.5,
1236 RA-5, RA-10, and RA-20) and:
1237 a. The shoreland does not contain limitations on rural residential uses,
1238 such as geological hazards or flood hazards; and
1239 b. The shoreline does not provide important shoreline ecological
1240 processes and functions that would be significantly compromised by
1241 rural levels of residential development.
1242

1243 **Rural Shoreline Environment Management Policies:**

- 1244 **S-513** King County should limit uses in the Rural Shoreline Environment to those rural
1245 development activities and associated services that sustain the shoreline’s
1246 physical and biological resources and that protect options for restoration to
1247 maximum extent practicable given the nature of rural development.
1248
1249 **S-514** King County should require that multi-family and multi-lot residential and
1250 recreational developments in the Rural Shoreline Environment provide public
1251 access and joint use for community recreational facilities.
1252

1253 **~~(E.)~~ Conservancy Shoreline Environment**

1254 **Purpose**

1255 The purpose of the Conservancy Shoreline Environment is to conserve areas that are a high priority for
1256 restoration, include valuable historic properties or provide recreational opportunities.
1257

1258 **Conservancy Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria**

- 1259 **S-515** A shoreline may be designated Conservancy Shoreline if it is in an area where
1260 important shoreline ecological processes have not been substantially degraded
1261 by human activities, where important shoreline ecological processes would be
1262 degraded by development or present a public health or safety risk, or where the
1263 shoreline is in public ownership and is managed for public access or recreation.
1264 Areas that may be included in Conservancy Shoreline are:
1265 a. Shoreline reaches primarily within an identified FEMA floodway or
1266 severe channel migration hazard zone;
1267 b. Lake shorelines or river shorelines with a restoration plan rating of A, B,
1268 or D;
1269 c. Marine shorelines with a restoration plan rating of A, B, or D; and
1270 d. Shorelines in public ownership and managed for public access or
1271 recreation.

1272

1273 **Conservancy Shoreline Environment Management Policies:**

1274 **S-516** King County should limit uses in the Conservancy Shoreline Environment to
1275 those that sustain the shoreline area's physical and biological resources or to
1276 uses of a nonpermanent nature that do not substantially degrade the rural or
1277 natural character of the shoreline area or disturb historic and cultural resources.

1278 King County should discourage non-residential uses in the Conservancy
1279 Shoreline except as follows:

- 1280 a. King County should allow aquaculture, forestry and agriculture in the
1281 Conservancy Shoreline Environment; and
- 1282 b. King County should allow water-dependent and water-enjoyment
1283 recreation facilities as preferred uses if significant adverse impacts to
1284 the shoreline are mitigated.

1285

1286 **S-517** King County shall require that new uses or development in the Conservancy
1287 Shoreline Environment preserve the existing character of the shoreline
1288 consistent with the purpose of the environment, including:

- 1289 a. Limiting the total effective impervious surface in the shoreline
1290 jurisdiction to no more than ~~((ten))~~ **10** percent ~~((in order))~~ to maintain the
1291 existing hydrologic character of the site; and
- 1292 b. Allowing more effective impervious surface coverage on lots legally
1293 created prior to the date of adoption of this update to King County's
1294 Shoreline Master Program. In these cases, effective impervious surface
1295 coverage shall be limited to the maximum extent practicable.

1296

1297 **~~((F.))~~ Resource Shoreline Environment**

1298 **Purpose**

1299 The purpose of the Resource Shoreline Environment is to allow for mining and agricultural uses on lands that
1300 have been designated under the Growth Management Act as agricultural lands of long-term commercial
1301 significance or mineral resource lands where those lands do not provide significant shoreline ecological processes
1302 and functions.

1303

1304 **Resource Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria**

1305 **S-518** A shoreline may be designated Resource Shoreline if the shoreland is zoned
1306 Agriculture or Mineral and the shoreline is not designated Natural Shoreline
1307 under Policy S-525.

1308

1309 **Resource Shoreline Environment Management Policies:**

1310 **S-519** King County should limit uses in the Resource Shoreline Environment to
1311 agricultural and mining activities.

1312
1313 **S-520** King County shall adopt development standards for the Resource Shoreline
1314 Environment to preserve the existing character of the shoreline consistent with
1315 the purpose of the environment.
1316

1317 **~~((G-))~~ Forestry Shoreline Environment**

1318 **Purpose**

1319 The purpose of the Forestry Shoreline Environment is to allow for forestry uses in the Forest Production District
1320 and to protect municipal watersheds.
1321

1322 **Forestry Shoreline Designation Criteria**

1323 **S-521** A shoreline may be designated Forestry Shoreline if the shoreland is within the
1324 Forest Production District and the shoreline is not designated as a Natural
1325 Shoreline or a Conservancy Shoreline.
1326

1327 **Forestry Shoreline Management Policies:**

1328 **S-522** King County shall require forest practices in the Forestry Shoreline Environment
1329 to comply with standards that provide protection for shoreline ecological
1330 processes and functions equal to or greater than the forest practice rules
1331 adopted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (~~and in~~
1332 ~~effect on January 1, 2007~~)).
1333

1334 **S-523** King County shall allow activities related to the direct management and delivery
1335 of municipal domestic water supplies in the Forestry Shoreline Environment only
1336 when consistent with municipal domestic water supply best management
1337 practices.
1338

1339 **S-524** King County shall allow agricultural and aquaculture uses within the Forestry
1340 Shoreline Environment if the use is subject to appropriate limitations or
1341 conditions to ensure that the use does not expand or alter practices in a manner
1342 inconsistent with the purpose of the designation.
1343

1344 **((H-)) Natural Shoreline Environment**

1345 **Purpose**

1346 The purpose of the Natural Shoreline Environment is to protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of
1347 human influence and are of high ecological quality. This designation allows only very low intensity uses ((~~in~~
1348 ~~order~~)) to maintain the existing high levels of ecological process and function.

1349

1350 **Natural Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria**

1351 **S-525**

A shoreline may be designated Natural Shoreline if the shoreline is:

- 1352 a. **Of high ecological quality and is performing an important, irreplaceable**
- 1353 **ecological process or function that would be damaged by human**
- 1354 **activity;**
- 1355 b. **Unable to support new development or uses without significant adverse**
- 1356 **impacts to shoreline ecological processes and functions or risk to**
- 1357 **human safety;**
- 1358 c. **A federally designated wilderness area or in an area managed by the**
- 1359 **King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks as natural**
- 1360 **lands; or**
- 1361 d. **A marine shoreline reach that extends at least five hundred feet along**
- 1362 **the ordinary high water mark and either has a restoration plan rating of A**
- 1363 **or has a restoration plan rating of B and is located adjacent to the Maury**
- 1364 **Island Marine Aquatic Reserve.**

1365

1366 **Natural Shoreline Environment Management Policies:**

1367 **S-526**

King County shall not allow new shoreline armoring in the Natural Shoreline Environment.

1368

1369

1370 **S-527**

King County shall not allow the following new uses in the Natural Shoreline Environment:

- 1371
- 1372 a. **Commercial uses;**
- 1373 b. **Industrial uses;**
- 1374 c. **Nonwater-oriented recreation uses that require shoreline modification**
- 1375 **((in order)) to provide shoreline access;**
- 1376 d. **Mining and associated facilities, such as docks, piers, and loading**
- 1377 **facilities; and**
- 1378 e. **Transportation facilities, utility corridors, and parking areas that can be**
- 1379 **located outside of the Natural Shoreline Environment.**

1380

1381 **S-528** King County may allow single ~~((family))~~ detached residential development in the
1382 Natural Shoreline Environment as a shoreline conditional use if the scale and
1383 intensity of the use is limited to protect shoreline ecological processes and
1384 functions and is consistent with the purpose of the environment. King County
1385 shall require new subdivisions and short-subdivisions in the Natural Shoreline
1386 Environment to locate new structures and impervious surfaces outside of the
1387 shoreline jurisdiction to the maximum extent practicable.
1388

1389 **S-529** King County shall allow scientific, historical, cultural, and educational research
1390 uses in the Natural Shoreline Environment if no significant ecological impact on
1391 the area will result.
1392

1393 **S-530** Except for removal of noxious weeds or invasive vegetation as provided for in
1394 S-645, King County shall not allow vegetation removal in the Natural Shoreline
1395 Environment that will reduce the capability of vegetation to perform normal
1396 ecological processes and functions.
1397

1398 **S-531** King County shall allow agricultural and aquaculture uses of a very low intensity
1399 nature within the Natural Shoreline Environment if the use is subject to
1400 appropriate limitations or conditions to ensure that the use does not expand or
1401 alter practices in a manner inconsistent with the purpose of the designation.
1402

1403 **S-532** King County shall allow passive and low~~((-))~~ impact recreational activities in the
1404 Natural Shoreline Environment. New passive and low impact recreation activities
1405 shall use designs that avoid or minimize impacts to shoreline processes and
1406 functions. Maintenance of trails and campsites shall minimize disturbance and
1407 restoration of impacted areas is encouraged.
1408

1409 **S-533** King County should use tax incentives, easements, and buyouts to protect
1410 shorelines in the Natural Shoreline Environment with important fish and wildlife
1411 habitat at risk from moderate to high intensity development.
1412

1413 ~~((I-))~~ **Aquatic Environment**

1414 **Purpose**

1415 The purpose of the Aquatic Environment is to protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and
1416 resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high water mark.
1417

1418 **Aquatic Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria**

1419 **S-534** A shoreline shall be designated Aquatic if it is waterward of the ordinary high
1420 water mark of the shoreline.

1421

1422 **Aquatic Shoreline Environment Management Policies:**

1423 **S-535** King County shall allow new in-water and over-water structures in the Aquatic
1424 Shoreline Environment only for water-dependent uses, public access, or
1425 ecological restoration.

1426

1427 **S-536** King County shall limit the size of new over-water structures in the Aquatic
1428 Shoreline Environment to the minimum necessary to support the structure's
1429 intended use.

1430

1431 **S-537** King County shall encourage multiple uses of over-water facilities in the Aquatic
1432 Shoreline Environment ~~((in order))~~ to reduce the impacts of shoreline
1433 development and increase the effective use of water resources.

1434

1435 **S-538** King County shall require all developments and uses on navigable waters or their
1436 beds in the Aquatic Shoreline Environment to be located and designed to
1437 minimize interference with surface navigation, to consider impacts to public
1438 views, and to allow for the safe, unobstructed passage of fish and wildlife and
1439 materials necessary to create or sustain their habitat, particularly those species
1440 dependent on migration.

1441

1442 **S-539** King County shall not allow uses in the Aquatic Shoreline Environment that
1443 adversely impact the ecological processes and functions of critical saltwater and
1444 freshwater habitats, except when necessary to achieve the objectives of Revised
1445 Code of Washington 90.58.020, and then only when the adverse impacts are
1446 mitigated according to the sequence described in Washington Administrative
1447 Code 173-26-201~~((2)(e))~~ as necessary to assure no net loss of shoreline
1448 ecological processes and functions.

1449

1450 **S-540** King County shall consider the guidance in the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve
1451 Management Plan in making decisions about permitted uses in the shoreline
1452 jurisdiction.

1453

1454 ~~**(VII.)**~~ **Environment Protection Policies**

1455 ~~**(A.)**~~ **General Environmental Protection Policy Goals**

1456 The Department of Ecology's guidelines recognize that shoreline ecological processes and functions may be
1457 impaired not only by shoreline developments that are required to obtain shoreline substantial development
1458 permits, but also by past actions, unregulated activities, and developments that are exempt from the shoreline

1459 substantial development permit requirements. The loss or degradation of shoreline ecological processes and
1460 functions from any of these activities can significantly impact shoreline natural resources and may also adversely
1461 impact human health and safety.

1462

1463 The concept of ecological processes and functions recognizes that any ecological system is composed of a wide
1464 variety of interacting physical, chemical, and biological processes. These processes are interdependent in varying
1465 degrees and at different scales, and that result in the landscape, habitats and species as they exist at any time.
1466 Ecological functions are the work performed or roles played individually or collectively within ecosystems by
1467 these processes.

1468

1469 **~~(1.)~~ Cumulative Impacts and "No Net Loss" of Ecological Processes and**
1470 **Functions**

1471 Nearly all shoreline areas, even substantially developed or degraded areas, retain important ecological processes
1472 and functions that contribute to the survival and successful reproduction of plants and animals. For example, an
1473 intensely developed harbor area may also have an important function as a fish migration corridor and feeding
1474 area critical to species survival. In addition, ecosystems are interconnected and many species may depend on the
1475 functioning of multiple systems for critical resources. As examples, anadromous fish depend upon the viability
1476 of freshwater, marine, and terrestrial shoreline ecosystems, and many wildlife species associated with shorelines
1477 depend on the functioning of both terrestrial and aquatic environments. Therefore, the policies for protecting
1478 and restoring ecological processes and functions should apply to the maximum extent practical to all shoreline
1479 areas, not just those that remain relatively unaltered.

1480

1481 The Shoreline Management Act requires that King County's Shoreline Master Program achieve no net loss of
1482 shoreline ecological processes and functions from new uses or development, and that it address the cumulative
1483 impacts on shoreline ecology that would result from future shoreline development. The Shoreline Management
1484 Act also requires local governments to plan for restoration of shoreline ecological processes and functions where
1485 they have been impaired, thus working towards actual improvement in shoreline ecological processes and
1486 functions. The following policies ensure that King County will address cumulative impacts of existing and
1487 proposed shoreline development and work towards improving shoreline ecological processes and functions.

1488

1489 **S-601 King County shall ensure that new uses, development, and redevelopment within**
1490 **the shoreline jurisdiction do not cause a net loss of shoreline ecological**
1491 **processes and functions.**

1492

1493 **S-602 King County should protect shorelines and conduct restoration in areas that**
1494 **have been previously degraded.**

1495

1496 **S-603 King County shall require shoreline uses and modifications to be designed and**
1497 **managed to prevent degradation of water quality and alteration of natural**
1498 **hydrographic conditions to the maximum extent practical.**

- 1499
- 1500 **S-604** King County's Shoreline Master Program shall include regulations and mitigation
- 1501 standards to ensure that permitted and exempt developments in the aggregate
- 1502 will not cause a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.
- 1503
- 1504 **S-605** King County's Shoreline Master Program goals and policies ~~((will))~~ shall promote
- 1505 restoration of impaired shoreline ecological processes and functions. Policies
- 1506 and programs and non-regulatory actions that contribute to restoration goals
- 1507 ~~((will))~~ shall be identified. King County should consider the direct and indirect
- 1508 effects of regulatory or non-regulatory programs of other local, state, and federal
- 1509 governments, as well as any restoration effects that may result from shoreline
- 1510 development regulations and mitigation standards.
- 1511
- 1512 **S-606** The King County Shoreline Master Program identifies restoration opportunities
- 1513 and planning elements that together should improve the overall condition of
- 1514 habitat and resources within the shoreline jurisdiction.
- 1515
- 1516 **S-607** King County should provide options for property-specific technical assistance
- 1517 and tailored applications of shoreline management regulations through Rural
- 1518 Stewardship Plans for single ~~((family))~~ detached residential uses in the upland
- 1519 areas of the Rural, Conservancy and Natural Shoreline Environments. Rural
- 1520 Stewardship Plans must be consistent with the goals of the Shoreline
- 1521 Management Act and King County Shoreline Protection and Restoration Plan,
- 1522 and ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.
- 1523
- 1524 **S-608** The King County Shoreline Master Program shall consider the cumulative
- 1525 impacts of reasonably foreseeable future development to ensure no net loss of
- 1526 shoreline ecological processes and functions.
- 1527
- 1528 **S-609** The Shoreline Master Program is intended to fairly allocate the burden of
- 1529 addressing cumulative impacts. King County should adopt policies and
- 1530 regulations that are designed to avoid the need for individualized cumulative
- 1531 impacts analysis for commonly occurring and planned development.
- 1532
- 1533 **S-610** King County shall prefer and provide special permitting considerations for docks
- 1534 and piers that are shared among multiple landowners.
- 1535
- 1536 **S-611** When updating the Shoreline Master Program, King County should analyze
- 1537 proposed policies and regulations to determine whether they will cause

1538 cumulative adverse impacts to the shoreline and consider how such impacts may
1539 be avoided. The evaluation of cumulative impacts should consider:
1540 a. Current condition of the shorelines and associated natural processes;
1541 b. Reasonably foreseeable future development and shoreline uses;
1542 c. An appropriate evaluation of the effect on shoreline ecological
1543 processes and functions caused by unregulated activities, development
1544 exempt from permitting, and effects such as the incremental impact of
1545 residential bulkheads, residential piers, or runoff from newly developed
1546 properties; and
1547 d. Beneficial effects of any established regulatory programs under other
1548 local, state, and federal laws.

1550 **S-612** King County should use the shoreline permitting or shoreline conditional use
1551 permitting processes for development proposals that may have impacts that
1552 cannot be anticipated or uncommon impacts that have not been considered or
1553 identified at time of adoption of the King County Shoreline Master Program to
1554 ensure that all impacts are addressed and that there is no net loss of ecological
1555 function of the shoreline after mitigation.

1557 **S-613** King County shall consider and address cumulative impacts of shoreline
1558 development on shoreline ecological processes and functions and on shoreline
1559 uses given priority under Chapter 90.58 Revised Code of Washington (~~Chapter~~
1560 ~~90.58~~)).

1562 **((2.)) Ongoing Evaluation, Review of Cumulative Impacts and Duty to Update**

1563 King County will periodically review the Shoreline Master Program and make amendments that it determines
1564 are necessary to reflect changing local circumstances, new information and improved data, and to meet the
1565 requirements of Revised Code of Washington 90.58.080 and applicable guidelines. King County will also
1566 monitor actions taken to implement the Shoreline Master Program and the shoreline conditions to inform
1567 updates of Shoreline Master Program provisions and improve shoreline management over time.

1568
1569 **S-614** King County shall periodically review and amend its Shoreline Master Program
1570 using a process that inventories and ensures meaningful understanding of
1571 current and potential ecological processes and functions provided by affected
1572 shorelines.

1573

1574 **~~((B.))~~ Shoreline Critical Areas**

1575 **~~((1.))~~ Standard for protection under the Shoreline Management Act**

1576 The Growth Management Act requires King County to protect the functions and values of critical areas, which
1577 are defined as wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas,
1578 and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. Critical areas located within the shoreline jurisdiction are
1579 protected under the Shoreline Master Program rather than the Growth Management Act. The Shoreline Master
1580 Program provides a level of protection for critical areas to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. In
1581 addition, the Shoreline Management Act requires King County to give optimum protection of shorelines of
1582 state-wide significance. The King County Comprehensive Plan and functional plans adopted as elements of the
1583 King County Comprehensive Plan also guide the protection of critical areas within the shoreline jurisdiction.

1584 **~~((2.))~~ Use of scientific and technical information**

1585 The Shoreline Management Act requires local governments to use scientific and technical information when
1586 establishing protection measures for critical areas. To achieve this requirement, King County has, to the extent
1587 feasible:

- 1588 1. Used a systematic interdisciplinary approach that ensures the integrated use of the natural and
1589 social sciences and the environmental design arts;
- 1590 2. Consulted with and obtained the comments of any federal, state, regional, or local agency
1591 having any special expertise with respect to environmental impacts;
- 1592 3. Considered all plans, studies, surveys, inventories, and systems of classification made or being
1593 made by federal, state, regional, or local agencies, by private individuals, or by organizations
1594 dealing with King County shorelines;
- 1595 4. Used all available information regarding hydrology, geography, topography, ecology,
1596 economics, and other pertinent data;
- 1597 5. Employed, when possible, all appropriate, modern scientific data processing and computer
1598 techniques to store, index, analyze, and manage the information gathered.

1599
1600 King County has reviewed and synthesized a wide range of scientific information resulting in regulatory
1601 standards based on the best available science for the protection of critical areas. In addition, King County
1602 considered state, Indian tribal and federal programs to provide a full spectrum of planning and regulatory
1603 measures to guide critical areas protection in shorelines.

1604
1605 **S-615 In considering development regulations to protect shoreline ecological**
1606 **processes and functions, King County shall consider the scientific and technical**
1607 **information contained in functional plans adopted to implement the**
1608 **Comprehensive Plan, adopted watershed plans, King County critical areas**
1609 **regulations, and state, Indian tribal, and federal programs.**

1610

1611 ~~((In order to))~~ To ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions resulting from development
1612 proposed in shoreline critical areas, the King County Shoreline Master Program requires that development
1613 proposals analyze the environmental impacts of the proposal and consider measures to avoid, if possible, and
1614 then mitigate for the adverse environmental impacts.

1615

1616 **S-616** King County shall apply the following sequence of steps listed in order of priority
1617 in evaluating the impacts of development and redevelopment on critical areas
1618 within the shoreline jurisdiction:

- 1619 a. Avoid the impacts altogether;
- 1620 b. Minimize impacts;
- 1621 c. Rectify impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected
1622 environment;
- 1623 d. Reduce or eliminate the impacts over time;
- 1624 e. Compensate for impacts by replacing, enhancing, or providing
1625 substitute resources; and
- 1626 f. Monitor the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures.

1627

1628 **~~((3.))~~ Wetlands**

1629 When determining allowed uses within wetlands and their buffers in shorelines of the state, consideration should
1630 be given to those uses that would result in no net loss of wetland area and wetland function. Consideration
1631 should be given to specific uses that are likely to positively impact the physical, chemical, and biological
1632 processes that create and sustain wetlands.

1633

1634 **S-617** King County wetland regulations shall address the following uses to achieve, at a
1635 minimum, no net loss of wetland area and functions:

- 1636 a. Removal, excavation, grading, or dredging of soil, sand, gravel, minerals,
1637 organic matter, or material of any kind;
- 1638 b. Dumping, discharging, or filling with any material, including discharges
1639 of stormwater and domestic, commercial, or industrial wastewater;
- 1640 c. Draining, flooding, or disturbing of the open water level, duration of
1641 inundation, or groundwater table;
- 1642 d. Driving of pilings;
- 1643 e. Placing of obstructions;
- 1644 f. Construction, reconstruction, demolition, or expansion of any structure;
- 1645 g. Significant vegetation removal, except for non-conversion forest
1646 practices regulated under Chapter 76.09 Revised Code of Washington
1647 ~~((chapter 76.09))~~;
- 1648 h. Other uses or development that results in a significant ecological impact
1649 to the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of wetlands; and
- 1650 i. Activities reducing the functions of buffers.

1651

1652 Wetlands shall be categorized based on rarity, irreplaceability, or sensitivity to disturbance, as well as the
1653 functions the wetland provides. The Shoreline Management Act provides the option of using specified wetland
1654 rating systems or developing a regionally specific system, provided the system is scientifically based and provides
1655 a method to distinguish wetland quality and function. King County adopted the Washington State Wetland
1656 Rating System for Western Washington for use in categorizing wetlands under the Growth Management Act
1657 critical areas development standards.

1658

1659 **S-618 King County shall categorize wetlands within shorelines of the state as provided**
1660 **for in Chapter 5((:)), Environment((, of the King County Comprehensive Plan)).**

1661

1662 The King County Shoreline Master Program provisions that would allow limited alterations to wetlands shall be
1663 consistent with the policy of no net loss of wetland area and functions, wetland rating, and scientific and
1664 technical information.

1665

1666 **S-619 King County should allow alterations to wetlands only if there is no net loss of**
1667 **wetland functions and values.**

1668

1669 The King County Shoreline Master Program requires buffers be delineated and protected around wetlands. The
1670 size of the wetland buffer is based on the classification of the wetland and its characteristics and whether the
1671 wetland is located within or outside of the Urban Growth Area. Mitigation measures have been established to
1672 obtain a reduced buffer width in return for added measures to address light, noise, toxic runoff, change in water
1673 regime, pets and human disturbance, dust, and degraded buffer condition. Other modifications to buffer widths
1674 are allowed through buffer averaging. Circumstances, such as the presence of threatened or endangered species
1675 or proximity to steep slopes, may authorize increased buffer widths.

1676

1677 **S-620 King County shall delineate buffers around wetlands to protect and maintain**
1678 **wetland functions. Buffer widths shall be based on ecological function,**
1679 **characteristics and setting, potential impacts with adjacent land use, and other**
1680 **relevant factors.**

1681

1682 The King County Shoreline Master Program requires that mitigation measures achieve equivalent or greater
1683 wetland functions including, but not limited to, habitat complexity, connectivity and other biological functions,
1684 and seasonal hydrological dynamics. Preferential consideration is given to measures that replace the impacted
1685 functions directly and in the immediate vicinity of the impact.

1686

1687 **S-621 In determining appropriate mitigation measures applicable to shoreline**
1688 **development, the mitigation sequencing requirements described in Washington**
1689 **Administrative Code 173-26-201(((2)(e))) require that lower priority measures shall**

1690 be applied only where higher priority measures are determined to be infeasible or
1691 inapplicable.

1692
1693 King County may authorize alternative compensatory mitigation within the watershed that addresses limiting
1694 factors or identified critical needs for shoreline resource conservation based on watershed or comprehensive
1695 resource management plans applicable to the area of impact. Authorization of compensatory mitigation
1696 measures may require appropriate safeguards, terms, or conditions as necessary to ensure no net loss of shoreline
1697 ecological processes and functions.

1698
1699 **S-622 King County may allow compensatory mitigation only after a mitigation sequence**
1700 **is applied (see Policy S-616) and higher priority means of mitigation are**
1701 **determined to be infeasible.**

- 1702 a. **Compensatory mitigation replacement ratios or other mitigation**
1703 **provisions shall consider:**
- 1704 1. **The risk of failure of the compensatory mitigation action;**
 - 1705 2. **The length of time the compensatory mitigation action will take**
1706 **to replace adequately the impacted wetland functions and**
1707 **values; and**
 - 1708 3. **The gain or loss of the type, quality, and quantity of the**
1709 **ecological functions of the compensation.**
- 1710 b. **Performance standards shall be established to evaluate the success of**
1711 **compensatory mitigation.**
- 1712 c. **Long-term monitoring shall be required to determine if performance**
1713 **standards are met.**
- 1714 d. **Long-term protection and management shall be required for**
1715 **compensatory mitigation sites.**
- 1716

1717 **((4.)) Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas**

1718 King County has classified and mapped critical aquifer recharge areas according to the vulnerability of the
1719 aquifer. Vulnerability is the combined effect of hydrogeological susceptibility to contamination and the
1720 contamination loading potential. High vulnerability is indicated by land uses that contribute contamination that
1721 may degrade groundwater and by hydrogeologic conditions that facilitate degradation. Low vulnerability is
1722 indicated by land uses that do not contribute contaminants that will degrade groundwater and by hydrogeologic
1723 conditions that do not facilitate degradation. Critical aquifer recharge areas are required to be protected under
1724 the Growth Management Act as a critical area.

1725
1726 **S-623 The King County Shoreline Master Program shall protect critical aquifer recharge**
1727 **areas consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan and critical areas**
1728 **regulations.**

1729

1730 **~~((5.))~~ Geologically Hazardous Areas**

1731 Geologically hazardous areas include areas susceptible to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological
1732 processes and events. They pose a threat to the health and safety of residents when incompatible commercial,
1733 residential, or industrial development is sited in areas of significant hazard. Some geological hazards can be
1734 reduced or mitigated by engineering, design, or modified construction or mining practices, so that risks to health
1735 and safety are acceptable. When technology cannot reduce risks to acceptable levels, building in geologically
1736 hazardous areas is best avoided. Under the King County Shoreline Master Program, geologically hazardous
1737 areas include:

- 1738 ~~• ((1.))~~ Erosion hazard areas;
- 1739 ~~• ((2.))~~ Landslide hazard areas;
- 1740 ~~• ((3.))~~ Seismic hazard areas;
- 1741 ~~• ((4.))~~ Coal mine hazard areas;
- 1742 ~~• ((5.))~~ Volcanic hazard areas; and
- 1743 ~~• ((6.))~~ Steep slope hazard areas.

1744

1745 The following policies to protect health and safety and also to reduce the loss of shoreline ecological processes
1746 and functions apply to geological hazardous areas located within the shoreline jurisdiction.

1747

1748 ~~**((S-624** ————— **Development regulations for geologically hazardous areas shall meet the**~~
1749 ~~**minimum requirements in Washington Administrative Code 365-190-120.))**~~

1750

1751 **S-625** **King County shall prohibit development and new lot creation in geologically**
1752 **hazardous areas if it would result in increased risk of injury to people or property**
1753 **damage, consistent with King County Code ((e))Chapter 21A.24.**

1754

1755 ~~**((S-626** ————— **King County shall prohibit new development that requires structural stabilization**~~
1756 ~~**in geologically hazardous areas. Stabilization will be allowed in these areas only**~~
1757 ~~**if the stabilization is necessary to protect existing allowed uses, there is no**~~
1758 ~~**alternative location available, and no net loss of shoreline ecological processes**~~
1759 ~~**and functions will result. Stabilization measures shall conform to Washington**~~
1760 ~~**Administrative Code 173-26-231.**~~

1761

1762 ~~**S-627** ————— **King County may allow stabilization structures or measures in geologically**~~
1763 ~~**hazardous areas to protect existing primary residential structures, if there are no**~~
1764 ~~**alternatives, including relocation or reconstruction of the residential structure,**~~
1765 ~~**the stabilization is in conformance with Washington Administrative Code**~~
1766 ~~**173-26-231, and no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions will**~~
1767 ~~**result.**~~

1768

1769 **6.) Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas**

1770 King County is required by the Growth Management Act to protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas
1771 as critical area. The Washington State Department of Commerce adopted guidelines to assist local governments
1772 in designating critical areas, including fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The Department of
1773 Commerce guidelines are designed to define and protect areas necessary to maintain species in suitable habitats
1774 within their natural geographic distribution, at least in part so that isolated subpopulations are not created. The
1775 Department of Commerce identifies the following areas as being suitable for fish and wildlife habitat
1776 conservation areas:

- 1777 1. Areas with which endangered, threatened, and sensitive species have a primary association; areas
1778 critical for habitat connectivity;
- 1779 2. Habitats and species of local importance;
- 1780 3. Commercial and recreational shellfish areas;
- 1781 4. Kelp and eelgrass beds; herring, smelt and sand lance spawning areas;
- 1782 5. Naturally occurring ponds under twenty acres and their submerged aquatic beds that provide fish or
1783 wildlife habitat;
- 1784 6. Waters of the state;
- 1785 7. Lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers planted with game fish by a governmental or Indian ((~~F~~))tribal
1786 entity; or
- 1787 8. State natural area preserves and natural resource conservation areas.

1788
1789 The King County Comprehensive Plan and its development regulations protect the functions and values of fish
1790 and wildlife habitat conservation areas through its provisions governing aquatic areas and wildlife habitat
1791 conservation areas.

1792
1793 The Department of Ecology’s guidelines divide fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas into critical saltwater
1794 and critical freshwater habitats.

1795
1796 **a. Critical saltwater habitat**

1797 Critical saltwater habitats include all kelp beds, eelgrass beds, spawning and holding areas for forage fish, such as
1798 herring, smelt and sand lance; subsistence, commercial and recreational shellfish beds; mudflats, spits, intertidal
1799 habitats with vascular plants, and areas with which priority species have a primary association. Critical saltwater
1800 habitats include both the shorelines and the adjacent submerged areas.

1801
1802 **S-628 King County shall provide a high level of protection to critical saltwater habitats**
1803 **due to the important ecological functions they provide.**

1804
1805 **S-629 Protection and restoration of critical saltwater habitats should integrate**
1806 **management of shorelands as well as submerged areas.**

1807

1808 Comprehensive planning for the protection and restoration of critical saltwater habitat should include state
1809 resource agencies, local and regional government entities including, but not limited to the Port of Seattle, ~~((and))~~
1810 Sound Transit, and affected Indian tribes. To reverse the impacts from development on critical saltwater
1811 habitats, the King County Shoreline Master Program should look for opportunities to restore critical saltwater
1812 shorelines and protect them from further degradation. All resources should be reviewed and considered.

1813

1814 **S-630**

**As part of its management planning for critical saltwater habitats, King County
should include an evaluation of current data and trends regarding:**

- 1816 a. Available inventory and collection of necessary data regarding physical
1817 characteristics of the habitat, including upland conditions, and any
1818 information on species population trends;
- 1819 b. Terrestrial and aquatic vegetation;
- 1820 c. The level of human activity in such areas, including the presence of
1821 roads and level of recreational types. Passive or active recreation may
1822 be appropriate for certain areas and habitats;
- 1823 d. Restoration potential;
- 1824 e. Tributaries and small streams flowing into marine waters;
- 1825 f. Dock and bulkhead construction, including an inventory of bulkheads
1826 serving no protective purpose;
- 1827 g. Conditions and ecological function in the near-shore area;
- 1828 h. Uses surrounding the critical saltwater habitat areas that may negatively
1829 impact those areas, including permanent or occasional upland, beach, or
1830 over-water uses;
- 1831 i. Potential Indian tribal uses of critical saltwater habitats to ensure that
1832 these uses are protected and restored when possible; and
- 1833 j. An analysis of what data gaps exist and a strategy for gaining this
1834 information.

1835

1836 Because of the need for a higher level of protection for critical saltwater habitat, allowed uses should be carefully
1837 limited and only allowed to meet other policy goals of the Shoreline Management Act.

1838

1839 **S-631**

**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:**

- 1842 a. The public's need for such an action or structure is clearly
1843 demonstrated, and the proposal is consistent with protection of the
1844 public trust, as embodied in Revised Code of Washington 90.58.020;
- 1845 b. Avoidance of impacts to critical saltwater habitats by an alternative
1846 alignment or location is not feasible or would result in unreasonable and
1847 disproportionate cost to accomplish the same general purpose;

- 1848 c. The project, including any required mitigation, will result in no net loss
- 1849 of ecological functions associated with critical saltwater habitat; and
- 1850 d. The project is consistent with state and Indian ((T)) tribal interests in
- 1851 resource protection and species recovery.

1852

- 1853 **S-632 Public or private noncommercial docks for public, individual residential or**
- 1854 **community use may be authorized provided that:**
- 1855 a. **Avoidance of impacts to critical saltwater habitats by an alternative**
- 1856 **alignment or location is not feasible; and**
- 1857 b. **The project, including any required mitigation, will result in no net loss**
- 1858 **of ecological functions associated with critical saltwater habitat.**

1859

1860 **~~((b-))~~ Critical freshwater habitat**

1861 Critical freshwater habitats are equally important to saltwater areas as fish and wildlife habitat conservation
1862 areas along shorelines of the state. Critical freshwater habitats include streams and rivers, with their associated
1863 channel migration zones, floodplains, wetlands, and lakes. Shorelines along these freshwater habitats often have
1864 been highly developed and are currently adversely impacted by improper stormwater, sewer, or industrial
1865 outfalls; unmanaged clearing and grading; and stormwater runoff from buildings and parking lots. Some impacts
1866 include altered quality and quantity of stormwater runoff, as well as destruction or alteration of vegetation.
1867 Potential impacts from vegetation changes can include increased water temperatures and altered hydrographic
1868 conditions. All of these changes create inhospitable conditions in water bodies for priority species and, in
1869 addition, make them more susceptible to problems stemming from catastrophic flooding, droughts, landslides
1870 and channel changes.

1871

1872 Some freshwater habitats, particularly rivers and floodplains, often are considered as hazardous areas that can
1873 threaten life and property during catastrophic events, such as flooding. Development can exacerbate such
1874 conditions.

1875

1876 As with critical saltwater habitats, comprehensive planning for the protection and restoration of critical
1877 freshwater habitat should include state resource agencies, local and regional government entities including, but
1878 not limited to the Port of Seattle, Sound Transit, and affected Indian tribes. To reverse the impacts from
1879 development on critical freshwater habitats, the King County Shoreline Master Program should look for
1880 opportunities to restore critical freshwater shorelines and protect them from further degradation. All resources
1881 should be reviewed and considered.

1882

- 1883 **S-633 King County shall provide a high level of protection to critical freshwater habitats**
- 1884 **due to the important ecological functions they provide.**

1885

- 1886 **S-634 King County should establish priorities for protection and restoration, where**
- 1887 **appropriate, along unincorporated river corridors and lake shorelines.**

1888

1889 **S-635** King County ~~((should))~~ shall regulate uses and development as necessary within
1890 and along stream channels, associated channel migration zones, wetlands, lake
1891 shorelines, ~~((and))~~ floodplains, and other critical areas within the shoreline
1892 jurisdiction, to assure that no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and
1893 functions results from new development near freshwaters of the state, including
1894 associated hyporheic zones.

1895

1896 **S-636** King County shall protect ecological functions associated with critical freshwater
1897 habitat as necessary to assure no net loss from shoreline activities and
1898 associated changes.

1899

1900 **S-637** King County should facilitate authorization of appropriate restoration projects.

1901

1902 **~~((C.))~~ Frequently Flooded Areas and Channel Migration Hazard Areas**

1903 The King County ~~((2013))~~ Flood Hazard Management Plan ~~((was))~~ is adopted as a functional plan of the King
1904 County Comprehensive Plan. The Flood Plan outlines the policies, programs, and projects that King County
1905 uses to reduce the risk from flooding and channel migration. The ~~((King County 2013))~~ Flood Hazard
1906 Management Plan was reviewed for consistency with the Shoreline Management Act and determined to be
1907 consistent with it. King County maps Channel Migration Hazard Areas and applies critical areas regulations to
1908 assure that channel migration can be accommodated.

1909

1910 **S-638** The policies contained within the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan,
1911 or its successor, constitute the policies for the protection of frequently flooded
1912 areas and channel migration within shorelines. Provisions implementing these
1913 policies are included in the critical areas regulations.

1914

1915 **S-639** King County shall continue mapping channel migration zones on all of its rivers and
1916 streams within shoreline jurisdiction where channel migration zones have not already
1917 been mapped.

1918

1919 **~~((D.))~~ Shoreline Vegetation Conservation**

1920 A major intent of vegetation conservation is to protect and restore the ecological processes and functions
1921 performed by stands of vegetation along shorelines. Vegetation conservation can also be undertaken to protect
1922 human safety and property, to increase the stability of river banks and coastal bluffs, to reduce the need for
1923 structural shoreline stabilization measures, to improve the visual and aesthetic qualities of the shoreline, to
1924 protect particular plant and animal species and their habitats, and to enhance shoreline uses.

1925

1926 In King County, aquatic environments, as well as their associated upland and wetland vegetated areas, provide
1927 significant habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife species. Healthy environments for aquatic species are
1928 inseparably linked with the ecological integrity of the surrounding terrestrial ecosystems. For example, nearly
1929 continuous stretches of mature forest characterize the natural riparian conditions of the Pacific Northwest.
1930 Riparian areas along marine shorelines provide the same or similar functions as their freshwater counterparts.
1931 The most commonly recognized functions of the shoreline vegetation include, but are not limited to:

- 1932 • Providing shade necessary to maintain cool water temperatures required by salmonids, spawning forage
1933 fish, and other aquatic biota.
- 1934 • Providing external organic inputs critical for some aquatic life.
- 1935 • Providing food for various insects and other benthic macro invertebrates, which are in turn food sources
1936 for fish, birds, and other wildlife.
- 1937 • Stabilizing banks, minimizing erosion, and reducing the occurrence of landslides. The roots of trees
1938 and other riparian vegetation provide the bulk of this function.
- 1939 • Reducing fine sediment input into the aquatic environment through stormwater retention and vegetative
1940 filtering.
- 1941 • Filtering and vegetative uptake of nutrients and pollutants from groundwater and storm runoff.
- 1942 • Providing a source of large woody debris for introduction into the aquatic system. Large woody debris
1943 is a primary structural component in streams that functions as a hydraulic roughness element to
1944 moderate flows and store sediment. Large woody debris also serves a pool-forming function, providing
1945 critical salmonid rearing and refuge habitat. Abundant large woody debris increases aquatic diversity
1946 and stabilizes systems.
- 1947 • Regulating microclimates in the lake and stream-riparian and intertidal corridors.
- 1948 • Providing critical wildlife habitat, including migration corridors and feeding, watering, rearing, and
1949 refuge areas.

1950
1951 The length, width, and species composition of a shoreline vegetation community all contribute substantively to
1952 aquatic ecological functions. Likewise, the biological communities of the aquatic environment are essential to
1953 ecological functions of the adjacent upland vegetation. The ability of vegetated areas to provide critical
1954 ecological functions diminishes as the length and width of the vegetated area along shorelines is reduced. When
1955 shoreline vegetation is removed, there is a greater risk that important ecological functions will not be provided.

1956
1957 Sustaining different ecological functions requires varying widths, compositions, and densities of vegetation. The
1958 importance of the different functions, in turn, varies with the type of shoreline setting. For example, in forested
1959 shoreline settings, periodic introduction of fallen trees, especially conifers, into the stream channel is an
1960 important attribute that is critical to natural stream channel maintenance.

1961

1962 Vegetation conservation includes activities to protect and restore vegetation that contributes to the ecological
1963 functions of shoreline areas along or near marine and freshwater shorelines.¹ Vegetation conservation provisions
1964 generally include the prohibiting or limiting plant clearing and earth grading, restoring vegetation, and
1965 controlling invasive weeds and nonnative species.

1966

1967 **S-640** King County shall adopt planning provisions to address vegetation conservation
1968 and restoration and regulatory provisions to address conservation of vegetation,
1969 as necessary, to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and
1970 functions, to avoid adverse impacts to soil hydrology, and to reduce the hazard
1971 of slope failures or accelerated erosion.

1972

1973 **S-641** Vegetation conservation provisions apply to all shoreline uses and
1974 developments, regardless of whether ~~((or not))~~ the use or development requires a
1975 shoreline substantial development permit.

1976

1977 **S-642** Vegetation conservation standards shall not apply retroactively to existing uses
1978 and structures, such as existing agricultural practices.

1979

1980 **S-643** King County should identify which ecological processes and functions are
1981 important to the local aquatic and terrestrial ecology, and then conserve
1982 sufficient vegetation to maintain these functions. Vegetation conservation areas
1983 are not necessarily intended to be closed to use and development, but should
1984 provide for management of vegetation in a manner adequate to assure no net
1985 loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

1986

1987 **S-644** King County should adopt development regulations for ~~((vegetated))~~ riparian
1988 areas along streams, which once supported or could in the future support mature
1989 trees, that include buffers of sufficient width to facilitate the growth of mature
1990 trees and periodic recruitment of woody vegetation into the water body to
1991 ~~((support vegetation-related))~~ provide shoreline ecological function(s).

1992

1993 **S-645** King County should adopt mechanisms to implement the vegetation
1994 conservation policies of this chapter. These mechanisms may include setback or
1995 buffer requirements, clearing and grading standards, regulatory incentives,
1996 environment designation standards, or other provisions. Selective pruning of
1997 trees for safety and view protection may be allowed. Removal of noxious weeds
1998 and invasive vegetation should be allowed as long as appropriate best
1999 management practices are followed.

¹ 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.

2000 **~~((E.))~~ Water Quality, Stormwater and Non-Point Pollution**

2001 The Shoreline Master Program must protect against adverse impacts to the public health, to the land with its
2002 vegetation and wildlife, and to the waters of the state and their aquatic life. The intent of water quality,
2003 stormwater and non-point pollution policies is to provide shoreline protection by preventing adverse impacts to
2004 shoreline ecological processes and functions, aquatic habitats, and water dependent uses such as aquaculture and
2005 fishing.

2006
2007 **S-646 Shoreline Master Program water quality, stormwater, and non-point pollution**
2008 **policies apply to all development and uses in the shoreline jurisdiction that affect**
2009 **water quality.**

2010
2011 **S-647 King County should work to prevent impacts to water quality and stormwater**
2012 **quantity that would result in a net loss of shoreline ecological functions,**
2013 **degraded aesthetic qualities, loss of recreational opportunities or reduction in**
2014 **water-dependent uses, such as aquaculture and fishing.**

2015
2016 **S-648 King County should ensure mutual consistency between shoreline management**
2017 **provisions and other regulations that address water quality and stormwater**
2018 **quantity, including Public Health—Seattle & King County standards, the King**
2019 **County Surface Water Design Manual, and King County surface water**
2020 **management regulations. The regulations that are most protective of ecological**
2021 **functions shall apply.**

2022
2023 **S-649 The Shoreline Master Program shall include provisions to implement the water**
2024 **quality, stormwater, and non-point pollution policies in this chapter.**

2025
2026 **~~((F.))~~ Preparing for Climate Change**

2027 As discussed in Chapter 5 ~~((of the King County Comprehensive Plan))~~, Environment, climate change has the
2028 potential for significant impacts on shorelines and shoreline habitats. Sea((-))level rise and storm surges may
2029 place at risk infrastructure, habitat restoration projects, and other development, including residential
2030 development. King County has adopted a Sea Level Rise Risk Area and associated code requirements for
2031 properties located in areas adjoining the current coastal high hazard area on Vashon-Maury Island. The Risk
2032 Area recognizes that coastal flooding will expand inland with sea level rise, affecting areas that may not
2033 experience flooding today. These regulations will help reduce the impacts of sea level rise by ensuring that
2034 ~~((N))~~new development and ((maintenance or replacement of)) improvements to existing development ((should
2035 take into)) accounts the ((potential for harm that may)) impacts that can result from sea((-))level rise.
2036

2037 **S-650** King County shall ensure that new projects for and major maintenance or
2038 replacement of utilities, roads, and other public infrastructure consider the
2039 impacts of sea((-))_level rise in the location, design, and operation of the projects.

2040
2041 **S-651** Habitat protection and restoration projects in the shoreline jurisdiction shall
2042 consider implications of sea((-))_level rise and other climate change impacts to
2043 promote resiliency of habitats and species.
2044

2045 ~~((VIII.))~~ **Shoreline Use and Shoreline Modification**

2046 ~~((A.))~~ **Shoreline Use versus Shoreline Modification**

2047 The Shoreline Management Act makes a distinction between a shoreline use and a shoreline modification. A
2048 shoreline use is an activity that is allowed within the shoreline((s)) jurisdiction. In most cases, ~~((in order))~~ to
2049 engage in an activity, the shoreline must be modified. Shoreline modifications often involve construction of a
2050 physical element, such as a dike, breakwater, dredged basin, or fill, as well as other actions such as clearing,
2051 grading, application of chemicals, or significant vegetation removal. This means that shoreline modifications are
2052 often undertaken in support of or in preparation for an activity along shorelines.
2053

2054 ~~((B.))~~ **Shoreline Use**

2055 ~~((1.))~~ **Generally**

2056 Land uses in King County are based on federal, state, and county policies and regulations. The baseline
2057 permitted uses are established in zoning regulations. Land uses that would be allowed in zoning may be further
2058 limited by the King County Shoreline Master Program and shoreline management regulations.
2059

2060 **S-701** King County shall give preference to uses in the shoreline that are consistent
2061 with the control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment
2062 or are unique to or dependent upon the shoreline.

2063
2064 **S-702** Development within the shoreline jurisdiction shall protect the public's health,
2065 safety, and welfare, as well as the land, including its vegetation and wildlife, and
2066 protect property rights while implementing the policies of the Shoreline
2067 Management Act.
2068

2069 **S-703** Where there is a conflict between the uses permitted in the land use zone and the
2070 Shoreline Master Program for a site, the Shoreline Master Program shall control
2071 and preference shall be given first to water-dependent uses, then to water-related
2072 uses, and finally to water-enjoyment uses.
2073

2074 **S-704** Shoreline Master Program development regulations shall ensure no net loss of
2075 shoreline ecological processes and functions.

2076
2077 **S-705** King County shall adopt use policies and development regulations to achieve
2078 consistency among and between shorelands and adjacent lands as required by
2079 Revised Code of Washington 90.58.340.
2080

2081 **~~((2.))~~ Shoreline Conditional Uses**

2082 For the purposes of the King County Shoreline Master Program, a shoreline conditional use may be appropriate
2083 ~~((in order))~~ to:

- 2084 1. Effectively address unanticipated uses that are not classified in the Shoreline Master Program;
2085 2. Address cumulative impacts; or
2086 3. Provide the opportunity to require specially tailored environmental analysis or design criteria for types
2087 of use or development that may otherwise be inconsistent with a specific designation within the
2088 Shoreline Master Program or with the Shoreline Management Act policies.
2089

2090 **S-706** The following types of uses and development should require a shoreline
2091 conditional use permit:
2092 ~~((1.))~~ **a.** Uses and development that may significantly impair or alter the public's
2093 use of the waters of the state;
2094 ~~((2.))~~ **b.** Uses and development which, by their intrinsic nature, may have a
2095 significant impact on shoreline ecological processes and functions
2096 depending on location, design, and site conditions; and
2097 ~~((3.))~~ **c.** Development in critical saltwater habitats.
2098

2099 **~~((3.))~~ Agriculture**

2100 The Shoreline Management Act defines agricultural activities as:

2101
2102 "agricultural uses and practices including, but not limited to: Producing, breeding, or increasing agricultural
2103 products; rotating and changing agricultural crops; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie fallow
2104 in which it is plowed and tilled but left unseeded; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant
2105 as a result of adverse agricultural market conditions; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie
2106 dormant because the land is enrolled in a local, state, or federal conservation program, or the land is subject
2107 to a conservation easement; conducting agricultural operations; maintaining, repairing, and replacing
2108 agricultural equipment; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural facilities, provided that the
2109 replacement facility is no closer to the shoreline than the original facility; and maintaining agricultural lands
2110 under production or cultivation".
2111

2112 The Shoreline Management Act prohibits shoreline master programs from requiring modification to or limiting
2113 existing agricultural activities on agricultural lands in the shoreline jurisdiction. This limitation does not apply to
2114 new agricultural activities.

2115
2116 **S-707 The King County Shoreline Master Program shall not require modification of or**
2117 **limit existing agricultural activities in the shoreline jurisdiction. Existing**
2118 **agricultural activities in the shoreline jurisdiction shall be governed by existing**
2119 **provisions of the King County Comprehensive Plan and the King County Code.**

2120
2121 **S-708 New agricultural activities in the shoreline jurisdiction shall comply with the**
2122 **critical areas regulations incorporated into the shoreline master program as they**
2123 **apply to agricultural activities.**

2124
2125 As required by the Growth Management Act, King County has designated agricultural lands of long-term
2126 commercial significance. These lands have been included in Agricultural Production Districts under the King
2127 County Comprehensive Plan. Land uses meeting the definition of “agricultural activities” also occur outside the
2128 designated Agricultural Production Districts. The King County Shoreline Master Program encourages
2129 agricultural uses, but they must be compatible with the shoreline designation in which they are proposed. In
2130 addition, under the rare circumstances when land is removed from the Agricultural Production Districts, any
2131 development occurring on that land must be consistent with the shoreline designation where it is located.

2132
2133 **S-709 New agricultural activities within the shoreline jurisdiction and outside the**
2134 **Agricultural Production Districts shall be consistent with the shoreline**
2135 **designation where the land is located.**

2136
2137 **S-710 New agricultural activities within the shoreline jurisdiction and outside the**
2138 **Agricultural Production Districts shall be located and designed to ensure no net**
2139 **loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions and shall not result in an**
2140 **adverse impact on other shoreline resources and ecological values.**

2141
2142 **S-711 Development and uses on land removed from the Agricultural Production**
2143 **Districts shall be consistent with the shoreline designation where the land is**
2144 **located.**

2145

2146 **((4.)) Forestry**

2147 In general, the Department of Ecology’s guidelines require local shoreline master programs to rely on the Forest
2148 Practices Act and the rules implementing that Act and the Forest and Fish Report as adequate management of
2149 commercial forest uses within the shoreline jurisdiction. When a property owner chooses to convert commercial
2150 timber land to a use other than timber production, the regulations for commercial forestry no longer apply.

2151

2152 **S-712** If land is being converted to a non-forest use through Class IV-General forest
2153 practice, the provisions of the King County Shoreline Management Program that
2154 apply to development activities governs the proposed land use.

2155
2156 Because shorelines of statewide significance require a higher level of protection, special provisions apply to
2157 forestry within shorelines of statewide significance.

2158
2159 **S-713** Within shorelines of statewide significance, selective commercial timber cutting
2160 shall be used for timber harvest within two hundred feet abutting landward of the
2161 ordinary high water mark so that no more than thirty percent of the merchantable
2162 trees may be harvested in any ~~((ten-))~~10-year period of time. Through a shoreline
2163 conditional use permit, King County may approve:

- 2164 a. Other timber harvesting methods in those limited instances where the
2165 topography, soil conditions, or silviculture practices necessary for
2166 regeneration render selective logging ecologically detrimental; and
- 2167 b. Clear cutting of timber that is solely incidental to the preparation of land
2168 for other uses authorized by the King County Shoreline Master Program.

2169
2170 **S-714** For forest practice conversions and other Class IV-General forest practices,
2171 where there is a likelihood of conversion to nonforest uses, King County shall
2172 ensure that there is no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions
2173 and that there are no significant adverse impacts to other shoreline uses,
2174 resources, and values such as navigation, recreation, and public access.

2175
2176 **~~((5.))~~ Surface Drilling for Oil and Gas**

2177 The Shoreline Management Act prohibits surface drilling in the waters of Puget Sound north to the Canadian
2178 ~~((boundary))~~ border and the Strait of Juan de Fuca seaward from the ordinary high water mark and on all lands
2179 within one thousand feet landward from that line.

2180
2181 **S-715** Surface drilling for oil or gas shall be prohibited in Puget Sound seaward from
2182 the ordinary high water mark and on all lands within one thousand feet landward
2183 from the ordinary high water mark on Puget Sound.

2184
2185 **~~((6.))~~ Aquaculture**
2186 **~~((a.))~~ General Aquaculture**

2187 Aquaculture is the culture or farming of fish, shellfish, or other aquatic plants and animals. Aquaculture does
2188 not include the harvest of wild geoduck associated with the state managed wildstock geoduck fishery.
2189 Aquaculture is dependent on the use of the water area and, when consistent with goals for aesthetics, public
2190 access, control of pollution and prevention of damage to the environment should be allowed so long as it does

2191 not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions. The visual and aesthetic impacts of
2192 aquaculture should not overwhelm adjacent land uses.

2193
2194 **S-716** Aquaculture is a water-dependent use and should be an allowed use of the
2195 shoreline when consistent with control of pollution and avoidance of adverse
2196 impacts to the environment and preservation of habitat for native species, ((f))
2197 consistent with Washington Administrative Code 173-26-241(((3)(b)))
2198

2199 **S-716a** King County shall prohibit nonnative marine finfish aquaculture.
2200

2201 **S-717** Potential locations for aquaculture activities are relatively restricted because of
2202 specific requirements related to water quality, temperature, oxygen content,
2203 currents, adjacent land use, wind protection, commercial navigation, and salinity.
2204 The technology associated with some forms of aquaculture is still experimental
2205 and in formative states. Therefore, when implementing development regulations
2206 related to aquaculture, King County should provide flexibility in its development
2207 regulations governing the siting of aquaculture facilities, where appropriate.
2208 Those regulations shall require avoidance of adverse impacts to existing uses, to
2209 the maximum extent practical, and no net loss in shoreline ecological functions
2210 and processes. If King County determines that certain types aquaculture involve
2211 a significant risk of net loss in shoreline ecological functions or cumulative
2212 adverse effects on the environment or native species and their habitats, the
2213 County may prohibit or condition such uses in its development regulations.
2214

2215 **S-718** Aquaculture activities shall be designed, located, and operated in a manner that
2216 supports long-term beneficial use of the shoreline and protects and maintains
2217 shoreline ecological processes and functions. Aquaculture permits shall not be
2218 approved where it would result in net loss of shoreline ecological functions; net
2219 loss of habitat for native species including eelgrass, kelp, and other macroalgae;
2220 adverse impacts to other habitat conservation areas; or interference with
2221 navigation or other water-dependent uses.
2222

2223 **S-719** Aquaculture facilities shall be designed, operated and located so as not to
2224 spread disease to native aquatic life, establish new nonnative species that cause
2225 significant ecological impacts, or substantially impact the aesthetic qualities and
2226 public access of the shoreline.
2227

- 2228 **S-720** Preference should be given to those forms of aquaculture that involve lesser
2229 environmental and visual impacts and lesser impacts to native plant and animal
2230 species. In general, projects that require no structures, submerged structures or
2231 intertidal structures are preferred over those that involve substantial floating
2232 structures. Projects that involve little or no substrate modification are preferred
2233 over those that involve substantial modification, recognizing that in some
2234 circumstances that the importation of sand or pea gravel on rocky or cobble
2235 substrates may result in more diverse habitat. Projects that involve little or no
2236 supplemental food sources, pesticides, herbicides, or antibiotic application are
2237 preferred over those that involve such practices.
- 2238
2239 **S-721** Aquaculture shall not be permitted if it involves significant risk of cumulative
2240 adverse effects on water quality, sediment quality, benthic and pelagic
2241 organisms, or wild fish populations through potential contribution of antibiotic
2242 resistant bacteria, or escapement of non-native species, or other adverse effects
2243 on native species or threatened or endangered species and their habitats.
2244
- 2245 **S-722** King County shall consider the potential beneficial impacts and the potential
2246 adverse impacts of new aquaculture development on the physical environment;
2247 on other existing and approved land and water uses, including navigation; and
2248 on the aesthetic qualities of a project area.
2249
- 2250 **S-723** Legally established aquaculture uses, including authorized experimental
2251 projects, should be protected from incompatible uses that may seek to locate
2252 nearby. King County may deny uses or developments that have a high
2253 probability of damaging or destroying a legally established existing aquaculture.
2254
- 2255 **S-724** King County should review and make permit decisions on restoration projects
2256 associated with aquaculture in a timely manner.
2257
- 2258 **S-725** Experimental aquaculture projects in water bodies should be limited in scale and
2259 should be approved for a limited period of time. Experimental aquaculture
2260 means an aquaculture activity that uses methods or technologies that are
2261 unprecedented or unproven in the State of Washington.
2262
- 2263 **S-726** King County should actively seek substantive comment regarding potential
2264 adverse impacts of any shoreline permit application for aquaculture from all
2265 appropriate Federal, State, Indian tribal, and local agencies(~~(; the Muckleshoot~~
2266 ~~Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Tulalip Tribes and other tribes with treaty~~
2267 ~~fishing rights)); and the general public. Comments of nearby residents or
2268 property owners directly affected by an aquaculture proposal should be~~

2269 considered and evaluated, especially in regard to use compatibility and
2270 aesthetics.

2271
2272 **S-727** The rights of treaty Indian tribes to aquatic resources within their usual and
2273 accustomed areas should be addressed through the permit review process.
2274 Direct and early coordination between the applicant or proponent and the
2275 relevant tribe(s) should be encouraged.

2276
2277 **S-727a** King County should ensure proper management of upland uses in the shoreline
2278 jurisdiction to avoid degradation of water quality of existing shellfish areas,
2279 including adoption of additional protections from impacts of geoduck
2280 aquaculture.

2281

2282 **((b.)) Net Pens**

2283 One specific type of aquaculture is a net pen, which is a type of large cage used to farm finfish in open water.
2284 These net pens allow for the exchange of water between the farm and the surrounding environment. In 2017, a
2285 large commercial net pen near Cypress Island collapsed and released hundreds of thousands of nonnative salmon
2286 into King County's shorelines of statewide significance.

2287

2288 Following this incident, King County reviewed its net pens regulations in 2018 for potential impacts on native
2289 species and found that commercial salmon net pen aquaculture operations generally have adverse environmental
2290 and ecological impacts that do not appear to meet the SMA standard of 'no net loss of ecological function.'

2291 These adverse impacts include increased disease transmission, increased water quality impacts, competition for
2292 food and habitat, predation on local native salmon, and genetic introgression.

2293

2294 King County's native salmon runs are among the Puget Sound region's most precious and irreplaceable natural
2295 resources. King County, area Indian tribes, the state, the region, and the federal government have collectively
2296 invested hundreds of millions of dollars over many years to help protect and restore native salmon species. The
2297 impacts of net pens to native salmon outlined above would threaten years of work and millions of dollars in
2298 investments.

2299

2300 The environmental and ecological risks associated with commercial salmon net pens may also apply to other
2301 finfish net pens, including net pens for noncommercial native salmon and commercial native finfish, but there is
2302 a lack of current information regarding these risks. The Department of Ecology's Shoreline Master Program
2303 Handbook lists only three references to guide local jurisdictions in how to regulate net pens, all of which predate
2304 the Endangered Species Act listings of Southern Resident Puget Sound Orcas, Puget Sound Chinook salmon,
2305 and Puget Sound steelhead as threatened. The Department of Ecology acknowledges in the handbook that
2306 interim net pen guidelines from the 1980s are out of date and caution should be used if relying on them.

2307

**((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)) TBD**

2308 In response to the Cypress Island incident, the Washington State Legislature adopted Engrossed House Bill 2957
2309 prohibiting new or expanded leases for nonnative marine finfish aquaculture. House Bill 2957 also directed state
2310 agencies to continue updating guidance and informational resources for planning and permitting marine net pen
2311 aquaculture. State agencies were further directed to seek advice and assistance from the Northwest Indian
2312 Fisheries Commission, national centers for coastal ocean science, and to invite consultation with universities and
2313 federally recognized Indian tribes and report back to the Legislature. ~~((The applicable state agencies must report
2314 to the legislature in late 2019.))~~ The resulting updated guidance has been published as Publication 22-06-008 and
2315 22-06-009 and is available on the Department of Ecology’s website.
2316

2317 ~~((S-272b))~~ **S-727b** King County shall prohibit new commercial salmon net pen aquaculture
2318 operations to avoid adverse impacts on native salmon runs.
2319

2320 ~~((S-272e))~~ **S-727c** King County shall support Indian tribal treaty fishing rights, including operation
2321 of noncommercial native salmon net pens for temporary rearing and brood stock
2322 recovery programs.
2323

2324 **S-727d** King County shall review and condition the siting of net pens to ensure they
2325 apply all necessary environmental and ecological protections and meet the
2326 standard of no adverse impacts and no net loss of ecological function.
2327

2328 **S-727e** King County shall revisit its policies and regulations associated with net pens,
2329 including the prohibition on commercial native salmon net pens, during the next
2330 statutory-required periodic review of this program. At that time, additional
2331 research and guidance from the state is expected to be available.
2332

2333 **((7-)) Boating Facilities**

2334 Boating facilities provide the boating public recreational opportunities on waters of the state, but should be sited
2335 carefully to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions and to maintain the aesthetic
2336 quality of the shoreline. For purposes of the King County Shoreline Master Program, “boating facilities” do not
2337 include docks serving four or fewer single ~~((family residences))~~ detached homes.
2338

- 2339 **S-728** Boating facilities shall be located only at sites with suitable environmental
2340 conditions, shoreline configuration, access, and neighboring uses, and:
2341 a. Meet health, safety and welfare requirements;
2342 b. Mitigate aesthetic impacts;
2343 c. Provide public access in new marinas, unless there is a safety or
2344 security concern;
2345 d. Prevent the impacts to shoreline resources from boaters living on their
2346 vessels;
2347 e. Restrict vessels should be restricted from extended mooring on waters
2348 of the state unless authorization is obtained from the Washington
2349 Department of Natural Resources and impacts to navigation and public
2350 access are mitigated;
2351 f. Assure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions or
2352 other significant adverse impacts; and
2353 g. Protect the rights of navigation.

2354

2355 **~~(S.)~~ Commercial Development**

2356 Some commercial uses within the shoreline jurisdiction may be required to incorporate appropriate design and
2357 operational elements to qualify as water-related or water-enjoyment. Public access and ecological restoration are
2358 considered appropriate mitigation for the impact to shorelines unless it is determined public access is infeasible
2359 or inappropriate. Most commercial land in unincorporated King County is located outside the shoreline
2360 jurisdiction.

2361

- 2362 **S-729** King County shall require all commercial development on public land to provide
2363 public access, unless the use is incompatible with public access or there are
2364 public safety concerns.

2365

- 2366 **S-730** King County shall permit non-water-oriented commercial uses in the shoreline
2367 jurisdiction only if:
2368 a. The non-water-oriented commercial use is limited to the minimum size
2369 necessary for the use;
2370 b. The use provides a significant public benefit with respect to the
2371 Shoreline Management Act's objectives such as providing public access
2372 and ecological restoration; and
2373 c. The use is part of a mixed-use project that includes water-dependent
2374 uses; or navigability is severely limited at the proposed site.

2375

- 2376 **S-731** King County may allow nonwater-oriented commercial development in the
2377 shoreline jurisdiction if the site is physically separated from the shoreline by
2378 another property or public right-of-way.

2379

2380 **S-732** King County shall allow over-water nonwater-dependent commercial uses only in
2381 existing structures or if the use is auxiliary to and necessary to support a
2382 water-dependent use. The area of any over-water structure shall be limited to the
2383 maximum extent practical.

2384
2385 **S-733** King County shall prohibit commercial development that will have significant
2386 adverse impact to other shoreline uses, resources and values, such as
2387 navigation, recreation, and public access. King County shall require mitigation
2388 for all commercial development in the shoreline jurisdiction to ensure that it does
2389 not cause a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

2390
2391 **((9.)) Industry**
2392 The King County Shoreline Master Program establishes a hierarchy for industrial development within the
2393 shoreline jurisdiction. Most industrial land in King County is located within cities rather than within
2394 unincorporated King County.

2395
2396 **S-734** In the shoreline jurisdiction, King County shall give preference to industrial uses
2397 in the following order: first, water-dependent industrial uses; second,
2398 water-related industrial uses; and third, non-water-oriented industrial uses.

2399
2400 **S-735** To mitigate for the impacts of industrial development within the shoreline
2401 jurisdiction, King County should require ecological restoration and public
2402 access, unless it determines that public access is infeasible or inappropriate.

2403
2404 **S-736** King County shall require industrial uses located on public land in the shoreline
2405 jurisdiction to provide public access, unless the use is incompatible with public
2406 access or there are public safety concerns.

2407
2408 **S-737** King County should encourage Industrial development and redevelopment to be
2409 located where environmental cleanup and restoration of the shoreline can be
2410 incorporated.

2411
2412 **S-738** King County shall permit new nonwater-oriented industrial development in the
2413 shoreline jurisdiction only if:
2414 a. The use is part of a mixed-use project that includes water-dependent
2415 uses or navigability is severely limited; and
2416 b. The use provides a significant public benefit with respect to the
2417 Shoreline Management Act's objectives, such as providing public access
2418 and ecological restoration.

2419

2420 **S-739** King County may allow nonwater-oriented industrial uses in the shoreline
2421 jurisdiction if the site is physically separated from the shoreline by another
2422 property or public right-of-way.

2423

2424 ~~**(10.)**~~ **In-Water Structures**

2425 "In-water structure" means a structure placed by humans within a stream, river, or lake waterward of the
2426 ordinary high-water mark that either causes or has the potential to cause water impoundment or the diversion,
2427 obstruction, or modification of water flow. In-water structures may include those for hydroelectric generation,
2428 irrigation, water supply, flood control, transportation, utility service transmission, fish collection weir, or other
2429 purposes.

2430

2431 **S-740** In-water structures shall provide for the protection and preservation of shoreline
2432 ecological processes and functions, and cultural resources, including, but not
2433 limited to, fish and fish passage, wildlife and water resources, shoreline critical
2434 areas, hydro-geological processes, and natural scenic vistas.

2435

2436 **S-741** The location and planning of in-water structures shall give due consideration to
2437 the full range of public interests and shoreline ecological processes and
2438 functions, with special emphasis on protecting and restoring habitat for
2439 threatened or endangered species.

2440

2441 ~~**(11.)**~~ **Mining**

2442 King County has identified and designated land that is appropriate for the removal of sand, gravel, soil, minerals
2443 and other extractable resources. In King County, gravel removal was a common method of flood control in the
2444 first half of the 20th century. However, mining within shorelines can have significant impacts, particularly to
2445 habitat for threatened and endangered aquatic and riparian species.

2446

2447 **S-742** Mining may be allowed within the shoreline jurisdiction if it is:
2448 a. Consistent with the environment designation policies of the King County
2449 Shoreline Master Program and provisions of the Shoreline Management
2450 Act; and
2451 b. Located within mineral resource lands designated by the King County
2452 Comprehensive Plan.

2453

2454 **S-743**

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.

2464

2465 **S-744**

The King County Shoreline Master Program provisions and permit requirements for mining should be coordinated with the requirements of Chapter 78.44 Revised Code of Washington (~~Chapter 78.44~~).

2466

2467

2468

2469 **S-745**

The proposed subsequent use of mined property shall be consistent with the provisions of the shoreline environment designation in which the property is located.

2470

2471

2472

2473 **S-746**

King County shall permit mining within the active channel of a river only as follows:

2474

2475

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;

2476

2477

2478

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;

2479

2480

2481

2482

c. The determinations required by items ~~((4))~~ a. and ~~((2))~~ b. of this policy shall be consistent with Revised Code of Washington 90.58.100~~((4))~~ 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;

2483

2484

2485

2486

2487

2488

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

2489

2490

2491

2492

2493 determinations ~~((in order))~~ to ensure that current site conditions comply
2494 with the Program; and
2495 e. These requirements do not apply to dredging of authorized navigation
2496 channels when conducted in accordance with Washington
2497 Administrative Code 173-26-231~~((3)(f))~~.

2498
2499 **S-747** King County shall require a shoreline conditional use permit for mining activity
2500 within a severe channel migration hazard zone located within the shoreline
2501 jurisdiction.
2502

2503 **~~((12.))~~ Recreational Development**

2504 Recreational development includes uses and activities designed to allow public enjoyment and use of the water
2505 and shoreline. King County recreational planning provides for parks, trails, open space, and opportunities for
2506 both active and passive recreational use in King County.
2507

2508 **S-748** Recreational development is allowed in the shoreline jurisdiction and ~~((must))~~
2509 shall be consistent with the shoreline environment designation in which the
2510 property is located.
2511

2512 **S-749** King County shall plan to provide public recreational uses on ~~((e))~~ County-owned
2513 shoreline, consistent with the goals of this chapter.
2514

2515 **~~((13.))~~ Residential Development**

2516 The Shoreline Management Act recognizes single ~~((family))~~ detached residential development as a priority use
2517 within shorelines of the state. The term “residential development” also includes attached and multifamily
2518 dwelling units as well as subdivision of shoreline land into new residential lots. In King County, single detached
2519 dwelling units are the most common shoreline development. Residential development is often fairly high density
2520 to maximize water frontage. Care must be taken to assure that shoreline residential development and the related
2521 impacts from shoreline armoring, stormwater runoff, on-site sewage disposal systems, introduction of pollutants,
2522 and vegetation modification and removal do not result in significant damage to the shoreline.
2523

2524 **S-750** Single ~~((family))~~ detached residential development is a priority use in the
2525 shoreline jurisdiction in King County.
2526

2527 **S-751** King County shall require a conditional use permit for construction or expansion
2528 of a single~~((family residence))~~ detached home that is located within an aquatic
2529 area buffer in the Forestry or Natural Shoreline Environment.
2530

2531 ~~((S-752~~ ~~Shoreline residential development, including accessory structures and uses,~~
2532 ~~should be sufficiently set back from steep slopes and shorelines vulnerable to~~
2533 ~~erosion so that structural improvements, including bluff walls and other~~
2534 ~~stabilization structures, are not required to protect these structures and uses.))~~

2535 **S-753** New over-water residences, including floating homes, are not a preferred use and
2536 shall be prohibited in the shoreline jurisdiction. Existing communities of floating
2537 or over-water homes should be reasonably accommodated to allow
2538 improvements associated with life-safety matters and to ensure protection of
2539 private property rights. King County shall limit the expansion of existing floating
2540 homes, including over-water and underwater footprint, and over-water
2541 communities to the minimum necessary to ensure consistency with
2542 constitutional and other legal limitations that protect private property.
2543

2544 **S-754** King County should require multifamily residential development and
2545 subdivisions within the shoreline jurisdiction creating more than four lots to
2546 provide public access.
2547

2548 **S-755** King County shall require subdivisions and short subdivisions to:
2549
2550 a. Be designed, configured and developed in a manner that ensures no net
2551 loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions at full build-out of
2552 all lots;
2553 b. Prevent the need for new shoreline stabilization or flood risk reduction
2554 measures that would cause significant impacts to other properties or
2555 public improvements, a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and
2556 functions, or interfere with channel migration; and
2557 c. Implement the provisions and policies for shoreline designations and the
2558 general policy goals of this chapter.
2559

2560 **((14.)) Transportation and Parking**

2561 Providing for transportation and parking is necessary to support water-dependent uses, to support the regional
2562 economy, and for access to privately owned property. However, transportation facilities should be located and
2563 designed to have the least impact on the ecological processes and functions of the shoreline. Transportation
2564 planning in shorelines should not be focused totally on ~~((automobiles))~~ vehicles, but should consider a wide
2565 range of options, including buses, light rail, commuter rail, bicycle, equestrian, and pedestrian facilities.
2566 Transportation planning can be a tool for finding opportunities to provide public access to the shorelines.

2567 **S-756** King County shall require transportation and parking plans and projects located
2568 in the shoreline jurisdiction to be consistent with the public access policies in
2569 this chapter and environmental protection provisions.
2570

2571

2572 **S-757** Where appropriate, circulation system planning in the shoreline jurisdiction shall
2573 include systems for pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation and combining
2574 transportation uses to minimize the footprint of transportation facilities.
2575 Circulation planning and projects should support existing and proposed
2576 shoreline uses that are consistent with the King County Shoreline Master
2577 Program.

2578
2579 **S-758** Transportation and parking facilities located in the shoreline jurisdiction shall be
2580 planned, located and designed to have the least possible adverse impact on
2581 unique or fragile shoreline features, not result in a net loss of shoreline
2582 ecological processes and functions or adversely impact existing or planned
2583 water-dependent uses. Where other options are available and feasible, new
2584 transportation facilities or transportation facility expansions should not be
2585 constructed within the shoreline jurisdiction.

2586
2587 **S-759** Parking facilities in the shoreline jurisdiction are not a preferred use. King
2588 County shall allow parking facilities in the shoreline jurisdiction only when
2589 necessary to support an authorized use and when an alternatives analysis shows
2590 there are no feasible alternatives outside of the 200-foot shoreline jurisdiction.
2591 Parking facilities in the shoreline jurisdiction shall use ~~((L))~~low ~~((I))~~impact
2592 ~~((D))~~designs, such as porous concrete and vegetated swales, and be planned,
2593 located and designed to minimize the environmental and visual impacts.

2594
2595 **~~((15.))~~ Utilities**

2596 Utilities include services and facilities that produce, convey, store, or process power, gas, water, sewage,
2597 stormwater, communications, oil, or waste. Utilities that are classified as on-site utilities serving only one
2598 primary use are considered “accessory utilities” and are considered part of the primary use.

2599
2600 **S-760** Utility facilities shall be designed and located to assure no net loss of shoreline
2601 ecological processes and functions, preserve the natural landscape, and
2602 minimize conflicts with present and planned land and shoreline uses, while
2603 meeting the needs of future populations in areas planned to accommodate
2604 growth.

2605
2606 **S-761** King County shall allow modification of existing utility facilities and the location
2607 of new water-oriented portions of utility facilities in the shoreline jurisdiction
2608 provided that a mitigation sequence is applied (see policy S-616) and there is no
2609 net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions. To the maximum extent
2610 practical, those parts of utility production and processing facilities that are not

2611 water-oriented, such as power plants and sewage treatment plants, shall be
2612 located outside of the shoreline jurisdiction.

2613
2614 **S-762** Transmission facilities for the conveyance of services, such as power lines,
2615 cables, and pipelines, shall be located outside of the shoreline jurisdiction where
2616 feasible. Transmission facilities located within the shoreline jurisdiction shall
2617 assure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

2618
2619 **S-763** Utilities should be located in existing developed rights-of-way and corridors to
2620 the maximum extent practical.

2621
2622 **S-764** Unless no other feasible alternative location exists, King County should
2623 discourage:
2624 a. Locating pipelines and cables in water, on tidelands or roughly parallel
2625 to the shoreline; and
2626 b. The development of facilities that may require periodic maintenance that
2627 disrupts shoreline ecological processes and functions.

2628
2629 King County shall ensure that any utility facilities that are allowed do not result in
2630 a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions or significant adverse
2631 impacts to other shoreline resources and values.

2632

2633 **~~((C.))~~ Shoreline Modifications**

2634 **~~((L.))~~ General Policies Governing Shoreline Modifications**

2635 A shoreline modification is construction of a physical element, such as a dike, breakwater, dredged basin, or fill,
2636 as well as other actions such as clearing, grading, application of chemicals, or significant vegetation removal to
2637 support or prepare for a shoreline use. These activities should be directly related to a legal shoreline use and
2638 should not be conducted for other purposes.

2639
2640 **S-765** King County should allow structural shoreline modifications only when
2641 necessary to support or protect a legally established structure or a legally
2642 existing shoreline use that is in danger of loss or substantial damage, or when a
2643 modification is necessary for reconfiguration of the shoreline for mitigation or
2644 enhancement purposes.

2645
2646 **S-766** ~~((In order to))~~ In order to reduce the adverse effects of shoreline modifications, King
2647 County should limit shoreline modifications in number and extent to the
2648 maximum extent practicable.

2649

2650 **S-767** King County shall only allow shoreline modifications that are appropriate to the
2651 specific type of shoreline and environmental conditions for which they are
2652 proposed.

2653
2654 **S-768** King County shall ensure that shoreline modifications individually and
2655 cumulatively do not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and
2656 functions. ~~((In order to))~~To achieve this goal, King County shall give preference to
2657 those types of shoreline modifications that have a lesser impact on the shoreline
2658 and by requiring mitigation of identified impacts resulting from shoreline
2659 modifications.

2660
2661 **S-769** Where applicable, King County shall develop regulations and impose conditions
2662 based on scientific and technical information and a comprehensive analysis of
2663 shoreline conditions for drift cells for marine waters or reaches for lakes and
2664 river and stream systems.

2665
2666 **S-770** King County should plan for the enhancement of impaired shoreline ecological
2667 processes and functions where feasible and appropriate, while accommodating
2668 permitted uses. To the maximum extent practical, King County should
2669 incorporate appropriate measures to protect shoreline ecological processes and
2670 functions from the impacts of shoreline modifications.

2671

2672 **((2.)) Shoreline Stabilization**

2673 Shorelines are impacted by wind and wave action, currents, tides, and flood waters, resulting in erosion of banks
2674 and shifts in channels. These impacts are natural processes that support shoreline ecological processes and
2675 functions, but they also impact human use of shorelines.

2676

2677 These natural processes are likely to be affected by climate change. Lowland rivers may see higher flows in the
2678 autumn and winter and mid-elevation rivers may see higher winter flows. In both cases, these changes could
2679 lead to more frequent flooding. The marine shorelines around Vashon-Maury Island and the Duwamish Estuary
2680 may also see effects due to sea(-)level rise. Increased sea elevations will make development and infrastructure
2681 in low-lying areas more susceptible to flooding due to high tides and storms. Waves will encroach further onto
2682 low-lying beaches and cause greater beach erosion, threatening or damaging low-lying structures. At the same
2683 time steep slopes may receive increased moisture due to predicted changes in precipitation patterns, potentially
2684 resulting in an increase in landslides that may cause property destruction and threaten human safety.

2685

2686 Humans have long desired to "control" these natural processes by constructing shoreline stabilization structures.
2687 The negative side of structural solutions includes the high cost of construction, long-term cost of maintenance
2688 and repair, the false sense of security for humans relying on these structures, and the high impact to the shoreline

2689 environment. These negative impacts are likely to increase as the effects of climate change become more
2690 apparent. These impacts include:

- 2691 1. Beach starvation where sediment is prevented from supplying the beach, thus impeding a
2692 dynamic process.
- 2693 2. Habitat degradation, particularly through removal of shoreline vegetation.
- 2694 3. Sediment impoundment where the sources of sediment are lost and longshore transport is
2695 diminished, resulting in lowering of down-drift beaches, narrowing of the high tide beach, and
2696 the coarsening of beach sediment.
- 2697 4. Exacerbation of erosion as wave energy is reflected back from hard surfaces onto the beach,
2698 increasing erosion.
- 2699 5. Groundwater impacts that can lead to a rise of the water table on the landward side of an
2700 erosion control structure, which results in increased pore pressures in the beach material and
2701 accelerated erosion of sand-sized material from the beach.
- 2702 6. Hydraulic impacts where wave energy is reflected back onto the beach, resulting in scour
2703 lowering the beach elevation, or coarsening the beach, resulting in failure of the structure.
- 2704 7. Loss of shoreline vegetation and the loss of erosion control that the vegetation provided, as
2705 well as loss of the habitat function provided by vegetation.
- 2706 8. Loss of large woody debris, which plays an important role in biological diversity and habitat as
2707 well as stabilizing the shoreline.
- 2708 9. Restriction of channel movement and creation of side channels, impacting recruitment of large
2709 woody debris and gravel for spawning.

2710
2711 As alternatives to constructing a hard-surfaced structural facility, nonstructural methods that have lesser impacts
2712 on shoreline ecological processes and functions are available. These nonstructural methods may also allow for
2713 adaptation to the effects of climate change. For example, if buildings are constructed further away from the
2714 existing water edge, beyond the range of sea((-))_level rise, shoreline protection would be unnecessary. For most
2715 projects, a range of options is available. These include “soft” measures, such as revegetation to stabilize banks,
2716 which provide a variety of other ecological processes and functions, and "hard" measures, such as bulkheads,
2717 which often detract from or provide only limited ecological function. Shoreline stabilization options include, but
2718 are not limited to:

- 2719 1. Vegetation enhancement;
- 2720 2. Upland drainage control;
- 2721 3. Biotechnical measures;
- 2722 4. Beach enhancement;

- 2723 5. Anchor trees;
- 2724 6. Gravel placement;
- 2725 7. Rock revetments;
- 2726 8. Gabions;
- 2727 9. Concrete groins;
- 2728 10. Retaining walls and bluff walls;
- 2729 11. Bulkheads; and
- 2730 12. Seawalls.

2731

2732 **S-771 King County shall require shoreline stabilization to be consistent with**
2733 **Washington Administrative Code 173-26-221((5)) for vegetation retention and**
2734 **((Washington Administrative Code 173-26-221(2) for) protection of critical areas.**
2735

2736 **S-772 King County shall adopt standards to first avoid then mitigate the impact to**
2737 **shoreline ecological processes and functions when alteration of the shoreline is**
2738 **allowed for the construction of single detached dwelling units and accessory**
2739 **structures. These standards shall address the design and type of protective**
2740 **measures and devices that are allowed.**
2741

2742 When structural shoreline stabilization is proposed to protect existing development, the following measures
2743 apply:

2744

2745 **S-773 King County may allow construction of new or replaced structural shoreline**
2746 **stabilization and flood control works to protect an existing structure if King**
2747 **County determines there is a documented need, including a geotechnical**
2748 **analysis that the structure is in danger from shoreline erosion caused by tidal**
2749 **action, currents, or waves.**
2750

2751 When new development occurs within the shoreline jurisdiction, the following measures apply:

2752

2753 **S-774 Shoreline stabilization shall be allowed only when:**
2754 **a. Necessary to protect existing primary structures at imminent risk;**
2755 **b. No lower-impact alternative exists, including relocation or reconstruction**
2756 **of the structure;**
2757 **c. When impacts are mitigated to ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological**
2758 **processes and functions; and**
2759 **d. Stabilization measures are in conformance with Washington**
2760 **Administrative Code 173-26-231.**

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S-774a King County shall require:
a. ~~((#))~~ New shoreline development to be located and designed, as well as the creation of new subdivisions and short subdivisions, to avoid the need for future structural slope or shoreline stabilization ((to the maximum extent practicable)); and
b. New development to be set back from steep or eroding slopes so that structural slope or shoreline stabilization is not needed for the life of the development.

~~((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-779 King County shall require the use of soft methods of shoreline stabilization to the maximum extent practicable. King County shall allow new and replacement hard structural stabilization measures only as follows:

- a. To protect existing nonwater-dependent development and structures, including single~~((family residences))~~ detached homes, if:
 - 1. The erosion is not the result of upland conditions, such as the loss of vegetation and drainage;
 - 2. Nonstructural measures, such as locating the development further from the shoreline, planting vegetation, or installing

- 2802 on-site drainage improvements, are not feasible or not
- 2803 sufficient;
- 2804 3. The need to protect primary structures from imminent risk of
- 2805 damage due to erosion is demonstrated through a geotechnical
- 2806 report submitted by a qualified specialist. The damage must be
- 2807 caused by natural processes, such as tidal action, currents, and
- 2808 waves; and
- 2809 4. Mitigation is provided such that the erosion control structure
- 2810 will not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes
- 2811 and functions.
- 2812 b. To protect water-dependent development if:
- 2813 1. The erosion is not the result of upland conditions, such as the
- 2814 loss of vegetation and drainage;
- 2815 2. Nonstructural measures, planting vegetation or installing on-site
- 2816 drainage improvements are not feasible or not sufficient;
- 2817 3. The need to protect primary structures from damage due to
- 2818 erosion is demonstrated through a geotechnical report
- 2819 submitted by a qualified specialist; and
- 2820 4. The erosion control structure will not result in a net loss of
- 2821 shoreline ecological processes and functions.
- 2822 c. To protect shoreline restoration projects or hazardous substance
- 2823 remediation projects pursuant to Chapter 70A.305 Revised Code of
- 2824 Washington (~~Chapter 70.105D~~) if:
- 2825 1. Nonstructural measures, planting vegetation or installing on-site
- 2826 drainage improvements are not feasible or not sufficient; and
- 2827 2. The erosion control structure will not result in a net loss of
- 2828 shoreline ecological processes and functions.
- 2829

2830 The King County shoreline jurisdiction includes a large number of shoreline stabilization structures, many of
2831 which were constructed years ago with little or no consideration of the impact on shoreline ecological processes
2832 and functions.

2833

2834 **S-780** An existing shoreline stabilization structure may be replaced (~~with a similar~~
2835 ~~structure if~~), provided that the least impactful stabilization measure is used and
2836 there is a demonstrated need to protect principal uses or structures from erosion
2837 caused by currents, tidal action, or waves.

2838

2839 **S-781** King County shall require replaced shoreline protection structures to be
2840 designed, located, sized, and constructed to assure no net loss of shoreline
2841 ecological processes and functions.

2842

2843 **S-782** Replacement walls or bulkheads to protect a residence shall not encroach
2844 waterward as measured at an elevation of two-feet above the current ordinary
2845 high-water mark, unless:
2846 a. The residence was occupied prior to January 1, 1972;
2847 b. There are overriding safety or environmental concerns; and
2848 c. The replacement structure shall abut the existing shoreline stabilization
2849 structure and be located on the landward side of the existing structure.
2850

2851 **S-783** If a net loss of ecological processes and functions associated with critical
2852 saltwater habitats will result from leaving an existing shoreline protection
2853 structure that is proposed for replacement, King County shall require the
2854 structure to be removed as part of the replacement measure.
2855

2856 **S-784** King County shall ~~((encourage))~~ require the use soft shoreline stabilization
2857 measures that use placement or growth of natural materials that closely
2858 resemble natural scales and configurations, or other soft stabilization measures
2859 where appropriate, and that provide restoration of shoreline ecological
2860 processes and functions waterward of the ordinary high-water mark.
2861

2862 **S-785** King County should encourage replaced structural shoreline stabilization located
2863 on Vashon-Maury Island to be relocated outside of the coastal high hazard area
2864 (also known as the coastal 100-year floodplain) whenever possible.
2865

2866 King County should make decisions on shoreline stabilization measures based on technical studies and reports
2867 that objectively analyze the current conditions and the impact of the proposed stabilization measure. A
2868 geotechnical report addressing geologic and habitat conditions developed by a qualified geologist or geotechnical
2869 engineer and habitat specialist should be a requirement of a development proposal application that includes
2870 shoreline stabilization as part of the development.
2871

2872 **S-786** ~~((When shoreline stabilization is proposed, King County shall require a
2873 geotechnical report to address the need to prevent potential damage to a primary
2874 structure. The report shall estimate time frames and rates of erosion and the
2875 urgency associated with the specific situation. King County should not allow
2876 hard armoring solutions, unless a geotechnical report confirms that there is a
2877 significant possibility that the structure will be damaged within three years as a
2878 result of shoreline erosion in the absence of such hard armoring measures, or
2879 where waiting until the need is immediate would foreclose the opportunity to use
2880 measures that avoid impacts on shoreline ecological processes and functions. If
2881 the geotechnical report confirms a need to prevent potential damage to a primary
2882 structure, but the need is not as immediate as the three years, the report may still
2883 be used to justify more immediate authorization to protect against erosion using~~

2884 ~~soft measures.))~~ When shoreline stabilization is proposed, King County shall
2885 ensure that the stabilization method used is the least ecologically impactful,
2886 technically feasible option.

2887
2888 The construction of shoreline stabilization measures results in impacts to the ecological processes and functions
2889 of the shoreline. The following measures should be considered to mitigate the impacts of shoreline stabilization
2890 projects.

2891
2892 **S-788** If structural shoreline stabilization measures are demonstrated to be necessary,
2893 King County shall:
2894 ~~((1-))~~ **a.** Limit the size of stabilization measures to the minimum necessary;
2895 ~~((2-))~~ **b.** Require the use of measures designed to assure no net loss of shoreline
2896 ecological processes and functions; and
2897 ~~((3-))~~ **c.** Require the use of soft approaches, unless they are demonstrated not to
2898 be sufficient to protect primary structures, dwellings, and businesses.

2899
2900 **S-789** King County shall ensure that publicly financed or subsidized shoreline erosion
2901 control measures do not restrict appropriate public access to the shoreline,
2902 except where such access is determined to be infeasible because of
2903 incompatible uses, safety, security, or harm to shoreline ecological processes
2904 and functions. Where feasible, King County shall require ecological restoration
2905 and public access improvements to be incorporated into the project.

2906
2907 **S-790** King County shall discourage new development and redevelopment on feeder
2908 bluffs. Where a legal building lot exists and the landowner has no option to
2909 locate new development or redevelopment away from feeder bluffs and other
2910 areas that affect beach sediment-producing areas, King County shall require that
2911 they avoid, to the maximum extent practicable, and then minimize the adverse
2912 impacts to sediment conveyance systems from erosion control measures.

2913
2914 **S-791** King County should prioritize feeder bluffs as areas for protection using
2915 acquisition, easement, transfer of development rights and other programs that
2916 eliminate or reduce development threats.

2917
2918 Erosion is the breakdown of soil, mud, rock, and other particles by the agents of wind, water, or ice or by living
2919 organisms. These materials are moved downward or down-slope in response to gravity. Upland conditions may
2920 contribute to this on-going natural physical process and may impact the ability of people to use the shoreline.
2921 Mass wasting is the geomorphic process by which soil, mud, rock, and other particles move downslope under the
2922 force of gravity. Types of mass wasting include creep, slides, flows, topples, and falls, each with its own
2923 characteristic features. Mass wasting may occur at a very slow rate, particularly in areas that are very dry or
2924 those areas that receive sufficient rainfall such that vegetation has stabilized the surface. It may also occur at

2925 very high speed, such as in rock slides or landslides, with disastrous consequences. The desire to protect
2926 shoreline development from these impacts leads to proposals for shoreline stabilization.

2927

2928 **S-792 The impacts of erosion and mass wasting should be mitigated through protection**
2929 **of geological hazardous areas.**

2930

2931 **((3.)) Piers and Docks**

2932 Piers and docks are some of the most commonly requested modifications to the shorelines. Because they extend
2933 over the water, piers and docks can have a significant impact on the shoreline ecological processes and functions.
2934 Careful consideration should be given to the construction of new piers and docks, and how they are constructed
2935 ~~((in order))~~ to minimize their impacts.

2936

2937 **S-793 King County shall allow new piers and docks only for water-dependent uses or**
2938 **public access. If it is designed and intended as a facility for access to watercraft,**
2939 **a dock associated with a single~~((family residence))~~ detached home is considered**
2940 **a water-dependent use. As an alternative to individual private moorage for**
2941 **residential development: mooring buoys are preferred over floats or docks and**
2942 **shared moorage facilities are preferred over single use moorage, where feasible**
2943 **or where water use conflicts exist or are predictable.**

2944

2945 **S-794 King County shall require pier and dock construction to be limited to the**
2946 **minimum size necessary to meet the needs of the proposed water-dependent**
2947 **use.**

2948

2949 **S-795 King County may allow water-related and water-enjoyment uses as part of a**
2950 **shoreline mixed-use development on over-water structures where they are**
2951 **clearly auxiliary to and in support of water-dependent uses, provided the**
2952 **minimum size requirement needed to meet the water-dependent use is not**
2953 **violated.**

2954

2955 **S-796 King County shall allow new pier or dock construction, excluding docks**
2956 **accessory to single~~((family residences))~~ single detached homes, only when the**
2957 **applicant has demonstrated that a specific need exists to support the intended**
2958 **water-dependent uses.**

2959

2960 **S-797 If new piers or docks are allowed, King County shall require new residential**
2961 **development of two or more dwelling units, subdivisions and short subdivisions**
2962 **to provide joint use or community dock facilities, when feasible, rather than**
2963 **individual docks for each dwelling unit or lot. King County shall allow only one**
2964 **pier or dock associated with residential development on a parcel.**

2965

2966 **S-798** King County shall require piers and docks, including those accessory to
2967 single~~((family residences))~~ detached homes, to be designed and constructed to
2968 avoid and then minimize and mitigate the impacts to shoreline ecological
2969 processes and functions. King County shall ~~((require piers and docks to be~~
2970 ~~constructed of non-toxic materials. Where toxic materials, such as treated wood,~~
2971 ~~are proposed, the proponent must show that no non-toxic alternative exists))~~
2972 prohibit the use of creosote or pentachlorophenol pilings.
2973

2974 **((4.)) Fill**

2975 Fill means the addition of soil, sand, rock, gravel, sediment, earth retaining structures, or other material to an
2976 area waterward of the ordinary high water mark, in wetlands, or on shorelands in a manner that raises the
2977 elevation or creates dry land. Fill is not permitted within the 100-year floodplain without providing
2978 compensatory flood storage to prevent a rise in the base flood, which is a flood having a one percent chance of
2979 being equaled or exceeded in any given year, often referred to as the "100-year flood." Fill can impact shoreline
2980 ecological processes and functions, including channel migration.
2981

2982 **S-799** King County shall require fill to be located, designed, and constructed to protect
2983 shoreline ecological processes and functions and ecosystem-wide processes,
2984 including channel migration and side channels.
2985

2986 **S-800** King County shall allow fill waterward of the ordinary high-water mark only when
2987 necessary to support:

- 2988 ~~((1.))~~ **a.** Water-dependent use;
- 2989 ~~((2.))~~ **b.** Public access;
- 2990 ~~((3.))~~ **c.** Cleanup and disposal of contaminated sediments as part of an
2991 interagency environmental clean-up plan;
- 2992 ~~((4.))~~ **d.** Disposal of dredged material considered suitable under, and conducted
2993 in accordance with, the dredged material management program of the
2994 Washington Department of Natural Resources;
- 2995 ~~((5.))~~ **e.** Expansion or alteration of transportation facilities of statewide
2996 significance currently located on the shoreline and then only upon a
2997 demonstration that alternatives to fill are not feasible; ~~((or))~~
- 2998 ~~((6.))~~ **f.** Mitigation actions, environmental restoration, beach nourishment,
2999 enhancement projects; or
- 3000 ~~((7.))~~ **g.** Flood risk reduction projects implemented consistent with the goals,
3001 policies and objectives of the King County Flood Hazard Management
3002 Plan where no reasonable alternative exists.
3003

3004 **S-801** King County shall require a shoreline conditional use permit for fill waterward of
3005 the ordinary high-water mark for any use, except for projects for ecological

3006 restoration or for the maintenance, repair or replacement of flood protection
3007 facilities.
3008

3009 **~~((5.)) Breakwaters, Jetties, Groins and Weirs~~**

3010 Breakwaters, jetties, groins, and weirs are all structural elements that are constructed to absorb or deflect wave
3011 action or to control excess sediment. A breakwater is an off-shore structure, either floating or not, which may or
3012 may not be connected to the shore and is designed to absorb and reflect back into the water body the energy of
3013 the waves. A jetty is an artificial barrier used to change the natural littoral drift to protect inlet entrances from
3014 clogging by transported sediment. A groin is a barrier-type structure extending from the backshore into the water
3015 across the beach, which is constructed to interrupt sediment movement along the shore. A weir is a small dam in
3016 a stream or river to control the flow of water. Although each of these structural elements may sometimes be
3017 appropriate, they should be allowed only under limited circumstances.
3018

3019 **S-802 King County shall allow breakwaters, jetties, and weirs located waterward of the**
3020 **ordinary high-water mark only where necessary to support water-dependent**
3021 **uses, public access, shoreline stabilization, or other specific public purpose.**
3022

3023 **S-803 Groins are prohibited except as a component of a publicly-sponsored project to**
3024 **protect or restore shoreline ecological processes and functions.**
3025

3026 **S-804 King County shall require a shoreline conditional use permit for the construction**
3027 **of breakwaters, jetties, groins, weirs, and similar structures, except for those**
3028 **structures installed to protect or restore shoreline ecological processes and**
3029 **functions, such as woody debris installed in streams.**
3030

3031 **S-805 Breakwaters, jetties, groins, and weirs shall be designed to protect critical areas**
3032 **and shall provide for mitigation according to the sequence in policy S-616 and**
3033 **defined in Washington Administrative Code 173-26-201 ~~((2)(e))~~.**
3034

3035 **~~((6.)) Beach and Dunes Management~~**

3036 Washington's beaches and their associated dunes lie along the Pacific Ocean coast between Point Grenville and
3037 Cape Disappointment and, as shorelines of statewide significance, are mandated to be managed from a statewide
3038 perspective by the Shoreline Management Act. There are no beaches and associated dunes in King County.
3039

3040 **~~((7.)) Dredging and Dredge Material Disposal~~**

3041 Dredging is the removal, displacement, or disposal of unconsolidated earth material such as sand, silt, gravel, or
3042 other submerged materials, from the bottom of water bodies, ditches, or natural wetlands. Long-term
3043 maintenance and support activities are also considered dredging. Dredging can cause significant ecological

3044 damage, which cannot always be avoided. Mitigation measures should be required to assure no net loss of
3045 shoreline ecological processes and functions.

3046

3047 King County has a channel monitoring program for King County rivers, which can be used to inform decisions
3048 on dredging activities. While only certain reaches of these rivers have been surveyed, King County recognizes
3049 the need to continue and enhance the channel monitoring program. In addition, King County should avoid
3050 development of shorelines that would require new or maintenance dredging.

3051

3052 **S-806** King County shall require that new development should be sited and designed to
3053 avoid, to the maximum extent practical, and then to minimize the need for new or
3054 maintenance dredging.

3055

3056 **S-807** King County shall allow dredging for the purpose of establishing, expanding, or
3057 relocating or reconfiguring navigation channels and basins when necessary to
3058 assure safe and efficient accommodation of existing navigational uses.
3059 Significant adverse ecological impacts shall be minimized and mitigation shall be
3060 provided to ensure that there is no net loss of shoreline ecological processes
3061 and functions. Maintenance dredging of established navigation channels and
3062 basins should be restricted to maintaining previously dredged or existing
3063 authorized location, depth, and width.

3064

3065 **S-808** King County shall not allow dredging waterward of the ordinary high-water mark
3066 for the primary purpose of obtaining fill material, except when the material is
3067 necessary for the restoration of shoreline ecological processes and functions.
3068 When allowed, the site where the fill is to be placed shall be located waterward of
3069 the ordinary high-water mark. The project must be either associated with a
3070 habitat restoration project under the Model Toxics Control Act or the
3071 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or, if
3072 approved through a shoreline conditional use permit, any other significant
3073 habitat enhancement project.

3074

3075 **S-809** King County shall not allow disposal of dredge material on shorelands and in
3076 side channels within a river's channel migration zone. King County shall not
3077 allow disposal of dredge material in wetlands located within the shoreline
3078 jurisdiction. In the limited instances where it is allowed, such disposal shall
3079 require a shoreline conditional use permit.

3080

3081 **S-810** King County shall require dredging to be conducted consistent with Policy
3082 RCM-3 of the ~~((2006))~~ King County Flood Hazard Management Plan, or successor
3083 policies or plans.

3084

3085 **~~((8.))~~ Shoreline Habitat and Natural Systems Enhancement Projects**

3086 Shoreline habitat and natural systems enhancement projects should be supported and coordinated with other
3087 planning processes, such as salmon conservation plans and the ~~((2006))~~ King County Flood Hazard
3088 Management Plan, or successor plans.

3089
3090 **S-811 King County should allow for habitat and natural systems enhancement projects**
3091 **that include, but are not limited to:**

- 3092 a. **Modification of vegetation;**
- 3093 b. **Removal of nonnative or invasive plants;**
- 3094 c. **Shoreline stabilization using soft or non-structural techniques; and**
- 3095 d. **Dredging, and filling, provided that the primary purpose of such actions**
3096 **is clearly restoration of the natural character and shoreline ecological**
3097 **processes and functions of the shoreline.**

3098
3099 **S-812 Habitat and natural systems enhancement projects should assure that the**
3100 **projects address legitimate restoration needs and priorities.**

3101

3102 **~~((IX.))~~ Primary and Administrative Policies**

3103 **~~((A.))~~ Reservation of Right to Appeal Department of Ecology Decisions**

3104 ~~By law, King County's Shoreline Master Program must be approved by the Department of Ecology, which has~~
3105 ~~the power to reject or modify part or all of King County's Shoreline Master Program elements.~~

3106

3107 **~~1.))~~ Reservation of right to submit alternate proposal to Ecology**

3108 ~~If the Department of Ecology recommends a change to some or all of the elements in King County's Shoreline~~
3109 ~~Master Program, King County reserves the right to submit an alternate proposal for approval.~~

3110

3111 **~~S-901~~ If the Department of Ecology recommends changes to any elements of the King**
3112 **County Shoreline Master Program, King County reserves the right to submit an**
3113 **alternate proposal to the Department for its review and approval.**

3114

3115 **~~2.))~~ Appeal of Ecology's decision to reject or modify King County Shoreline**
3116 **Master Program.**

3117 ~~If the Department of Ecology rejects or modifies part or all of the elements of in King County's Shoreline Master~~
3118 ~~Program, King County reserves the right to appeal this decision, in whole or part, to the Growth Management~~
3119 ~~Hearings Board and the courts.~~

3120

3121 ~~S-902~~ ~~————— If the Department of Ecology rejects part or all of King County’s Shoreline Master~~
3122 ~~Program, or if the Department of Ecology recommends changes that are~~
3123 ~~unacceptable to King County, King County reserves the right to appeal the~~
3124 ~~Department’s decision to the Shoreline Management Hearings Board.~~
3125

3126 ~~**B. Posting Notice of Effective Date of King County’s Shoreline Master**~~
3127 ~~**Program and Shoreline Regulations**~~

3128 ~~The King County Shoreline Master Program and any amendments to the Shoreline Master Program take effect~~
3129 ~~only after approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology.~~

3131 ~~S-903~~ ~~————— Upon receipt of the letter from the Department of Ecology approving the King~~
3132 ~~County Shoreline Master Program or any amendments to the Shoreline Master~~
3133 ~~Program, King County will promptly post on its web site a notice that the~~
3134 ~~Department of Ecology has taken final action and approved the Shoreline Master~~
3135 ~~Program or SMP amendments. The notice will indicate the effective date.~~
3136

3137 ~~C.)~~ ~~**Indian Treaty Rights Not Affected by Shoreline Master Program**~~

3138 King County has sought the input of and consulted with Indian tribes located in and adjacent to King County
3139 when developing the Shoreline Master Program. However, the Shoreline Master ((Plan)) Program and
3140 associated shoreline regulations shall not be construed to affect any treaty rights established between the United
3141 States and the individual tribes.

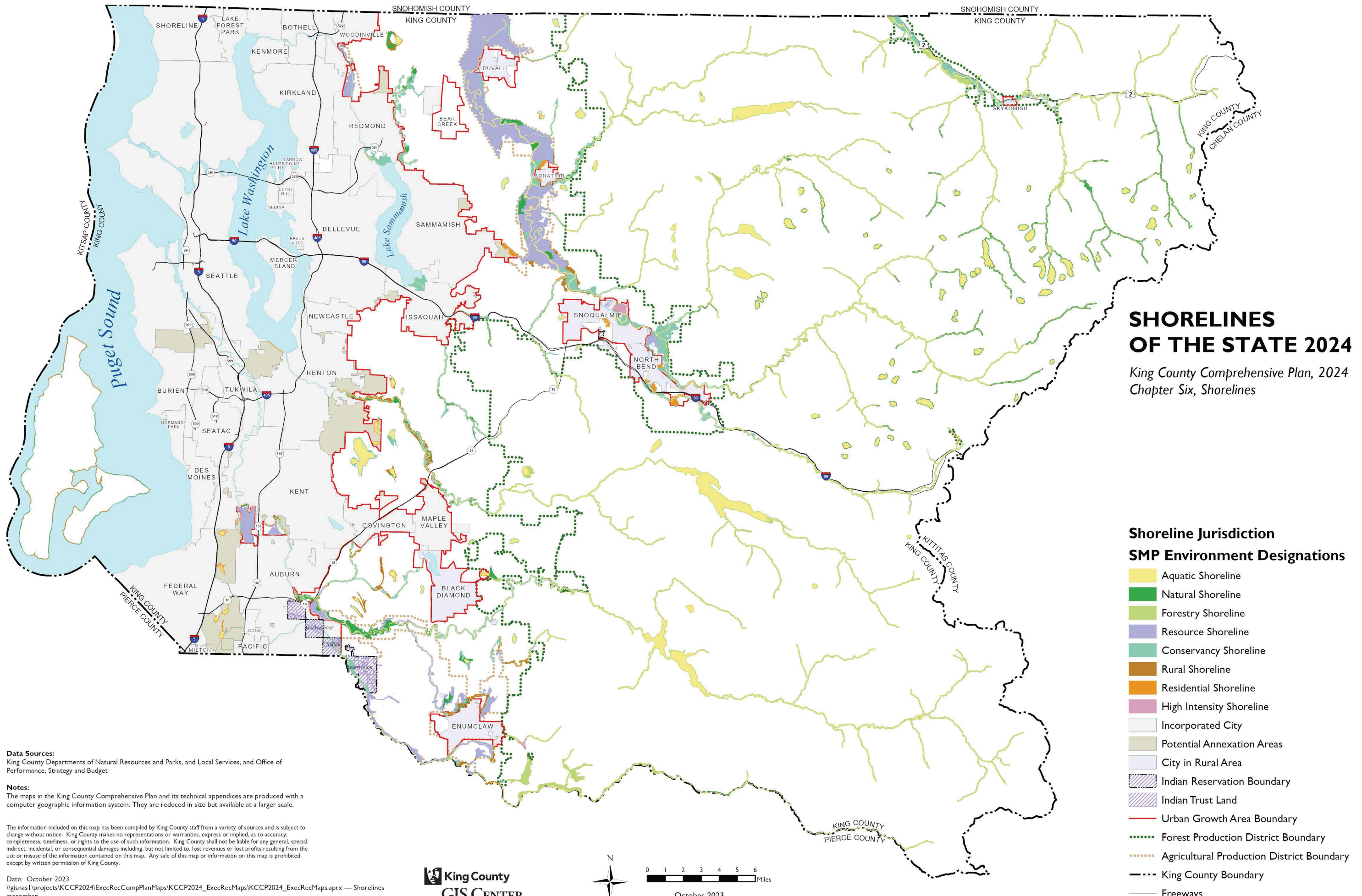
3143 ~~S-904~~ ~~Nothing in the King County Shoreline Master Program nor in any action taken~~
3144 ~~under the Shoreline Master Program shall be construed to affect any Indian treaty~~
3145 ~~right to which the United States is a party.~~

3147 ~~(D.)~~ ~~**Power to Abate Nuisance Retained by King County and the State Of**~~
3148 ~~**Washington**~~

3149 Adoption of the Shoreline Master Program is a requirement of the Shoreline Management Act. King County’s
3150 compliance with this state law should not be construed in any way to limit or modify all other powers possessed
3151 by King County.

3153 ~~S-905~~ ~~Nothing in the King County Shoreline Master Program shall be construed to limit~~
3154 ~~the power of King County or the State of Washington to abate nuisances within~~
3155 ~~the shoreline jurisdiction.~~
3156

3157 **S-906** King County specifically reserves all rights, power, and authority granted to it by
3158 law. Nothing in the King County Shoreline Master Program shall be construed in
3159 any way to limit any power or authority possessed by King County.
3160



SHORELINES OF THE STATE 2024

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024
Chapter Six, Shorelines

- Shoreline Jurisdiction**
- 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
 - Indian Reservation Boundary
 - Indian Trust Land
 - Urban Growth Area Boundary
 - Forest Production District Boundary
 - Agricultural Production District Boundary
 - King County Boundary
 - Freeways

Data Sources:
King County Departments of Natural Resources and Parks, and Local Services, and 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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Date: October 2023
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October 2023

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CHAPTER 7 PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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.

The policies in this chapter focus on the ~~((e))~~County’s role as a regional leader in acquiring and protecting its system of ~~((e))~~County-owned parks, forests, natural areas, trails and other open spaces. In addition to protecting these natural resources, the ~~((e))~~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, and Indian tribal cultural and historic resources.

9
10

11 I. Parks, Recreation and Open Space

12 The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to identify open space corridors within and between
13 ~~((U))urban ((Growth A))~~ areas, including lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of
14 critical areas. The ~~((e))~~ County’s designation of open space includes those lands that are part of the King County
15 open space system as well as state parks and natural resource conservation areas and federal wilderness areas in
16 unincorporated King County. See the Land Use Map ~~((is))~~ located at the end of Chapter 1, Regional Growth
17 Management Planning. The Growth Management Act states that counties are the providers of regional services
18 and local rural services, while cities are the appropriate providers of local urban services. As the regional
19 government, King County manages a regional open space system of parks, regional trails, natural or ecological
20 areas and working resource lands. While the cities are the managers of local parks, trails and open space lands in
21 the incorporated portions of the Urban Growth Area, King County will continue to be the provider of local
22 parks, trails and open space lands in the Rural Area, ~~((and))~~ Natural Resource Lands, and the urban
23 unincorporated area.

24
25 ~~((Population growth and associated development continue to transform the county’s landscape as forested and
26 open lands have been converted to urban uses resulting in the fragmentation of wildlife corridors and riparian
27 habitat, as well as the depletion of working resource lands and open vistas.))~~ The policies in this section provide
28 guidance for the open space system of lands the ~~((e))~~ County owns and manages to protect and restore the health
29 of natural systems, provide recreational opportunities, shape community character, and help sustain agriculture
30 and forestry economics. Additional benefits ~~((of the open space and regional trails systems))~~ beyond recreation
31 include providing transportation alternatives as well as health benefits from physical activity and access to the
32 outdoors for those who have mobility disabilities. Large forested parks and natural areas help maintain air
33 quality, water quality and quantity, and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Parks and green spaces also
34 provide stress relief, rest and relaxation and contribute to improved mental health and well-being. The policies
35 also reinforce the ~~((e))~~ County’s focus on linking components of the open space system with an emphasis on
36 completing the regional trails system, connecting riparian habitat, and reducing forestland fragmentation.

37
38 Regional recreation and multiuse parks serve a countywide population and provide high-quality, developed
39 facilities that support multiple events, large group gatherings, and special events. Passive parks serve less formal,
40 organized or intense activities. Local ~~((rural))~~ park sites provide for active and passive recreation close to home.
41 The Regional Trails ~~((System))~~ network forms the foundation for King County and other agencies’ shared use
42 path networks that reach broadly throughout the county linking cities, other counties, and the state, and offering
43 extensive recreation opportunities. In addition to service recreational users, ~~((F))~~ the Regional Trails ~~((System is
44 also an essential part of King County’s multimodal transportation system, providing))~~ network also provides
45 interconnected ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation options. Local trails provide circulation within
46 local communities and access to the larger ~~((R))~~ Regional ~~((T))~~ Trails ~~((system))~~ network.

48 Natural areas and working forest sites can provide opportunities for informal, low intensity and low impact
49 activities which enable the understanding, appreciation and significance of natural resources. Passive recreation
50 use of these sites requires little infrastructure, although amenities such as backcountry trails and trailhead
51 facilities may be needed to accommodate appropriate types and levels of public use. Natural areas often contain
52 undeveloped or un-developable acreage that is managed primarily to support habitat to provide ecological
53 benefits and contribute to biodiversity. Forested areas provide carbon sequestration and reduction in greenhouse
54 gas emissions, and play a role in adaptation to climate change.

55
56 For the purposes of the King County open space system, “regional” means sites and facilities that are large in
57 size and serve communities from long distances and multiple jurisdictions. “Local” means sites and facilities
58 that serve unincorporated communities and are smaller sites servicing close-to-home park and recreation needs.

59
60 ~~((P-101) For the purposes of the King County open space system: “regional” shall define~~
61 ~~sites and facilities that are large in size, have unique features or characteristics~~
62 ~~or significant ecological value, and serve communities from many jurisdictions;~~
63 ~~and “local” shall define sites and facilities that serve unincorporated~~
64 ~~communities predominately in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.))~~

65
66 **A. ~~((The Regional)) King County's Open Space System of Parks, Trails,~~**
67 **Natural Areas and Working Resource Lands**

68 The policies in this chapter provide the basis to develop a contiguous and functional open space system,
69 connecting and including recreation and multiuse parks, natural areas, working resource lands and regional
70 trails. The components of this vital system contribute to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of county
71 residents. ~~((Other publicly owned lands such as Farmland Preservation Program and Flood Hazard~~
72 ~~Management properties also contribute to the system and its environmental benefits.)) The Open Space System
73 Map shows these publicly-owned open space lands and provides the basis for identifying the linkages necessary
74 to strengthen the physical and functional connectivity of the ((e))County’s open space system. The following
75 policies reinforce the importance of the ((e))County’s open space system, and guide planning and management of
76 appropriate recreational opportunities that best meet regional and local ~~((rural))~~ unincorporated needs, preserve
77 ecologically significant resources and protect working resource lands.~~

78
79 **P-102 King County shall be a regional ~~((leader in the provision of a regional))~~ provider**
80 **of an open space system consisting of regional and local parks, regional and**
81 **backcountry trails, natural areas, working resource lands, and flood hazard**
82 **management lands. The regional network of open space((s)) should provide((s))**
83 **benefits to all county residents equitably including: recreation facilities,**
84 **conservation of natural and working resource lands, improving air and water**
85 **quality, ~~((flood hazard management))~~ and related programs and services, thereby**

86 contributing to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of county
87 residents.

88
89 **P-103** King County ~~((will))~~ shall preserve wildlife corridors, riparian habitat, contiguous
90 forest land, as well as open space areas separating ~~((U))~~(A) areas from the
91 Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands as part of its open space system.
92

93 **B. Components of ~~((the Regional))~~ King County's Open Space System**

94 King County's regional open space system contains lands with many functions including: active and passive
95 recreation; special purpose sites such as pools and trails; natural areas, with educational, scientific, wildlife
96 habitat, cultural or scenic values; working resource lands including agriculture and forest~~((-))~~lands; and
97 community-defining systems, including physical and or visual buffers between areas of urban and rural
98 development. Many sites within the open space system serve more than one function, but each site generally
99 serves a primary role within the system.
100

101 **1. Recreation Sites**

102 **Regional Parks**

103 King County's regional ~~((recreation))~~ parks and facilities accommodate a wide range of ~~((active and passive))~~
104 recreational activities. Recreation sites that make up a functional system include: highly developed sites with
105 organized, scheduled activities such as soccer and softball; ~~((passive or low impact recreation sites that include~~
106 ~~((both physical activities and less intense activities such as))~~ informal play, trail use, and picnicking; and multiuse
107 sites that include a ~~((combination of active recreation and passive))~~ spectrum of recreation ~~((with less intensely~~
108 ~~developed facilities and natural areas))~~ opportunities. ~~((Regional recreation parks serve a broad spectrum of~~
109 ~~users. These parks and their facilities include those not generally viable for serving individual communities alone~~
110 ~~due to site or specialized facility requirements or the unique nature of the offering requiring a broader user base~~
111 ~~to support them.))~~ Regional parks include recreational facilities that rely on a broad user base, require a large
112 area, include a specialized facility, or offer a unique experience.
113

114 **P-104** King County shall provide regional parks and recreational facilities that serve
115 users from multiple neighborhoods and communities. Regional parks include
116 unique sites and facilities that should be equitably and geographically
117 distributed.
118

119 Educational and interpretive programming promotes appropriate and enjoyable use of the park system, increases
120 public awareness of the park system's resources and values, and builds support and stewardship for the system
121 and its resources. Programming and special events provide activities and entertainment that attract people to the
122 parks.
123

124 P-105 King County should facilitate affordable and culturally((-)_accessible
125 educational, interpretive, and aquatic programs on ((e))County-owned properties
126 that further the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the natural,
127 cultural, and recreational resources of the park system and the region.
128

129 P-106 King County should facilitate and seek regional and national programs and
130 special events at regional sites and facilities.
131

132 **2. Local Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces**

133 In the Rural Area, the large geographic area and dispersed populations, individual lots, low residential density
134 and economies of site management dictate fewer and smaller individual park sites than in urban areas. Nearby
135 regional parks and other open spaces also provide recreational opportunities in the Rural Area and Natural
136 Resource Lands. King County’s role in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands (~~will~~) reflects rural levels
137 of service. King County also provides local parks in unincorporated urban areas and the County's role in these
138 parks reflect urban levels of service. These vital local parks, local trails, and recreational facilities contribute to
139 the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of county residents.
140

141 P-107 King County shall provide local parks, trails and other open spaces in ~~((the Rural Area))~~ unincorporated areas. Local parks, trails and other open spaces that
142 complement the regional system should be provided in each community ~~((in Rural Areas))~~ to meet local recreation and open space needs and enhance
143 environmental quality and ~~((visual quality))~~ view corridors.
144
145
146

147 P-108 King County should provide local parks within ~~((rural))~~ unincorporated
148 communities with fields and other facilities that provide opportunities for active
149 sports. These facilities shall be in addition to and compatible with King County’s
150 regional parks.
151

152 P-108a King County shall consider equity in the development and acquisition of its open
153 space system to help reduce health disparities and promote environmental
154 justice.
155

156 **3. Regional Trails ((System)) Network**

157 The Regional Trails ~~((System))~~ network is a major element of the county’s greater open space system that
158 provides opportunities for recreation and ~~((nonmotorized transportation))~~ active transportation, as well as
159 corridors often used by wildlife. This system contributes to the health and well-being of ~~((both county residents))~~
160 trail users and the environment. King County is home to one of the largest ~~((nonmotorized))~~ regional trail
161 networks in the North America. King County and local jurisdictions collectively offer ~~((approximately))~~ over
162 300 miles of shared-use (multi-purpose) paved and unpaved paths connecting communities and linking Puget

**((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)) TBD**

163 Sound urban areas with Rural Areas, Natural Resource Lands and the Cascade Mountains. ~~((These facilities are
164 classified as shared use paths by the Federal Highway Administration and are a component of the federally-
165 designated regional transportation plan administered by the Puget Sound Regional Council. The))~~ King County
166 government stewards some 175 miles of the overall network. The remaining portions of the network are
167 managed by local cities, the Port of Seattle, and Washington State.

168
169 Regional trails are ~~((non-motorized facilities))~~ used for bicycling, walking, jogging, skating, horseback riding
170 where appropriate, and other activities. The paths provide both recreational opportunities and mobility options,
171 connecting users in neighborhoods and communities with schools, parks, employment, and other important
172 destinations. Regional trails may be paved or soft-surface (gravel) or a combination of both. The network
173 reaches more than 30 cities throughout King County, and use is extensive. It has been estimated that ~~((12
174 million bicycle and pedestrian))~~ millions of trips are made on the network in King County annually. These paths
175 serve a wide range of land uses, both urban and rural. They link urban centers, business districts,
176 neighborhoods, universities, schools, parks, and transportation centers. They run through cities, along
177 waterfronts and scenic shorelines, through river valleys and farmlands, and into the Cascade forests.

178
179 While intended originally as recreational amenities and linear parks, the regional trails in King County have
180 evolved to provide not only extensive recreation, but also important active transportation opportunities, and
181 social and cultural venues. Today, thousands of daily trips are made on paths such as the Burke-Gilman Trail
182 between suburban cities and Seattle.

183
184 Recreation remains the primary use, but ~~((an increasing number of those))~~ some trips are made for work and
185 school, combining the healthy recreational benefits of cycling and walking with the workday commute. The
186 trails are also used for a variety of special activities that enrich life in the central Puget Sound region, from
187 art-related treks to community fundraisers to long-distance cycling events.

188
189 Regional trails in King County now include ~~((not only))~~ decades-old popular routes like the Burke-Gilman
190 Trail ~~((, but also))~~ and trails networking many landscapes and destinations. Routes follow abandoned railroad
191 lines, water pipeline and power line corridors, river levees, and other special features or they may establish their
192 own alignments as they seek out practical courses between destinations. More interconnections provide more
193 travel opportunities. Paths access parks and scenic landscapes, but they also now serve urban centers, major
194 transit facilities, and other important everyday destinations. Future facilities will continue to provide the joint
195 benefits of recreation and regional mobility. More information regarding King County’s Regional Trails
196 ~~((System))~~ network including the proposed future regional trails plan, the Regional Trails Needs Report, can be
197 found in ~~((the Appendices))~~ Appendix C2.

198
199 **P-109 King County shall complete and maintain a regional trails ((system)) network,**
200 **((linking trail corridors to form a countywide network)) to provide recreational**
201 **opportunities and to allow for transportation and wildlife corridor uses to**

202 contribute to the health and wellbeing of both trail users and the environment.
203 King County ((will)) shall continue to primarily own the land necessary for the
204 operation and management of the trail ((system)) network and pursue
205 public-private funding opportunities for development and maintenance, while
206 ensuring opportunities for access for all King County residents.
207

208 Policies related to the planning, development, and management of the Regional Trails ((System)) network can be
209 found in the King County ((Parks)) Open Space Plan; Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas, a functional plan of the
210 King County Comprehensive Plan. Additional policies can also be found in Chapter 8, Transportation.
211

212 **((Eastside Rail Corridor)) Eastrail**

213 ~~((The Eastside Rail Corridor)) Eastrail~~ provides a ~~((rare and))~~ unique opportunity to develop a major north-
214 south, dual use ~~((recreational trail and public transportation))~~ corridor in support of active transportation and
215 transit mobility ~~((through transit, nonmotorized and active transportation, including access to transit outside the~~
216 ~~corridor))~~, consistent with its federal railbanked status. The owners share ~~((other))~~ multiple objectives for the
217 corridor including accommodating utilities, parks, recreation, and cultural amenities, and encouraging equitable
218 access to these facilities, and to housing and jobs, in support of economic opportunity for all King County
219 residents. ~~((The corridor will be the focus of regional trail planning and development by King County Parks))~~
220 King County is actively developing the regional trail component of Eastrail, connecting regional growth centers,
221 urban communities, other regional trails, and both local and high-capacity transit. The trail will connect to
222 existing major regional trail corridors including the Mountains to Sound/I-90 Trail, State Route 520 Trail,
223 Sammamish River Trail, Lake to Sound Trail, and others. ~~((The trail will provide opportunities for safe~~
224 ~~recreation and mobility as a component of King County's Regional Trails System and provide opportunities for~~
225 ~~environmental benefits to the region.))~~ The trail will help enhance the quality of life of the region's residents by
226 providing important recreation and mobility options for adjacent land uses.
227

228 **((P-110a)) P-110** ~~((The Eastside Rail Corridor regional trail shall be developed))~~ King County shall
229 develop Eastrail in coordination with the other trail owners, other jurisdictions,
230 local and state agencies, utilities with property interests, and nonprofit and
231 private partners to enhance regional recreation and mobility and connectivity
232 between regional growth centers, urban communities, other regional trails, and
233 local and high-capacity transit, consistent with a commitment to dual use
234 (recreational trail and public transportation), and consistent with federal
235 railbanking. ((The trail will enhance the quality of life by providing important
236 recreation and mobility options for adjacent land uses.)) The trail corridor shall
237 include high-quality landscaping and environmental features, where appropriate,
238 to enhance the trail experience and to provide ecological benefits to the region.
239

240 **((P-110))** ~~King County shall include the planning and development of a regional trail in the~~
241 ~~Eastside Rail Corridor, to enhance regional recreation and mobility. This facility~~

242 ~~will be planned and developed in coordination with other owners of BNSF's~~
243 ~~former interests, and in close coordination with King County Department of~~
244 ~~Transportation and other state and local agencies, in support of the commitment~~
245 ~~to dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), consistent with federal~~
246 ~~railbanking, and multiple objectives of King County and the other owners. ((The~~
247 ~~trail will be identified in King County's regional trails plan, the Regional Trails~~
248 ~~Needs Report, as a priority capital facility.~~

249
250 ~~P-110b The Eastside Rail Corridor regional trail shall be developed to the most current~~
251 ~~regional trail standards, ensuring safe recreation and mobility in accessing trails,~~
252 ~~streets, and transit consistent with a commitment to dual use (recreational trail~~
253 ~~and public transportation), and consistent with federal railbanking. The trail~~
254 ~~corridor will include high quality landscaping and environmental features where~~
255 ~~appropriate to enhance the trail experience and to provide ecologic benefits to~~
256 ~~the region.~~

258 **4.) Multi-Use Sites**

259 Each portion of a multi-use site will be developed and managed to support the level of use or conservation
260 appropriate to that portion of the site.

261
262 **P-110c** Multi-use sites should include lands that have areas of environmental value, but
263 also may accommodate extensive public access and active and/or passive
264 recreation opportunities.

266 **5. Natural Areas**

267 The King County open space system includes many sites owned by King County whose primary purpose is to
268 conserve and restore ecological value. These sites may allow varying types of public use that do not harm the
269 ecological resources of the site. These sites include many scenic and environmental features of King County's
270 landscape, which play a role in protecting a diversity of vegetation and fish and wildlife important to the beauty
271 and character of the region. King County ~~((will))~~ focuses on linking natural areas to create regional open space
272 corridors of greenways and waterways along the major natural systems, such as rivers and shorelines.

273
274 Preserving these areas in partnership with other agencies, Indian tribes, private groups and individuals will
275 provide multiple values including environmental and economic benefits of air and water quality, surface water
276 management, aquifer recharge, ~~((and))~~ fish and wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement, and preservation
277 of Indian tribal cultural and historic resources.

278

279 P-111 ~~((King County will manage its))~~ Management of natural areas owned by King
280 County shall ((to)) protect, preserve, and enhance important natural resource
281 habitat, biological diversity, and the ecological integrity of natural systems.
282

283 P-112 ~~((King County shall recognize and protect t))~~ The natural character and ecological
284 value of its natural areas owned by King County shall be protected. These areas
285 are important for preserving fish and wildlife and their habitat, native vegetation,
286 ~~((and))~~ features of scientific and educational value, and Indian tribal cultural and
287 historic resources. Development and public use may be limited to preserve the
288 natural state and reduce disturbance of the natural and cultural resources. Site
289 improvements should be focused on providing educational and interpretive
290 opportunities. Public access should be directed to the less fragile portions of a
291 site to ensure continued protection of the ecological resources.
292

293 **6. Working Resource Lands**

294 The ((e))County’s open space system includes lands owned by King County that are managed as working farms
295 and forests. The ((e))County has purchased these properties ~~((in fee or less than fee ownership))~~ with the
296 intention of conserving the resource use on the site. County ownership and management of these lands
297 conserves the resource land base, allowing the resource activity to continue, while contributing to the local
298 ~~((rural))~~ economy, providing healthy foods, reducing carbon emissions associated with importing food into the
299 region, providing education about agriculture and forestry, and providing passive recreational opportunities on
300 some properties. The ((e))County’s policies to conserve farmland and encourage agriculture are discussed in
301 Chapter 3, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands.

302 **Farmland**

303
304 ~~((The Farmland Preservation Program is a county program that preserves farmland through the purchase of~~
305 ~~development rights. The farms in the Farmland Preservation Program generally remain in private ownership.~~
306 ~~The county has purchased a farm outright in a few cases, with the intention of reselling the land without the~~
307 ~~development rights to a private farmer.)) The County occasionally acquires farmland, either to address farmland
308 access issues or as part of an acquisition for other purposes, such as habitat protection, food risk reduction, or
309 recreational access. Although the County usually intends to resell farmland to a private farmer while retaining a
310 Farmland Preservation Program easement, some farmland has strategic importance to advancing County
311 initiatives and priorities and will be retained in County ownership long-term. The ((e))County has developed a
312 program to lease farms ~~((to small-scale farmers))~~ until such time that the property ~~((can be))~~ is resold.~~

313
314 P-113 **Farmland owned by King County shall:**
315 **a. _____ ((e))Contribute to the preservation of contiguous tracts of agricultural**
316 **land; and**

317 **b. _____ ((make affordable farmland available for use by small-scale and new**
318 **farmers)) Provide access to farmland for beginning, low-income,**
319 **historically underserved, and socially disadvantaged farmers.**

320
321 **P-114** **Farmers leasing properties owned by King County shall use ((A))agricultural**
322 **((B))best ((M))management practices, ((I))integrated ((P))pest ((M))management,**
323 **and other sustainable farming methods.**

324
325 **P-115** **The use and management of farmlands owned by King County shall be**
326 **consistent with any requirements imposed by the funding program used to**
327 **purchase each property and shall serve to meet and enhance the objectives of**
328 **the King County Agriculture Program.**

329
330 **Forestland**

331 One goal of the King County Open Space System is the conservation of forestland, through acquisition of land or
332 conservation easements, to decrease threat of conversion resulting from development and fragmentation, as well
333 as promote the understanding of the importance of forest management, including restoration of the forests to
334 more natural conditions. The working forests owned by King County are generally very large parcels of land
335 (several hundred acres or more) that support sustainable forest management practices and contribute to the
336 retention of a contiguous forest.

337
338 These properties contain valuable fish and wildlife habitat, provide environmental services (such as stormwater
339 management, clean air and water and carbon sequestration), and help mitigate the impacts of climate change, as
340 well as provide high-quality passive recreation, scenic vistas, and educational~~((/))~~ and interpretation
341 opportunities.

342
343 **P-116** **Working forest land and conservation easements owned by King County shall**
344 **provide large tracts of forested property in the Rural Forest Focus Areas, the**
345 **Forest Production District, and Rural Area. ~~((that will))~~ These areas shall remain**
346 **in active forestry, protect areas from development, or provide a buffer between**
347 **commercial forestland and adjacent residential development, and may provide**
348 **ecological or recreational benefits.**

349
350 **P-117** **Management goals for working ((F))forest land owned by King County shall ((be**
351 **used to sustain and enhance environmental)) include enhancing ecological**
352 **benefits and functions, ((demonstrate progressive)) demonstrating best forest**
353 **management ((and research)) practices, ((and provide)) providing passive**
354 **recreation opportunities, and generating revenue ((for the)) facilitate sustainable**
355 **management of ((the working forest lands)) those sites.**

356

357 ~~((P-118) Forest land owned by King County shall provide a balance between sustainable~~
358 ~~timber production, conservation and restoration of resources, and appropriate~~
359 ~~public use.))~~
360

361 **7. Backcountry Trails**

362 Backcountry trails are not a separate open space category; rather they are facilities located within King County's
363 multi-use sites, forest lands and natural areas. These trails allow visitors to directly experience the county's
364 beautiful natural environment as found in its forests, meadows, and marine and fresh water shoreline. Unlike
365 multi-purpose regional trails that network urban and rural landscapes throughout the county, these soft-surface
366 trails are intended for ~~((passive))~~ outdoor recreation and appreciation and enjoyment of a natural experience with
367 forest and trees, streams and wetlands, shorelines and birds and wildlife. Where backcountry trails are
368 developed on lands containing fish ~~((and)),~~ wildlife, and cultural resources, development and management of
369 such trails is undertaken so as to minimize the impacts on those resources.

370
371 **P-118a King County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to provide and manage a backcountry trail**
372 **system on its lands in collaboration with other public and private landholders**
373 **and consistent with its Trail Programmatic Permit.**
374

375 **8. Other Open Spaces**

376 Preservation of open space in the county reaches beyond the ~~((e))~~ County owned system. Large areas of the
377 county are owned and managed by federal agencies, the state, and other local jurisdictions that manage the land
378 for environmental protection, resource production, or a wide range of recreational ~~((opportunities))~~ uses.
379 Additionally, open space benefits are often provided by private land~~((-))~~ owners managing their land in ways that
380 protect the environment, conserve natural resources, or provide scenic vistas. ~~((King County acquires property~~
381 ~~for other reasons, such as flood hazards or providing needed public facilities. These lands can also provide open~~
382 ~~space conservation benefits.))~~

383
384 **P-118b King County shall encourage and pursue partnerships and mutually beneficial**
385 **agreements with public agencies, Indian tribes, nonprofit and community**
386 **organizations, and the private sector to fund, program, manage, and steward**
387 **sites and facilities for public recreation and natural resource protection**
388 **consistent with the classification, role, and use of said sites and facilities.**
389

390 King County has acquired lands and manages facilities along major river and stream systems for the primary
391 purpose of floodplain management and flood hazard management. Major streams and rivers are vital
392 components of the ~~((e))~~ County's open space system, therefore the flood hazard management lands contribute
393 critical links in the ~~((e))~~ County's open space network. ~~((The King County Flood Control District will continue~~
394 ~~to maintain flood hazard management land and facilities within available funding levels.))~~ The ~~((e))~~ County will
395 also seek innovative measures for maintaining and improving flood hazard management, reducing maintenance

396 costs, integrating flood hazard management and recreational opportunities, and achieving wildlife habitat
397 protection and salmon recovery.

398

399 **C. ~~((Achieving)) Sustaining and Growing the Open Space System~~**

400 Parks and other ~~((e))~~County-owned open space lands ensure a quality of life today and a legacy to future
401 generations. In King County, many types of open spaces and fish and wildlife habitat remain in private
402 ownership and may be subject to future development. King County's Land Conservation Initiative guides the
403 collaborative strategy to accelerate the preservation of natural lands, working farms and forests, urban green
404 space, and trails in the next 30 years. To ensure that these lands and resources are protected and to offer an
405 alternative to acquisition, the ~~((e))~~County offers landowners a wide variety of tools to preserve their property.
406 ~~((Policies outlining strategies for using these tools can be found in Chapters 3, Rural Areas and Natural Resource~~
407 ~~Lands, 4, Housing and Human Services, and 7, Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources.))~~

408

409 Cooperation, coordination and partnerships with public agencies, private groups and individuals are necessary to
410 develop the regional parks and open space system, to meet existing needs for park and recreation facilities and to
411 accommodate the needs of growth. The Mountains-to-Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, along the I-90
412 corridor, is a successful model for coordination of efforts by public and private entities to protect the backbone of
413 the ~~((e))~~County's open space system. King County will achieve the multiple benefits of resource protection and
414 recreation by building partnerships and coordinating with providers and user groups of the parks and open space
415 system. Working together, stewardship can be fostered and these lands and facilities can be enhanced, restored
416 and operated more economically and efficiently to benefit all county residents.

417

418 **1. Priorities**

419 **P-119** Open space lands should be acquired to expand and enhance the open space
420 system as identified in the King County Open Space Plan: Parks, ~~((Regional))~~
421 Trails and Natural Areas.

422

423 **P-120** Regional trail corridors should be acquired when identified in King County's
424 Regional Trails Needs Report or other trails plans.

425

426 **P-121** King County shall consider equity in the location, development, and acquisition
427 of its open space system to help in the reduction of health disparities and in the
428 promotion of racial, social, and environmental justice.

429

430 **2. Criteria**

431 P-122 Lands preserved for public parks, regional trails, or other open space should
432 provide multiple benefits whenever possible.

433
434 P-123 Decisions on acquisition and development of park, regional trail, and other open
435 space sites should consider funding needs for public engagement, initial
436 stewardship, site development, long((-)-)term maintenance, and operations.

437
438 P-124 A variety of measures should be used to acquire, protect, manage, and develop
439 regional and local parks, regional trails, and open space. Measures can include:
440 ((€))County funding and other funding mechanisms, grants, partnerships,
441 incentives, regulations, dedications, and contributions from residential and
442 commercial development based on their service impacts and trades of lands and
443 shared development activities.

444

445 **3. Managing the System**

446 As the caretaker of ((200)) 205 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, more than ((200)) 250 miles of backcountry
447 trails, ((28,000)) 32,000 acres of open space, and ((145,000)) 150,000 acres of conservation easements, King
448 County is one of the region's important providers and managers of public lands. As such, the principles and
449 policies that guide stewardship and management of these lands and resources are critical to ensure these assets
450 continue to contribute to the region's quality of life now and for future generations.

451

452 P-125 Management of the regional open space system of parks, regional trails, natural
453 areas and working resource lands ((is)) shall be guided by the King County Open
454 Space Plan: Parks, Trails and Natural Areas.

455

456 P-126 Development and management of parks, regional trails and open space sites
457 should be consistent with the purposes of their acquisition and in consideration
458 of their funding sources.

459

460 P-127 Open space lands shall be classified to identify their role in the open space
461 system and the purpose of the acquisition as recreation site, regional trail,
462 natural area ((park, multiuse site, or)), working ((resource land)) forestland, or
463 multi-use site.

464

465 ~~((P-128)) King County will adopt an entrepreneurial approach to managing and operating
466 the open space system and work aggressively to implement multiple and
467 appropriate strategies to fiscally sustain the open space system.))~~

468

469 P-128a King County should develop management plans (such as master plans, forest
470 stewardship plans or site management guidelines) that outline goals and
471 objectives and management recommendations for sites within the open space
472 system as appropriate.

473

474 P-128b King County's use of pesticides and fungicides ~~((will))~~ shall be based on
475 integrated pest management principles.

476

477 P-128c King County shall support activities at County parks that advance public health,
478 provide clean environments, and avoid exposure to harmful products, such as
479 tobacco and vaping products, ~~((in order))~~ to promote play, physical activity, and
480 family and community connection.

481

482 **4. Coordination and Partnerships**

483 P-129 Recognizing the value of open space in promoting social and economic health
484 and wellness across the county, King County shall be a leader in establishing
485 partnerships with cities, adjacent counties, Indian tribes, state and federal
486 agencies, school and special purpose districts, community organizations,
487 non((-))profit organizations, land((-))owners, and other residents. The ~~((e))~~ County
488 and these partners should work to:

489 a. Support and strengthen the linkages between rural, resource, and urban
490 communities' use and maintenance of these open spaces;

491 b. ~~((p))~~ Promote and protect all aspects of environmental quality, while
492 addressing equity and racial and social justice goals to complete the
493 regional parks and open space system through joint planning and
494 management of local and regional sites and facilities.

495

496 P-130 In the Urban Growth Area, King County shall work in partnership with other
497 jurisdictions to facilitate annexation and transfer of local parks ~~((, and local trails))~~
498 and other open space sites to cities or other providers to ensure continued
499 service to the community.

500

501 ~~((P-131))~~ ~~King County should work with cities to share operational and maintenance costs~~
502 ~~of parks and other open spaces in unincorporated areas in which a substantial~~
503 ~~portion of the users are from incorporated areas.))~~

504

505 P-132 King County ~~((will))~~ shall encourage and support volunteer efforts to maintain
506 and enhance programs, sites, and facilities.

507

508 **5. Public Participation**

509 P-133 King County ~~((will))~~ shall encourage and seek public input, advice and
510 participation ~~((from the public))~~ in decisions about ~~((management of))~~ the open
511 space system ~~((that relate to key issues such as funding, planning, acquisition,~~
512 ~~development and stewardship))~~ and to advance equitable access to parks and
513 trails.

514
515 P-134 King County ~~((will invite and involve a wide variety of interests via a diversity of~~
516 ~~individuals, groups and agencies))~~ shall engage the public using approaches
517 consistent with the County’s equity and racial and social justice goals and
518 policies. King County ~~((will intentionally engage communities that are the most~~
519 ~~affected by proposals and plans))~~ shall provide equitable access for historically
520 underrepresented and historically underserved populations in public
521 engagement and access to the open space system.

522
523 P-135 King County ~~((will))~~ shall use a variety of equitable engagement methods to
524 ensure public involvement from all county residents, such as public meetings,
525 advisory groups, surveys, web and social media postings, news releases, park
526 site signage, mailing lists, newsletters, and through various community groups
527 (including Community Service Areas). These methods ~~((will))~~ shall allow for
528 early, continuous, and broad public participation.

530 **II. Cultural Resources**

531 Cultural resources make a significant contribution to the quality of life in King County. Arts and heritage
532 organizations, public art ~~((and))~~, historic and archaeological properties, and Indian tribal celebrations and
533 traditional cultural events contribute to the region's economic vitality, play an essential role in cultural tourism,
534 and contribute significantly to the county’s overall quality of life. As King County grows, the need to protect,
535 support and enhance cultural opportunities and resources is essential ~~((in order))~~ to sustain livability. King
536 County plays an important role in supporting the region’s cultural life. 4Culture, a County-chartered Public
537 Development Authority serves as the county’s cultural services agency. 4Culture has operational responsibility
538 for advancing the work of the cultural community in King County by advocating for, supporting, promoting, and
539 enhancing:

- 540 • arts;
- 541 • heritage;
- 542 • preservation; and
- 543 • public art.

544

545 4Culture((s)) and the King County ((h))Historic ((p))Preservation ((p))Program work together to provide((s))
546 funding, advocacy, assistance, and support in preserving and conserving the county's historical and archeological
547 resources through projects and programs including: interpretation, community education and outreach, cultural
548 tourism, and rehabilitation of historical resources(~~((The King County Historic Preservation Program, housed in
549 the County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks, also plays an important role ensuring))~~) and to ensure
550 that historic properties throughout King County are protected and enhanced.

551

552 King County government can lead by example through stewardship and wise management of its own cultural
553 resources. Historic public buildings and facilities, such as bridges and roads, can be preserved and continue to be
554 used; other historic resources can be converted to public use. As set by policy ED-106, found in Chapter 10,
555 Economic Development, ((in order)) to enhance the region's quality of life and economic vitality, the ((e))County
556 will engage in programs and projects to protect cultural resources and promote expanded cultural opportunities
557 for the county's residents and visitors.

558

559 **P-201 King County shall be a steward of cultural resources under its control. It shall**
560 **identify and evaluate cultural resources, preserve public art works and**
561 **significant historic properties, and interpret and provide public access to them**
562 **whenever appropriate. County departments and divisions shall collaborate with**
563 **the Historic Preservation Program to nominate eligible properties for landmark**
564 **designation.**

565

566 **P-202 King County shall consider equity and racial, social, and environmental justice in**
567 **its promotion and protection of cultural resources.**

568

569 **P-203 King County shall encourage preserving, reusing and recycling historic buildings**
570 **in its facilities planning and other relevant actions. King County shall assist in**
571 **encouraging interested parties in pursuing preservation, restoration, and**
572 **repurposing projects, particularly in those doing repairs and/or upgrades**
573 **themselves.**

574

575 **A. Relationships**

576 County residents need arts and heritage opportunities. These include both attendance-driven programs and
577 projects, as well as more localized, community-orientated opportunities of hands-on participation and education.
578 The county's cultural system is comprised of regional and local arts and heritage organizations, individuals and
579 venues. It also involves relationships with both public and private entities to preserve the region's history, as well
580 as to enhance placement of art in public places. As such, cultural resource management crosses jurisdictional
581 boundaries and involves countless public and private entities and artists throughout the region. The range and
582 complexity of cultural activity in the region requires coordination and cooperation. King County, through its
583 creation of 4Culture, provides this regional coordination and leadership.

584

585 While 4Culture is not a ((e))County department, the ((e))County and 4Culture maintain a unique cooperative
586 relationship. Historically over 95((%)) percent of 4Culture's budget has been funded by King County resources
587 from either dedicated tax revenue or capital improvement project budgets. The council approves the executive's
588 nominations for membership on 4Culture's board. Three councilmembers serve on 4Culture's board. The
589 council annually receives briefings from 4Culture on its work program and to discuss plans for the coming year.
590 Therefore, it is through 4Culture that King County maintains its regional role with regard to cultural resource
591 management.

592

593 **P-204 King County shall support the retention and promotion of the region's cultural**
594 **legacy, promote cultural education, and encourage the preservation and**
595 **celebration of cultural diversity and creativity.**

596

597 **P-205 King County shall support and encourage development of regional cultural**
598 **organizations, facilities, and services that address a countywide audience or are**
599 **dedicated to unique and significant cultural themes or disciplines.**

600

601 **P-206 King County shall support and encourage community cultural organizations,**
602 **facilities, and services to provide opportunities for local access and participation**
603 **by all residents throughout the county.**

604

605 **P-207 King County shall encourage excellence and vitality in the arts by supporting**
606 **opportunities for attendance at and participation in diverse arts and cultural**
607 **activities throughout the county.**

608

609 **P-208 King County shall pursue its cultural resource goals by working with residents,**
610 **property owners, cultural organizations, public agencies, Indian tribes, schools**
611 **and school districts, and others.**

612

613 **P-209 King County shall provide leadership in pursuing its cultural resource goals by**
614 **actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and ongoing use of**
615 **((e))County-owned and other cultural resources, and by promoting**
616 **intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships for the preservation and use of**
617 **cultural resources.**

618

619 **P-210 King County shall partner with cities to protect and enhance historic resources**
620 **and public art located within city boundaries and Potential ((a))Annexation**
621 **((a))Areas.**

622

623 **B. Arts, Heritage, and Public Art**

624 The region’s artistic environment parallels its natural features in variety and richness. Its arts organizations,
625 artists and opportunities are widely known and valued for their diversity and excellence in music, theater, dance,
626 literary activity, and visual arts. Museums, historical societies, heritage groups, historians, archivists, folklorists,
627 and other heritage specialists enrich community life and provide rich cultural experiences for county residents
628 and visitors. Without preservation and stewardship of local history by these groups, the county’s rich history
629 would be lost.

630

631 **P-211 King County shall support, preserve and enhance its heritage by encouraging**
632 **opportunities for public attendance and participation in diverse heritage activities**
633 **throughout the county.**

634

635 **P-212 The King County executive and the King County council shall regularly seek**
636 **advice from 4Culture on programs, policies and regulations that support, enrich,**
637 **and increase access to the arts, public art, and King County’s heritage.**

638

639 Public art means art for shared public space in King County, including King County buildings and infrastructure.
640 King County's public art collection includes portable, permanently sited and architecturally integrated artworks
641 that help define ((e))County buildings as cultural spaces. Public art also includes art installed or incorporated in
642 places developed by others, but accessible to the public. Public art enhances community character and diversity,
643 sparks imagination, and provides a direct cultural experience for county residents and visitors every day. For
644 new or changing communities, public art is a powerful contributor to local character, sense of place and
645 belonging. Public art can also help mitigate the adverse effects of new development.

646

647 **P-213 King County shall incorporate public art in its construction and mitigation**
648 **projects, as well as its undertakings involving public-private partnerships, and**
649 **development authorities that include public funds or resources or have publicly**
650 **accessible components.**

651

652 **P-214 Maintenance and conservation shall be a consideration in the development and**
653 **management of public art.**

654

655 **C. Historic Preservation**

656 Preservation of historic properties provides multiple benefits. Historic properties maintain a tangible connection
657 with the past and contribute to community understanding, character, and diversity. Preservation saves energy,
658 conserves existing housing and commercial buildings, and retains historically significant open space. Historic
659 properties also play a major role in attracting tourists. The mission of the King County Historic Preservation
660 Program, housed in the County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks, is to conserve existing historic
661 housing, commercial buildings and other significant properties and foster heritage tourism throughout county. It

662 provides technical and other assistance to cities lacking preservation programs. It also supports the work of the
663 King County Landmarks Commission.

664

665 **P-215 The King County executive and the King County council shall regularly seek**
666 **advice from the Landmarks Commission on programs, policies and regulations**
667 **that support and enhance preservation and protection of significant historic**
668 **properties.**

669

670 Many municipalities do not have sufficient resources to administer an historic preservation program. As a result,
671 the history of the region is endangered. Comprehensive and coordinated protection of significant historic
672 properties is necessary ~~((in order))~~ to ensure that King County’s history is preserved.

673

674 **P-216 King County shall administer a historic preservation program to identify, protect**
675 **and enhance historic properties throughout the region.**

676

677 Historic preservation is an ongoing process that requires identification, evaluation, designation and protection of
678 significant properties, and attention to long-term enhancement and interpretation. Historic properties are often
679 destroyed through neglect. Regular maintenance and other management practices that protect historic properties
680 are critical to long-term preservation. King County government can lead by example through stewardship and
681 wise management of its own historic properties.

682

683 **P-217 King County shall acquire and preserve historic properties for use by ((e))County**
684 **and other public agencies and shall give priority to occupying historic buildings**
685 **whenever feasible.**

686

687 Review of development proposals and other actions affecting historic properties resources is necessary ~~((in~~
688 ~~order))~~ to eliminate or minimize adverse effects of development or changing land use. Archaeological sites are
689 particularly sensitive and endangered because they are not visible and may be unexpectedly encountered. King
690 County government can also protect historic properties through careful planning and review of its own
691 undertakings, both directly and in partnerships with private parties and other agencies.

692

693 **P-218 King County shall establish comprehensive review and protection procedures for**
694 **historic properties affected by public and private projects.**

695

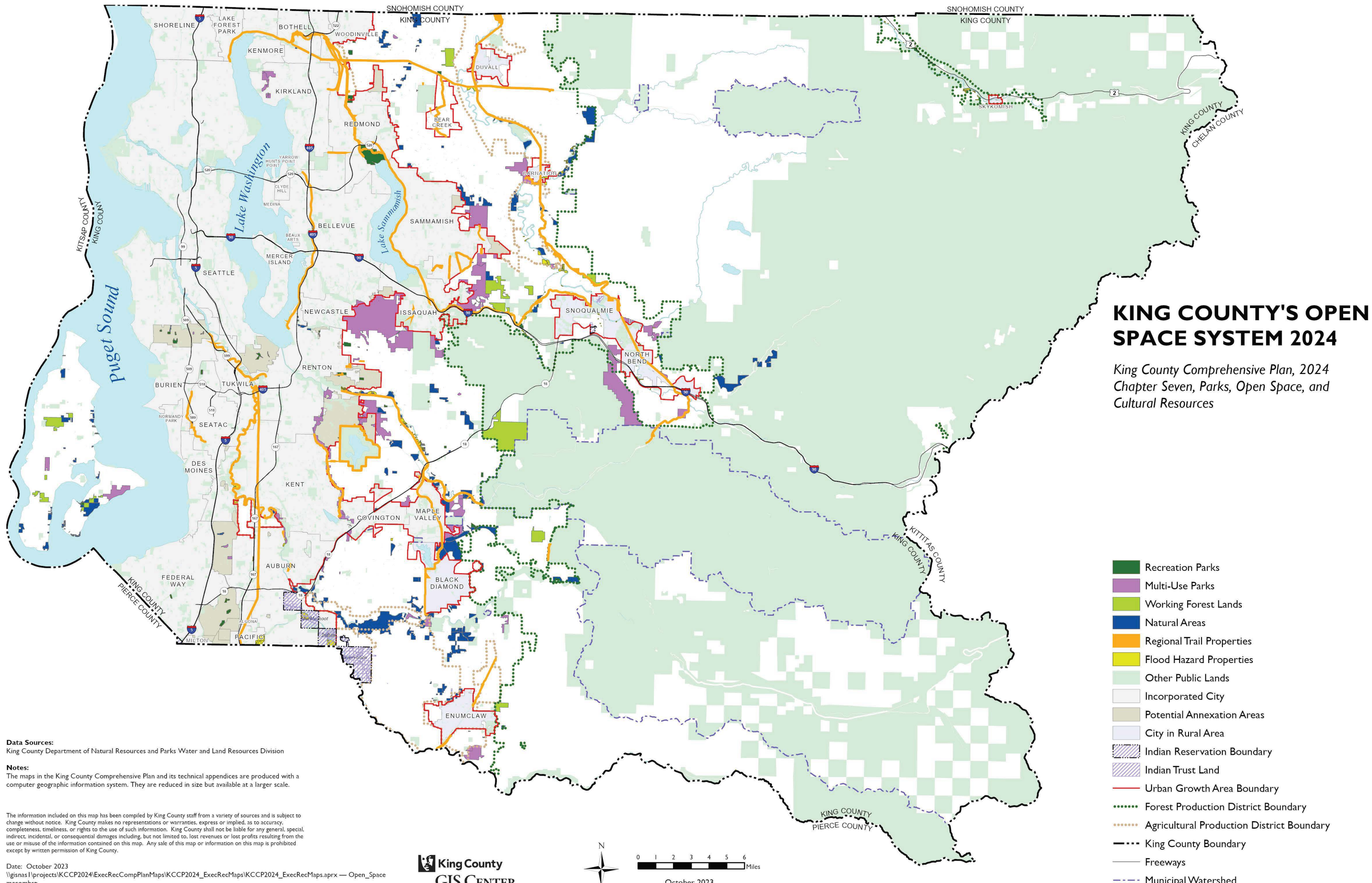
696 **P-219 King County may condition public and private projects ((in order)) to protect**
697 **historic properties. King County agencies shall coordinate with the Historic**
698 **Preservation Program to provide consistent review and mitigation for their**
699 **projects and undertakings throughout the county.**

700

701 **P-220** King County shall encourage land uses and development that retain and enhance
702 significant historic properties and sustain historic community character. County
703 building and zoning codes and other regulations and standards should provide
704 flexibility to accommodate preservation and reuse of historic properties. Zoning
705 actions should take into account the effects of zoning on historic properties.
706

707 **P-221** King County shall maintain an inventory of historic properties ~~((in order))~~ to
708 guide its historic preservation decision making.
709

710 Preservation requires active support by governments and cooperation with property owners. Incentives such as
711 tax reduction, revolving loans, transfer of development rights, expedited permitting, reduced permit fees, zoning
712 flexibility, technical assistance, and other measures can be used to encourage preservation. As set by policy
713 ED-208, found in Chapter 10, Economic Development, the ~~((e))~~County ~~((shall))~~ assist businesses, property
714 owners, and other jurisdictions in preserving and enhancing historic properties, including historic business
715 districts, through a variety of incentives and economic development measures.
716



KING COUNTY'S OPEN SPACE SYSTEM 2024

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024
Chapter Seven, Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Resources

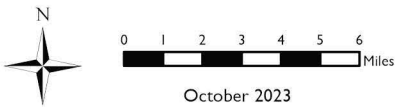
- Recreation Parks
- Multi-Use Parks
- Working Forest Lands
- Natural Areas
- Regional Trail Properties
- Flood Hazard Properties
- Other Public Lands
- Incorporated City
- Potential Annexation Areas
- City in Rural Area
- Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- Forest Production District Boundary
- Agricultural Production District Boundary
- King County Boundary
- Freeways
- Municipal Watershed

Data Sources:
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources 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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Date: October 2023
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CHAPTER 8 TRANSPORTATION

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))~~, economic vitality, health and safety, racial and social equity, and climate change. Transportation provides access to jobs, education, services, recreation, and other destinations and opportunities throughout King County. King County plays a central role in the regional transportation sector, supporting a variety of ~~((motorized, nonmotorized))~~ ground, 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,~~

~~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.-) The County manages the network of county roads, bridges, and related infrastructure that services the unincorporated area, and provides road-related services to over~~

((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)) TBD

~~including within cities, and also performs many of Sound Transit's services under contract.~~

two dozen cities and other agencies through contractual agreements.

The County also provides transit services and facilities throughout King County, including fixed-route transit, flexible on-demand services, vanpool, Access paratransit, and passenger-only ferries. The County operates City of Seattle streetcar services and many Sound Transit services through contracts with the respective agencies.

The King County International Airport/Boeing Field is owned, operated, and maintained by the County.

7

8

~~((I.))~~ **Creating an Integrated, Sustainable, and Safe Transportation System that Enhances Quality of Life**

~~((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; 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 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))~~ 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, discussed later in the chapter. 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 King County 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))~~ County 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:

- 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;

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- 45 • Coordinate and develop multimodal services and facilities for an integrated and seamless regional and
46 local transportation system;
- 47 • Deliver transportation services that support density and growth in the urban area, and meet the
48 transportation needs of the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands without creating additional
49 growth pressure;
- 50 • Maintain and preserve infrastructure that facilitates the efficient movement of freight and goods to
51 support economic vitality and regional trade;
- 52 • ~~((Maintain safe and secure county owned infrastructure, including roads, bridges, trails, buses and
53 passenger ferries, transit and ferry facilities, and airport facilities;))~~
- 54 • Provide transportation choices and support travel modes that use less energy, produce fewer pollutants,
55 and reduce greenhouse gases in the region;
- 56 • Identify and adapt to the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure and services;
- 57 • Provide opportunities for people to make active transportation choices by increasing the convenience,
58 accessibility, safety, and comfort of taking transit, walking and bicycling;
- 59 • ~~((Address the transportation needs of people of color, low income communities, immigrant and refugee
60 populations, people with limited English proficiency;))~~ Support safe and equitable access to mobility
61 options through transportation investments where needs are greatest, including for populations who are
62 Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; immigrants; refugees; and other intersectional
63 populations, including those who earn less than 80 percent of the area median income and those that
64 have no income, people with disabilities, seniors, people with special transportation needs, LGBTQIA+
65 people, women, and others who may have limited transportation options;
- 66 • Address homelessness and other significant issues using a holistic, countywide approach, through
67 actions such as supporting equitable and affordable transit-oriented development, making transit more
68 accessible through actions like an income-based approach to fare discounts, and by connecting people to
69 the services and opportunities they need;
- 70 • ~~((Identify and adapt to the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure and services;))~~
- 71 • Integrate transportation and land use planning to increase transit use; support sustainable community
72 development, including equitable and affordable transit-oriented development; and provide mobility
73 services that are responsive to community characteristics;
- 74 • Incorporate sustainable development practices into the design, construction, and operation of
75 infrastructure and facilities;
- 76 • Establish and implement clear transportation service priorities and guidelines – with a focus on equity
77 and racial and social justice – and use transportation resources wisely and efficiently;
- 78 • Develop sustainable, equitable funding sources to support the level of services needed by communities;

79 and

- 80 • Monitor and measure system performance and use this feedback to continuously improve
81 transportation products and services.

82

83 The current and projected economic climate, however, places severe constraints on the County’s ability to meet
84 these important goals. The strategic plans for the Road Services Division, Metro Transit Department (Metro),
85 and the Marine Division identify priorities, analyze available funding and constraints, and set targets to help
86 reach these goals.

87

88 ~~((B.))~~ **Components of the Transportation Element**

89 The following documents address the Growth Management Act requirements for the transportation element:

- 90 a. This Transportation chapter, which includes the narrative and policy language;
- 91 b. Technical Appendix C, Transportation ~~((of this Comprehensive Plan))~~, which contains the Travel
92 Forecast Summary, ~~((the))~~ Arterial Functional Classification Map, ~~((a t))~~ Transportation ~~((i))~~ Inventory;
93 and Transportation Needs Report ~~((that))~~, which contains a multi~~((-))~~year financial forecast and a
94 multi~~((-))~~year list of road facility needs;
- 95 c. The ~~((#))~~ Roads Capital Improvement Program;
- 96 d. The King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, ~~((the Long Range Plan for Public
97 Transportation))~~ Metro Connects, and the Transit Capital Improvement Program; and
- 98 e. Concurrency regulation, which implements the concurrency requirements and is codified ~~((at))~~ in King
99 County Code Title 14.

100

101 ~~((C.))~~ **Consistency with Plans**

102 The framework and direction for the development of ~~((C))~~ comprehensive ~~((P))~~ plans are provided by the Growth
103 Management Act. The transportation element of the King County Comprehensive Plan is consistent with and
104 meets the requirements of regional and countywide plans and policies that respond to the Growth Management
105 Act. The Countywide Planning Policies have been used to guide the development of the transportation element
106 and to ensure consistency with plans and programs developed by adjacent jurisdictions.

107

108 Regional direction for the transportation element is set by ~~((Transportation 2040))~~ the Regional Transportation
109 Plan 2022-2050, developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council. ~~((Transportation 2040))~~ The Regional
110 Transportation Plan is consistent with the region’s urban growth strategy, VISION ~~((2040))~~, also developed by
111 the Puget Sound Regional Council.

112

113 King County identifies improvements and strategies needed to carry out the land use vision and meet the Level
114 of Service requirements for transportation. Road improvements are guided by the Strategic Plan for Road
115 Services, ~~((prioritized))~~ identified in the Transportation Needs Report, and funded in the Roads Capital
116 Improvement Program. Public transportation investments are guided by the Strategic Plan for Public
117 Transportation 2021-2031, Metro Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects, and are identified in the Transit
118 Capital Improvement Program~~((, and the King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan, 2014–2018, or~~
119 ~~successor plans)).~~ Operation and management of the King County International Airport/Boeing Field is guided
120 by the King County International Airport Strategic Plan.
121

122 ~~((D.))~~ **Transportation System, Services, and County Responsibilities**

123 The region's transportation system is comprised of the following elements:

- 124 a. Highways, arterial streets, and local/neighborhood streets;
- 125 b. Bridges;
- 126 c. Local and express bus transit and paratransit services and facilities, including Americans with
127 Disabilities Act service programs;
- 128 d. High-capacity transit;
- 129 e. High-occupancy-vehicle lanes and ridesharing facilities;
- 130 f. Facilities and programs for pedestrians, bicycle riders, and equestrians, including sidewalks,
131 shoulders, bicycle racks on transit, and regional trails;
- 132 g. Facilities to accommodate freight and goods movement, including railroads, intermodal yards, and
133 distribution centers;
- 134 h. Marine transportation services, ferries and ferry facilities, and navigable waterways;
- 135 i. Airports;
- 136 j. Transportation Demand Management programs, systems, facilities, and technologies; and
- 137 k. Facilities to maintain the transportation system elements.

138

139 The specific responsibilities of King County government are described below.

140

141 ~~((1.))~~ **Public Transportation**

142 Public transportation is vitally important to the Puget Sound region. ~~((It provides))~~ Public transportation
143 enhances regional economic vitality by providing connections to jobs, schools, and other destinations, and
144 enables those with limited mobility options to travel. ~~((Public transportation enhances regional economic vitality~~
145 ~~by freeing up roadway capacity and improving the mobility of people, goods, and services.))~~ It saves the region
146 time and money. It helps accommodate regional growth by ~~((making better use of))~~ more efficiently moving

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Attachment A to Ordinance ((18427, as amended by Ordinances 18623, 18810, 19034, 19146, and 19555)) TBD**

147 people within the region’s existing infrastructure and ~~((benefiting the environment))~~ reducing the need for single-
148 occupant vehicles and space for parking. Public transportation can help address major societal issues, such as
149 homelessness, by connecting people to the services and opportunities they need. It improves the quality of life
150 and health for residents and visitors to the Puget Sound region. ~~((King County provides public transportation~~
151 ~~services through the Metro Transit Department, as well as passenger ferry service through the Marine Division-~~
152

153 **Metro Transit Department))**

154 The King County Metro Transit Department (Metro) is the designated public transit provider for King County.
155 Metro’s mission is to provide the best possible public transportation services and improve regional mobility and
156 quality of life in King County. Metro serves customers with a wide range of mobility services including
157 providing and funding bus, paratransit, vanpool, water taxi (passenger ferry), and flexible services; and by
158 operating the Seattle Streetcar, Sound Transit Link light rail, and Sound Transit Express bus services.

159
160 Metro ~~((provides))~~ operates more than 180 bus routes, and its fixed-route services delivered more than ((420))
161 130 million ((fixed route transit rides per year)) passenger trips in 2019. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic,
162 Metro delivered more than 400,000 trips every weekday; roughly half of downtown Seattle commuters relied on
163 transit. Even at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro delivered more than 100,000 trips daily. Its fixed(
164))-route system includes a network of frequent all-day(~~((two-way))~~) bus routes between residential, business, and
165 other ~~((transit))~~ activity centers; express and peak((-)period commuter service to major destinations from many
166 neighborhoods and from a network of park-and-ride lots; and local bus services that connect people to their
167 communities and the larger transportation system. ~~((In addition to bus service, Metro provides alternative~~
168 ~~services, such as commuter vanpools, Access paratransit service, Commute Trip Reduction programs, and~~
169 ~~Rideshare Online, as well as community programs such as In Motion and car sharing.)) For people with~~
170 disabilities who cannot use Metro’s regular buses, Metro offers Access paratransit service and additional service
171 for seniors and people with disabilities via the Community Access Transportation program. Metro’s commuter
172 vanpool program had approximately 1,600 vehicles in operation in 2019. Metro also offers a growing number of
173 flexible services tailored to local needs.

174
175 Metro augments its own investments by developing partnerships with ~~((local jurisdictions, other agencies,~~
176 ~~employers, and institutions to increase public transportation services and improve service effectiveness. Metro~~
177 ~~enters into agreements with public and private entities to fund new or improved public transportation services,~~
178 ~~where the partner contribution may be in the form of direct funding or investment that results in transit speed or~~
179 ~~reliability improvements. Metro also forms partnerships to develop and promote alternative commute programs~~
180 ~~and to manage parking and traffic to make public transportation more efficient and attractive. Metro works with~~
181 ~~the Washington State Department of Transportation and local cities to provide services that help mitigate the~~
182 ~~impacts of major construction projects)) a range of entities, including transit providers; community-based groups;~~
183 schools and universities; human service organizations; property owners and managers; businesses; and local,
184 regional, and state agencies and jurisdictions. By working with partners, Metro can leverage public and private
185 resources and discover new opportunities to improve service or infrastructure. Metro can expand its

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186 accomplishments by collaborating with partners to design and deliver services, facilities, and access
187 improvements, and to develop policies, programs, products, and incentives. Metro’s Service Guidelines and
188 Metro Connects include more information about how Metro will partner with other entities and offer examples
189 of such partnerships.

190
191 Metro is guided by ~~((its))~~ the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation ((2011-2021)) 2021-2031, the King County
192 Metro Service Guidelines, and ((its Long Range Plan for Public Transportation)) Metro Connects. The Strategic
193 Plan for Public Transportation defines a vision and mission for public transportation services in King County
194 and describes the strategies to implement that vision. It also defines desired outcomes and describes how
195 progress will be measured. The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation and Service Guidelines ~~((strike a~~
196 ~~balance between productivity,))~~ prioritize social equity and ((geographic value)) sustainability to ensure Metro
197 ~~((serves areas that have many low income and minority residents—and others who may depend on transit))~~
198 invests where needs are greatest – including for populations who identify as Black, Indigenous, other People of
199 Color; immigrants; refugees; people with low- or no incomes; people with disabilities; and people who are
200 linguistically diverse – addresses climate change, and ((that)) meets public transportation needs ((are met))
201 throughout the county. The ((Metro)) Service Guidelines ((augment the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
202 by identifying)) identify detailed methodologies for how Metro should measure the performance of ((Metro’s
203 overall)) its transit network((, as well as each)) as a whole and of its individual bus routes, and ((by providing))
204 provide clear guidance on how Metro should use transit resources in alignment with ((the County’s Equity and
205 Social Justice Ordinance. The Long Range Plan)) Metro and King County policies and values, including equity.
206 Metro Connects sets the long((-)term vision for service and supporting capital infrastructure.

207
208 Increasing the use of public transportation plays an important role in King County’s efforts to ~~((mitigate))~~
209 address climate change and support livable, healthy communities. Public transportation reduces greenhouse gas
210 emissions by eliminating private vehicle trips, reducing vehicle miles traveled, mitigating traffic congestion, and
211 supporting efficient land use. Metro~~((’s use of green vehicles, such as))~~ provides public transportation using a
212 "green" fleet of electric trolleys, ((and)) hybrid diesel-electric buses((, and cleaner burning fuels, such as Ultra
213 Low Sulfur diesel,)) fueled with a biodiesel blend, and battery electric buses. This efficient fleet adds to the
214 environmental advantage of combining many riders in a single vehicle. Metro’s policies articulate a goal of
215 transitioning to a zero-emissions bus fleet powered by renewable energy by 2035. Metro’s wide range of
216 ~~((transportation))~~ mobility alternatives – including ((vanpools, carpools)) fixed-route transit, passenger ferries,
217 flexible services, and Access paratransit – ((and)) its support of choices such car- and bicycle-sharing, ((biking
218 and)) walking and rolling to transit, and its commitment to seek out and support opportunities for transit-
219 oriented development, make transit a powerful tool to help reduce pollution and support active, healthy
220 lifestyles.

221
222 In addition to reducing single occupant vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled, Metro is ~~((also))~~ committed to
223 being a leader in environmentally-friendly operating and maintenance practices and minimizing its energy use.
224 ~~((Metro educates its employees about reducing energy consumption at work and using public transportation to~~

225 ~~commute.))~~ The King County Employee Transportation Program educates people about commuting to work via
226 another option than a single-occupancy vehicle. The agency also incorporates cost-effective green building and
227 sustainable development practices in all capital projects that it plans, designs, constructs, remodels, renovates,
228 and operates.

229
230 Metro also is committed to providing equitable opportunities for people from all areas of King County to access
231 the public transportation system. It provides travel opportunities and ~~((supporting))~~ amenities for ~~((historically~~
232 ~~disadvantaged))~~ priority populations, ~~((such as low income people, students, youth, seniors))~~ including Black,
233 Indigenous, and other People of Color; people with low or no incomes~~((;))~~; immigrants ~~((and))~~; refugees
234 ~~((populations,))~~; people with disabilities~~((;))~~; and others with limited transportation options. Additionally, as
235 part of its commitment to supporting regional housing affordability, Metro prioritizes providing housing
236 affordable to populations at or below 80 percent of the area median income in transit-oriented developments on
237 its properties.

238
239 **((Water Taxis: King County’s Marine Division**
240 The Marine Division, which is a part of the Metro Transit Department, provides service from downtown Seattle
241 to West Seattle and Vashon Maury Island. The Marine Division is guided by the King County Ferry District
242 2014 Strategic Plan, which was developed while under the King County Ferry District’s governance. The plan
243 expresses the vision and goals for passenger only ferry service in King County for the next three to five years.
244 The strategies are the broad initiatives to pursue the vision and goals, with specific actions listed under each
245 strategy. The plan’s vision is to be a leader in regional mobility benefiting the community and economic
246 development needs of King County through providing water taxi service that is safe, reliable, and a great
247 customer experience while being responsive and accountable to the public. The goals are to: 1) provide reliable
248 and safe service; 2) deliver financially sustainable water taxi service; and 3) to integrate water taxi service with
249 the broader regional transportation system and economy. The strategies to achieve these goals include: 1) build
250 on strengths and grow ridership; 2) achieve financial stability; 3) coordinate with regional planning and
251 emergency management efforts; and 4) explore growth and partnership opportunities.

252
253 Similar to Metro, King County’s passenger-only ferries also use cleaner burning fuels such as Ultra Low Sulfur
254 diesel and a blend of biodiesel (B-10).))

255
256 Bus, rail, ~~((and))~~ passenger-only ferry, and flexible transit services provide the critical transportation links on
257 which the regional economy depends. ~~((In addition,))~~ These public transportation services depend on convenient
258 connections to roads, highways, ~~((and nonmotorized))~~ active transportation systems. As the region grows,
259 coordinating ~~((transit and passenger-only ferry))~~ public transportation routes and schedules ~~((among))~~ across
260 agencies and modes will make public transportation a more viable and convenient option for people traveling in
261 King County. King County seeks input from a broad spectrum of county residents and businesses to identify
262 needs and provide services to meet those needs.

263

264 **~~((2,))~~ Road System**

265 Travelers in King County use a system of interconnected roads that includes interstate highways, state highways,
266 urban and rural arterials, local access roads, private roads, and forest~~((/))~~ and logging roads. King County is
267 responsible for all ~~((e))~~ County-owned roads, bridges, and related infrastructure in the unincorporated areas of the
268 county, and must meet the road-related transportation needs of a very large and geographically and
269 demographically diverse service area. The county's many bridges are an integral part of the road system, as are
270 other components such as sidewalks, shoulders and pathways, bicycle lanes, guardrails, stormwater drainage and
271 water quality treatment facilities, traffic control equipment, and traffic cameras. Interstate highways, state
272 highways, city roads, and private roads are not under ~~((e))~~ County jurisdiction; rather, they are the responsibility
273 of other government agencies or property owners.

274

275 The Strategic Plan for Road Services defines the ~~((vision and mission))~~ strategic direction for the King County
276 Department of Local Services - Road Services Division. The Strategic Plan for Road Services provides detailed
277 direction for the response to the many complex challenges~~((, including two trends))~~ that have had significant
278 impacts on the County's road services. One key challenge is that annexations, consistent with the goals of the
279 Growth Management Act, have reduced the urban unincorporated area and ~~((therefore))~~ significantly shrunk the
280 tax base that supports the large and aging unincorporated road system ~~((has shrunk significantly. By 2024, when
281 the next eight year Comprehensive Plan update is completed, Road Services Division's responsibilities will likely
282 focus almost entirely on the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. A second trend is the))~~ without
283 transferring a proportional amount of bridges or road miles. This issue, and other declines in County road
284 funding, are described in greater detail in the "Financing Services and Facilities that Meet Local and Regional
285 Goals" ~~((S))~~ section ((IV)) of this chapter. The Strategic Plan for Road Services guides the Road Services
286 Division as it ~~((is faced with the consequences of a smaller service area and reduced funding and seeks to manage
287 the unincorporated King County road system through focused investment of available resources to facilitate the
288 movement of people, goods and services, and respond to emergencies))~~ seeks to connect communities with a safe
289 and reliable road network for all.

290

291 As of fall 2022, ~~((T))~~ the ~~((e))~~ County-owned unincorporated~~((-))~~ area road system includes approximately:

292

- ~~((1,469))~~ 1,467 miles of roadway;

293

- ~~((181))~~ 185 bridges, including several jointly owned with cities;

294

- 275 miles of sidewalks;

295

- ~~((78))~~ 79 traffic signals;

296

- ~~((44,000))~~ 47,000 traffic control signs;

297

- ~~((50))~~ 58 traffic cameras; ~~((and))~~

298

- 3.5 million linear feet of drainage pipes; and

299

- ~~((114))~~ 118 miles of protective guardrail.

300

301 The users of the county road system may travel on foot or by car, public transit, truck, or bicycle, or even on
302 horseback. They may live in an unincorporated area, in one of the ((county's)) 39 cities in King County, or in
303 another county. The unincorporated road system supports local trips close to home, commuter trips, the
304 movement of freight and goods, and regional travel between jurisdictions. The system also provides access to
305 outdoor recreational activities in King County, which has one of the largest concentrations of outdoor recreation
306 enthusiasts in the state. Public service providers, such as police, fire, emergency medical responders, Metro
307 ((Transit)), and school buses are also key users. In total, more than one million daily trips are taken on King
308 County's unincorporated road network. During this time of tight budgets, changing communities,
309 ((annexations,)) and increasing traffic on aging roads and bridges, the ((e))County must manage facilities and
310 services with exceptional care and efficiency.

311

312 **((3.)) Air Transportation**

313 The King County International Airport/Boeing Field is located in south Seattle in the Duwamish River
314 Industrial Corridor. It operates on a 24((/7)) hours a day, seven days a week basis and in all weather.
315 Established in 1928, the airport is supported by revenue generated by its operations, rather than relying on
316 general tax revenues. King County plans, designs, and implements services, programs, and facilities for the King
317 County International Airport in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulatory requirements to
318 support a safe, secure, and efficient international aerospace system. The airport is also a significant employment
319 center and supports more than ((150)) 50 on-airport aviation-related businesses, including The Boeing Company.
320 The airport is a port of entry for international flights and serves regional air carriers, national and regional cargo
321 carriers, corporate aviation, and general aviation.

322

323 King County International Airport/Boeing Field is the ((34th)) 75th busiest airport in the United States and
324 ranks ((25th)) 46th in cargo handling. The airport's air taxi carrier serves the San Juan Islands. It is also the
325 largest corporate aircraft center in the Pacific Northwest. Airport business activities are estimated to support
326 almost ((5,000)) 7,000 direct jobs, plus more than ((16,000)) 9,000 additional jobs in the region. The airport's
327 total positive economic impact within the Puget Sound Region and Washington State is more than ((3.5)) \$5.2
328 billion in direct and induced economic activity, including the sale of goods and services, labor income, and tax
329 revenues.

330

331 ((The King County Department of Transportation has developed a strategic plan for King County International
332 Airport/Boeing Field. This plan was the result of a strategic planning process, which was guided by an advisory
333 committee comprised of Airport Roundtable members and staff from both the executive and legislative branches
334 of King County. The Strategic Plan complements)) Management of King County International Airport/Boeing
335 Field is guided by the King County International Airport Master Plan and the Federal Aviation
336 Administration((s)) mandated ((Airport Master Plan and)) Airport Layout Plan.

337

338 The Bandera and Skykomish Airports, located in eastern King County near the communities of North Bend and
339 Skykomish, are state((-)-owned and operated. Vashon Airport, located on Vashon-Maury Island, is publicly
340 owned and operated by King County Airport Special District Number One. King County does not have
341 operating or regulatory authority over these airports, but does control land use activity adjacent to the facilities.
342 All airports in the county should make every effort to minimize noise impacts to land uses that are especially
343 sensitive to the effects of noise such as residential areas, hospitals, and schools.
344

345 **~~((E-))~~ General Policy Guidance**

346 **T-101 King County should provide a safe and accessible system of transportation**
347 **services and facilities that offers travel options to all members of the community.**

348
349 **T-101a King County should seek to ensure that its system of transportation services and**
350 **facilities equitably serves the mobility needs of ~~((disadvantaged))~~ communities**
351 **with the greatest need, ~~((and people with limited transportation options,~~**
352 **including)) including populations who are Black, Indigenous, and other**
353 **~~((P))~~ People of ((e))Color((r)); immigrants; refugees; and other intersectional**
354 **populations, including ((low-income communities)) those who earn less than 80**
355 **percent of area median income and those that have no income, ~~((people with~~**
356 **limited English proficiency, immigrant and refugee populations, students, youth,**
357 **seniors, and)) people with disabilities, seniors, people with special transportation**
358 **needs, LGBTQIA+ people, and/or women.**

359
360 **T-102 As a transportation provider and participant in regional transportation planning,**
361 **King County should support, plan, design, and implement an integrated((r)) and**
362 **coordinated ~~((and balanced))~~ multimodal transportation system that serves the**
363 **growing travel needs of the county safely, equitably, effectively, and efficiently,**
364 **and ~~((promotes a decrease in the share of trips made by single-occupant~~**
365 **vehicles)) reduces vehicle miles traveled.**

366
367 **T-103 In striving to meet the growing need for transportation services, King County**
368 **shall seek to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its services,**
369 **infrastructure, and facilities.**

370
371 **T-104 The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation ~~((2014-2024))~~ 2021-2031, King**
372 **County Metro Service Guidelines, and ~~((the King County Metro Long Range Plan~~**
373 **for Public Transportation)) Metro Connects, or successor plans, shall guide the**
374 **planning, development, and implementation of the public transportation system**
375 **and services operated by the King County Metro Transit Department.**

376
377 ~~**((T-105 The King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan, or successor plans, shall**~~

378 ~~guide the planning, development and implementation of the passenger-only ferry~~
379 ~~system and services operated by the King County Marine Division.))~~

381 **T-106** The King County Strategic Plan for Road Services, or successor plans, shall
382 guide the planning, development, and implementation of the unincorporated road
383 system managed by the King County Road Services Division.

384
385 **T-107** The King County International Airport Strategic Plan, or successor plans, shall
386 guide the planning, development, and implementation of airport facilities and
387 services managed by the King County International Airport.

388
389 **T-108** King County shall ~~((consider))~~ evaluate equity impacts and benefits when
390 planning, developing, and implementing transportation programs, projects, and
391 services, including physical, economic, and cultural displacement risk.

392
393 **T-109** As directed by the King County~~((s))~~ Comprehensive Emergency Management
394 Plan, King County shall seek to protect its transportation system against
395 disasters, to the extent possible, by developing prevention and recovery
396 strategies in partnership with other jurisdictions and agencies, and coordinating
397 emergency transportation response.

398

399 ~~((H.))~~ **Providing Services and Infrastructure that** 400 **Support the County Land Use Vision**

401 ~~((This section of Chapter 8 discusses e))~~ County transportation services and policies ~~((as they))~~ support the
402 ~~((e))~~ County's land use strategy, which seeks to concentrate development and services in urban areas, conserve
403 and enhance the Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands, and create communities that have a positive effect
404 on public health and climate change. One focus of this section is on issues related to the ~~((e))~~ County's
405 responsibilities in the unincorporated area, including Level of Service standards for ~~((e))~~ County roads,
406 transportation concurrency management, mitigation of growth-related impacts, avoidance of road expansion in
407 the Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands, prevention of airport/land use conflicts, and support for
408 ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation options. Another focus is on county transportation activities that affect a
409 broader region, notably the four-county region's policy of concentrating development in more densely populated
410 urban areas. King County Metro operates a majority of the transit service in the region and provides
411 transportation demand management services to cities and employers. Consequently, the region's success in
412 achieving its development goals will depend to a great extent on ~~((King))~~ the County's ability to provide
413 appropriate transit services within King County.

414

415 **~~((A.))~~ Land Use and Growth Strategy**

416 The transportation element of this Comprehensive Plan is grounded in a firm understanding of the important
417 relationship between land use and transportation. A thoughtfully designed transportation system that supports
418 the ~~((e))~~ County's long-term land use vision and regional growth strategy should provide improved mobility and
419 greater accessibility for all users and contribute to vibrant, thriving communities. Considering the
420 interconnection of land use and transportation can also help address issues like regional affordability by
421 supporting equitable, transit-oriented communities. It should also facilitate more efficient travel that addresses
422 climate change, in part, by ~~((reduces))~~ reducing energy consumption, ~~((and))~~ greenhouse gas emissions, and
423 other forms of pollution.

424
425 Integrated transportation and land use planning is called for at the regional level in ~~((Vision 2040))~~ VISION,
426 ~~((Transportation 2040))~~ the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Countywide Planning Policies regarding
427 transportation~~((, which));~~ these plans and policies outline and support a regional growth strategy built around the
428 concept that additional infrastructure and services are to be provided in areas that accept an increased share of
429 the region's growth. The Countywide Planning Policies' ~~((2019-2044))~~ 2019-2044 ~~((H))~~ housing and ~~((E))~~ employment
430 ~~((G))~~ growth ~~((F))~~ targets ~~((2006-2031))~~ adopted by King County and its cities, represent each jurisdiction's agreed
431 upon fair share of future growth and have been incorporated into the travel demand forecast developed for this
432 plan.

433
434 ~~((Vision 2040))~~ VISION, ~~((Transportation 2040))~~ the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Countywide
435 Planning Policies also promote the concept of maximizing mobility choices through a multimodal approach to
436 moving people, goods, and services efficiently within and beyond the region. Travel to and within regional and
437 countywide growth centers is emphasized, with a focus on the availability of transit and nonmotorized ~~((modes))~~
438 active transportation facilities in centers. These urban centers are characterized by compact, pedestrian-oriented
439 development~~((,))~~ with a mix of ~~((different))~~ office, commercial, civic, entertainment, and residential uses ~~((and))~~
440 that can be efficiently and cost-effectively served by transit and ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation
441 options. In addition, these regional plans and policies address the importance of protecting and preserving the
442 Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and avoiding construction of major new roads and capacity expansion
443 on existing roads in the Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands.

444
445 Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects also emphasize the
446 importance of integrated transportation and land use planning to providing an integrated mobility network that
447 advances policy goals related to equity, climate change, transit-oriented communities, and others. A multimodal
448 transportation system supports healthful choices by providing greater access to housing, jobs, schools, medical
449 care, healthy food, shopping, recreation, and other services – all of which contribute to a high quality of life.
450 Designing highly connected communities that support safe ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation and
451 ~~((facilitate nonmotorized))~~ access to the transit system without a car reduces the overall cost of living by

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452 controlling or lowering transportation costs, reduces vehicle miles traveled, reduces air pollution, and leads to
453 opportunities for greater levels of physical activity ~~((through walking and bicycling))~~.

454

455 Regional and countywide guidance also encourages innovative approaches to transportation and land use
456 management, including Transportation Demand Management strategies designed to reduce vehicle miles
457 traveled, single-occupant vehicle trips, and greenhouse gas emissions.

458

459 Metro operates transit service throughout King County, including in cities, while the ~~((e))~~County~~((s))~~ road
460 system service area is limited to the unincorporated area. Due to annexations and incorporations, much of the
461 unincorporated road system is ~~((transitioning to become primarily))~~ rural. In the Rural Area and Natural
462 Resource Lands, protection of natural resources, agriculture and forestry, and the rural lifestyle and character are
463 a high priority. ~~((At the same time))~~ However, there is still a ~~((certain))~~ limited amount of growth within the
464 Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands, ~~((as well as high))~~ significant growth in some adjacent Cities in the
465 Rural Area, ~~((or))~~ and growth beyond the county's boundaries~~((s))~~ that must be considered in managing the road
466 system.

467

468 The county's urban areas, Rural Area~~((s))~~, and Natural Resource Lands form a complex landscape, and the
469 urban/rural boundary is not a simple straight line. As a result, the county's arterial network weaves through
470 ~~((both))~~ urban areas, the Rural Area~~((s))~~, and Natural Resource Lands as it facilitates regional mobility. This
471 complex urban/rural/resource pattern presents challenges to planning for the region's mobility needs and
472 providing safe and adequate roadways. ~~((Issues include))~~ In several areas of the county, regional arterial
473 corridors ~~((that))~~ link ~~((designated))~~ urban areas by crossing the Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands~~((s))~~
474 ~~and roads located in the Urban Growth Area~~). High traffic volumes on these roads may necessitate road
475 improvements to ensure safe and efficient travel. However, it is critical to ensure that appropriate development
476 regulations and access management strategies are first in place ~~((in order))~~ to prevent unplanned and unwanted
477 growth in the Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands.

478

479 Growth management envisions different landscapes and infrastructure for urban and rural communities. King
480 County is committed to managing its transportation system consistent with that vision.

481

482 **T-201** **Multimodal transportation options such as public transportation, bicycling and**
483 **walking, are most effective in densely developed urban areas. ~~((As resources~~**
484 **allow,)) King County's transportation investments in urban areas should**
485 **emphasize public transportation and road services and facilities that support**
486 **multiple modes and facilitate connections between them.**

487

488 **T-202** **~~((As resources allow,)) King County's transportation investments in the Rural~~**
489 **Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands should emphasize maintaining and**

490 preserving safe road infrastructure that is compatible with the preservation of
491 rural character and does not promote urban or unplanned growth.

492
493 **T-202a** In areas not well suited to fixed(-)-route transit, the ((e))County should work with
494 partners to develop a range of ~~((alternative))~~ flexible service options ~~((such as~~
495 ~~community shuttles, real-time rideshare, community vans and other innovative~~
496 ~~options)), in accordance with Metro plans and policies.~~

497
498 **T-203** ~~((As funding permits,))~~ King County should partner with jurisdictions and the
499 private sector to spur infrastructure investments that enhance safe, equitable,
500 and accessible opportunities for transit, pedestrians, bicyclists, car and van
501 pools, and other alternatives to single occupant vehicles.

502
503 **~~((B.))~~ Travel Forecasts**

504 Travel demand forecasts are used to project transportation system needs. They provide an important link
505 between land use and transportation. The Puget Sound Regional Council's Forecasting Model uses regionally
506 adopted growth targets for the year ~~((2034))~~ 2050, and was used to develop the travel demand forecasts for this
507 plan and the Transportation Needs Report.

508
509 Recent generations of the Puget Sound Regional Council model have increased the level of detail in
510 unincorporated King County, allowing improved analysis of future transportation system performance and
511 system improvement needs, within the framework of growth management and regional and ((e))County policy
512 guidance regarding appropriate urban and rural levels of service.

513
514 **~~((C.))~~ Public Transportation System**

515 Metro ~~((and the Marine Division))~~ plays an important role in achieving the region's growth strategy by focusing
516 public transportation services in the ~~((u))~~Urban ~~((g))~~Growth ~~((a))~~Area of King County and providing service to
517 designated regional, countywide, and other centers and ~~((other))~~ areas of concentrated activity. Centers and
518 other communities that are compact and ~~((friendly to pedestrians and bicycles))~~ designed to prioritize walking
519 and biking are most easily served by transit. Such communities foster healthier, more active lifestyles while
520 reducing ~~((auto))~~ vehicle dependency and associated road investments. By the same token, transit service can
521 support and encourage development that is more compact. Metro's Service Guidelines describe the types of land
522 uses that support different types of transit service. Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation and Metro
523 Connects direct Metro to support equitable, affordable, transit-oriented communities and development.

524
525 ~~((Metro and the Marine Division support municipal, agency and private development of transit supportive,~~
526 ~~pedestrian and bicycle friendly communities through partnership, coordination and delivery of public~~
527 ~~transportation services. Metro also promotes partnerships to implement transit supportive infrastructure to~~

528 improve access to transit. Metro also partners with jurisdictions and the private sector to spur transit-oriented
529 development through redevelopment opportunities at or adjacent to park and rides.)

530

531 **T-204** King County should support local and regional growth plans and policies by
532 focusing transit services on centers and other areas of concentrated activity.

533

534 **T-205** King County should support, encourage, and implement high-capacity transit
535 facilities and services that are consistent with, and supportive of, the
536 Comprehensive Plan, Metro’s Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Metro’s
537 ~~((Long Range Plan for Public Transportation and the King County Ferry District~~
538 ~~2014 Strategic Plan)) Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects, or successor
539 plans.~~

540

541 **~~((D-))~~ Road System**

542 **T-206** ~~((Except as provided in T-209,))~~ King County shall not construct and shall oppose
543 the construction by other agencies of any new arterials or highways in the Rural
544 Area or Natural Resource Lands.

545

546 **T-207** King County recognizes the importance to regional and local mobility of state
547 highways that traverse the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and should
548 advocate for state and federal agencies to improve ~~((performance))~~ the safety,
549 efficiency, and resiliency of these facilities, consistent with the ~~((county’s~~
550 ~~adopted))~~ Comprehensive Plan policies to prevent unplanned development in the
551 Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and preserve rural character.

552

553 **T-208** King County shall not ~~((add any new arterial))~~ expand capacity of existing arterial
554 roads in the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, except as needed for safety
555 and for segments of rural regional corridors that pass through Rural Areas and
556 Natural Resource Lands to accommodate levels of traffic between urban areas.
557 Appropriate rural development regulations and strong commitments to access
558 management should be in place prior to authorizing capacity expansion of rural
559 regional corridors to prevent unplanned growth in the Rural Area and Natural
560 Resource Lands. Rural regional corridors shall be identified in the
561 Transportation Needs Report (Appendix C1) and shall meet all of the following
562 criteria:

- 563 a. Connects one urban area to another, or to a highway of statewide
564 significance that provides such connection, by traversing the Rural Area
565 and Natural Resource Lands;
- 566 b. Classified as a principal arterial;
- 567 c. Carries high traffic volumes (at least 15,000 average daily traffic); and

568 d. At least half of ~~((P.M.))~~ p.m. peak trips on the corridor are traveling to
569 cities or other counties.
570

571 ~~((T-209))~~ ~~King County shall avoid construction of major roads and capacity expansion on~~
572 ~~existing roads in Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands. Where increased~~
573 ~~roadway capacity is warranted to support safe and efficient travel through Rural~~
574 ~~Areas and Natural Resource Lands, appropriate rural development regulations~~
575 ~~and strong commitments to access management should be in place prior to~~
576 ~~authorizing such capacity expansion in order to prevent unplanned growth in~~
577 ~~these areas.))~~
578

579 T-210 Any capacity increases to rural regional corridors shall be designed to
580 accommodate levels of traffic between urban areas consistent with ~~((the county's~~
581 ~~adopted))~~ Comprehensive Plan policies regarding development in the
582 surrounding Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands. The ~~((e))~~County shall seek to
583 maximize the efficient use of existing roadway capacity before considering
584 adding new capacity to rural regional corridors.
585

586 T-211 Any segment of a county roadway that forms the boundary between the Urban
587 Growth Area and the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands should be designated
588 urban and all associated road right-of-way fully contained within the Urban
589 Growth Area boundary. Such urban boundary roads shall be designed and
590 constructed to urban roadway standards on both sides of the roadway segment.
591

592 T-212 King County shall work with cities for the annexation of ~~((e))~~County~~((--))~~ roadways
593 and/or street segments located in the urban area and within or between cities~~((~~
594 ~~in order))~~ to provide for a consistent level of urban services on the affected roads
595 and reduce the burden on unincorporated taxpayers that are supporting this
596 urban infrastructure.
597

598 ~~((E.))~~ Airports

599 T-213 King County should use its authority including zoning, permitting and
600 development standards to protect the ~~((public use airports of))~~ Bandera ~~((near the~~
601 ~~town of North Bend))~~, Vashon, and Skykomish ~~((airport in King County))~~ public-
602 use airports and private airports from encroachment of non-compatible land
603 uses. Compatible airport land uses are those that comply with generally
604 accepted Federal Aviation Administration guidance on location, height, and
605 activity that provide for safe aircraft movement, airport operations, including
606 expansion, and community safety.
607

608 **~~((F-))~~ Level of Service Standards**

609 The Growth Management Act requires Level of Service standards for all arterials and transit routes to judge
610 performance of the transportation system. The Growth Management Act also calls for specific actions and
611 requirements for bringing into compliance facilities or services that are not meeting the adopted Level of Service
612 standard. King County's Level of Service standards comply with growth management policies of encouraging
613 growth in the urban area while restricting growth in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

614
615 Level of service for arterials is a qualitative measure that describes traffic flow and is often represented by a
616 system using the letters A through F. Level of Service A represents the least congested conditions and Level of
617 Service F represents the most congested conditions. Level of Service B is indicative of stable traffic flow.
618 However, unlike Level of Service A, operating speed is beginning to be restricted by other traffic. At Level of
619 Service E, operation is unstable, and speeds are reduced but will fluctuate widely from point to point. There is
620 little independence of speed selection and maneuverability at Level of Service E. Level of Service F is indicative
621 of forced flow of traffic with extremely low speeds and long delays at intersections.

622
623 King County has been one of the most successful jurisdictions in the state in implementing the Growth
624 Management Act by directing growth to urban areas and encouraging annexation by cities, which are the
625 preferred provider of municipal services. As a result, the majority of the urbanized area is contained within cities
626 ~~((and the final remaining urban unincorporated islands are expected to annex by 2020))~~. While annexations
627 have helped support the ~~((e))~~ County's land use, density, and service goals, unincorporated King County no
628 longer has the tax base to support growing travel needs with transportation capacity improvements in the urban
629 area. The urban pockets that remain are influenced by development in surrounding cities and during the peak
630 travel times commute travel is heavily impacted from people traveling to and from cities and other counties.

631
632 King County recognizes a profound difference between the nature and character of the Rural Area and Natural
633 Resource Lands as compared with the urban area and therefore sets Level of Service standards for arterials to
634 allow less congestion in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. In the Rural Area and Natural Resource
635 Lands the ~~((vast))~~ majority of the road network operates at Level of Service B; however, there are key arterials
636 (typically the Rural Regional Corridors) that are frequently congested from carrying traffic from one urban area
637 to another, and these often operate at a Level of Service C or lower.

638
639 In addition, King County recognizes certain areas, called Rural Mobility Areas, where land use designations
640 support a greater variety of transportation mode choices. The Level of Service standards for Rural Mobility
641 Areas are set to recognize these greater choices and support and encourage people to use forms of transportation
642 other than cars. The Rural Mobility Areas are the Rural Towns of Vashon, Snoqualmie Pass, and Fall City.

643
644 In addition to ~~((the))~~ Rural Mobility Areas, certain ~~((large))~~ areas with the Rural Neighborhood Commercial
645 Center(s) land use designation are recognized as having distinct mobility characteristics and ~~((will))~~ have a

646 Level of Service standard consistent with their land use character. ~~((The large Rural Neighborhood Commercial~~
647 ~~Centers))~~ These are((:)) Cottage Lake, Maple Valley, Preston, and Cumberland.

648
649 The framework for identifying appropriate levels of service for King County Metro services is established in
650 ~~((the))~~ Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation ((and)), the King County Metro Service Guidelines, and
651 Metro Connects. Level of service standards for Regionally Significant State Highways are adopted by the Puget
652 Sound Regional Council Executive Board. Level of Service standards for Highways of Statewide Significance
653 are set by WSDOT. Highway level of service standards are shown in Appendix C, Transportation.

654
655 ~~((T-214b ————— King County shall design a new concurrency management methodology that is~~
656 ~~efficient to administer, incorporates travel demand management principles,~~
657 ~~includes measures of congestion based on optimizing movement of people~~
658 ~~rather than cars, and promotes increased efficiency of the transportation system~~
659 ~~as a whole.))~~

660
661 **T-215** **The Level of Service standard for the Urban Area shall be E except as provided in**
662 **T-216. The Level of Service standard for the Rural Area and Natural Resource**
663 **Lands shall be B except as provided in T-216, T-217, and T-218. These standards**
664 **shall be used in concurrency testing.**

665
666 **T-216** **The Level of Service standard for certain minor residential and minor commercial**
667 **developments~~((, along with))~~ and certain public and educational facilities, as**
668 **established in the King County Code, shall be Level of Service F. This standard**
669 **shall be used in concurrency testing.**

670
671 **T-217** **Rural Mobility Areas shall be defined as unincorporated Rural Towns designated**
672 **in the Comprehensive Plan. The Level of Service standard for designated Rural**
673 **Mobility Areas shall be E. This standard shall be used in concurrency testing.**

674
675 **T-218** **The Level of Service standards for the Cottage Lake, Maple Valley, Preston, and**
676 **Cumberland Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers shall be D. This standard**
677 **shall be used in concurrency testing.**

678
679 **~~((G-))~~ Concurrency**

680 The Growth Management Act requires local jurisdictions to adopt and enforce ordinances that prohibit
681 development approval if the development causes the Level of Service on identified ~~((e))~~ County arterials to
682 decline below the adopted Level of Service standards. King County's Transportation Concurrency Management
683 program was developed to address the Growth Management Act's concurrency requirement. The
684 Transportation Concurrency Management program requires that adequate transportation facilities must be
685 available to carry the traffic of a proposed development at ~~((e))~~ County Level of Service standards, or construction

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686 for needed improvements funded in the adopted Six-Year Roads Capital Improvement Program, or else the
687 proposed development cannot be approved.

688

689 ~~((The requirements of King County’s Transportation Concurrency Management program may apply to
690 transportation facilities designated by the Washington State Department of Transportation as “highways of
691 statewide significance.” The portions of certain highways of statewide significance that do not have limited
692 access and function like county arterials may be included in the King County concurrency test.))~~

693

694 The Transportation Concurrency Management program has been designed to meet the following goals:

- 695 • Fulfill the requirements of state growth management legislation;
- 696 • Be simple to understand, easy to implement and administer and transparent to those affected by its
697 processes and regulations;
- 698 • Consider and encourage multimodal travel;
- 699 • Encourage growth in urban areas where provision of transportation infrastructure and services is most
700 efficient and economical; and
- 701 • Efficiently integrate concurrency determination into the permit system process and database.

702

703 Transportation concurrency is a plan-level system that does not require testing of individual developments.
704 Instead, concurrency status is determined by broad geographic areas within unincorporated King County called
705 travel sheds, which were drawn to reflect where travel patterns share common characteristics. Trips associated
706 with development within a particular travel shed would likely use or be affected by traffic on arterials located
707 within and bordering that travel shed. A development proposal (including both residential and nonresidential
708 proposals) will be considered to meet the transportation concurrency standard if it is located in a travel shed that
709 meets Level of Service standards as depicted on the concurrency map in effect at the time of development
710 application. Development proposals must still meet all applicable zoning and land use regulations.

711

712 ~~**((T-219) For the purposes of concurrency testing, a travel shed is a geographic area
713 within unincorporated King County where trips generated by development within
714 the travel shed would likely use or be affected by traffic on arterials within the
715 travel shed.**~~

716

717 ~~**T-220 The concurrency program shall include provision for mobility areas within travel
718 sheds as provided in T-217. Rural Mobility Areas shall be defined as
719 unincorporated Rural Towns as designated in the King County Comprehensive
720 Plan.))**~~

721

722 **T-221 The concurrency map shall identify the travel sheds that meet or do not meet
723 concurrency standards. Any proposed development in travel sheds that meet
724 concurrency standards ~~((with)) shall be deemed concurrent.~~**

725

- 726 T-222 The concurrency test shall be based on the Level of Service on arterials in
727 unincorporated King County using the ((~~ε~~))County’s adopted methodology. ((The
728 test may be applied to designated Highways of Statewide Significance.))
729
- 730 T-223 The concurrency test may include provision of factors for safety, pavement
731 condition, and availability of multiple modes of transportation.
732
- 733 T-224 In the Rural Area, the concurrency test may include a provision that allows the
734 purchase of Transferable Development Rights ((~~in order~~)) to satisfy
735 transportation concurrency requirements.
736

737 **~~((H-))~~ Impact Mitigation**

738 ~~((The State Environmental Policy Act establishes environmental review of project impacts on all elements of the
739 environment including transportation.))~~

- 741 T-225 Needed rights-of-way, strategies to manage transportation demand, and off-site
742 improvements should be identified and required as conditions of development
743 approval to the extent that such conditions are directly related to impact
744 mitigation.
745
- 746 T-226 King County shall encourage the development of highly connected, grid-based
747 arterial and nonarterial road networks in new developments and areas of in((-))fill
748 development. To this end, the ((~~ε~~))County should:
- 749 a. Make specific findings at the time of land-use permit review to establish
750 a nonarterial grid system for public and emergency access in
751 developments; and
 - 752 b. Require new commercial((,)) and multifamily((,)) developments and
753 residential subdivisions to develop highly connective street networks to
754 promote better accessibility and avoid single street((-))-only access.
755
- 756 T-227 Development proposals should extend the public road system through
757 dedication when the extension is in the public interest. Conditions that may
758 warrant such an extension include, but are not limited to, impacts on
759 neighborhood circulation, increases in the use of arterials for local vehicular
760 trips, reductions in traffic safety through uncoordinated and inadequately spaced
761 street access to arterials, and restrictions on the availability of alternative
762 emergency access routes.
763
- 764 T-228 As mitigation for the impacts of new development and as a condition of
765 development approval, King County shall require the improvement of existing

766 offsite roadways and undeveloped road rights-of-way, and other strategies to
767 reduce demand on roads. Impacts that may warrant such mitigation include, but
768 are not limited to, those that create safety concerns, raise road operational
769 issues, or increase the number of residences served by a single access route.
770

771 ~~(I. —~~ **Nonmotorized**) **Active Transportation Program**

772 ~~((Vision 2040,))~~ VISION is the region’s long-range ~~((growth management, economic, and transportation strategy,~~
773 ~~and))~~ plan for how and where development occurs and how the region supports efforts to manage growth.

774 ~~((Transportation 2040))~~ VISION, the Regional Transportation Plan, the adopted Metropolitan Transportation
775 Plan, ~~((and the associated Active Transportation Plan))~~ call for the development of a regional transportation
776 system that offers a variety of travel choices while preserving environmental quality and open space.

777 ~~((Nonmotorized))~~ Active transportation – such as walking, biking, using a wheelchair, and, in some parts of the
778 county, equestrian travel – plays a key role in achieving these goals and is an essential component of King
779 County’s multimodal transportation system. ~~((Pedestrians, bicyclists and in some parts of the county,~~
780 ~~equestrians, are nonmotorized users of the transportation system.))~~ Regional trails serve a recreational function
781 and also allow for uses such as transportation – enabling integration of the trail network with other active
782 transportation networks.

783
784 ~~((Biking and walking are))~~ Active transportation is energy efficient, economical, and low~~(-)~~ impact ~~((modes of~~
785 ~~travel that))~~; promotes health; and ~~((don’t))~~ doesn’t contribute to air or water pollution. By providing options for
786 ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation, King County helps to reduce ~~((automobile))~~ vehicle dependency
787 and congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create opportunities for individuals to integrate healthy
788 exercise into everyday activities. The ability to safely ~~((bicycle and walk))~~ use active transportation can provide
789 varying levels of accessibility and mobility to almost everyone, including people who are young, elderly,
790 physically disabled, ~~((€))~~ with low~~(-)~~ incomes ~~((people and others)),~~ or who may not drive for other reasons.
791 Well-designed, strategically located ~~((bicycle and pedestrian))~~ active transportation facilities can also provide
792 increased and safer access to transit for more people. ~~((Bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian t))~~ Trails are important
793 ~~((community))~~ recreational amenities that foster vibrant communities and may help spur economic development.
794 Equestrian travel is also an important aspect of the rural heritage and lifestyle of King County as well as a very
795 popular recreational activity.

796
797 In unincorporated King County, the Road Services Division is responsible for ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active
798 transportation facilities such as bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or shoulders on ~~((€))~~ county roads. The division also
799 provides crosswalks and specialized signals or signage that help facilitate safer ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active
800 transportation. The King County Road Design and Construction Standards include accommodation for
801 ~~((nonmotorized uses))~~ active transportation and specify bicycle lane, sidewalk, or road shoulder criteria for
802 unincorporated urban and rural roads. Sidewalks are allowed in Rural Towns and, under certain circumstances,
803 sidewalks are allowed in the Rural Area as a spot improvement to address an existing safety or high-use issue
804 when other walkway alternatives would not be as effective~~((, €))~~ and for safe routes to school. Road-related

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805 ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation capital needs in the unincorporated area are included in the
806 Transportation Needs Report and are programmed in the six-year Roads Capital Improvement Program as
807 funding allows. ~~((The HealthScape Transportation Programming Tool, along with other criteria, is used in
808 evaluating nonmotorized projects in the Transportation Needs Report.))~~ Street safety, including consideration of
809 vehicle speeds in roadway design, is also a critical tool to provide for safe and easy transportation options.
810
811 King County also ~~((plays a))~~ supports active transportation countywide ~~((role in nonmotorized transportation))
812 through its ~~((Regional Trails System))~~ network and transit services. The ~~((Regional Trails))~~ network,
813 discussed in Chapter 7, Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Resources, is an integral component of the
814 ~~((County))~~ county's recreational and transportation system. It includes facilities located both in cities and the
815 unincorporated area. The Regional Trails network functions as the spine of the ~~((County))~~ county's
816 ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation system ~~((in many areas))~~. Transit and ~~((walking or biking))~~ active
817 transportation are highly synergistic; transit use tends to be highest in locations where ~~((walking and biking are))
818 active transportation use is~~ prevalent, and vice versa. ~~((The))~~ Metro ~~((Transit Department))~~ supports
819 ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation programs such as bicycle racks on transit buses and passenger ferries, and
820 bicycle lockers at park-and-ride lots, employment sites, ferry terminals, and other locations.~~

821
822 **T-230** King County shall consider the needs and abilities of ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active
823 transportation users ~~((of the transportation system))~~ in the planning, design,
824 construction, maintenance, preservation, and operation of road infrastructure
825 and other transportation facilities ~~((to the extent feasible given available
826 funding))~~.

827
828 **T-231** Consistent with the priorities defined in the County's ~~((functional))~~ transportation
829 plans~~((,))~~ and the Regional Growth Strategy, ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active
830 transportation system investments should aim to increase safety, accessibility
831 and mobility~~((, facilitating))~~; facilitate mode integration and intermodal
832 connections~~((,))~~; improve access to centers, where appropriate~~((,))~~; and
833 ~~((providing))~~ provide opportunities for healthy activity and alternatives to driving
834 for all populations.

835
836 **T-232** King County shall evaluate and implement ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation
837 improvements in its road construction projects where appropriate and feasible.

838
839 **T-233** In unincorporated areas of King County, the following needs ~~((will))~~ shall be
840 given the highest priority when identifying, planning, and programming
841 ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation improvements:
842 a. Addressing known collision locations;
843 b. Fostering safe ~~((walking and bicycling))~~ active transportation routes to
844 schools and other areas where school-aged children regularly assemble;

- 845 c. Filling gaps in, or enhancing connections to, the ~~((r))~~Regional ~~((t))~~Trails
- 846 ~~((system))~~ network;
- 847 d. Serving ~~((L))~~locations of high concentration of pedestrian and/or bicycle
- 848 traffic; and
- 849 e. Providing safe routes to transit.

850

851 **T-234** In urban areas, ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation improvements should

852 increase access to transit and urban centers while enhancing community

853 connections to parks, local trails, shopping, libraries, healthcare, and other

854 public and private services and facilities.

855

856 **T-235** The King County Regional Trails ~~((System))~~ network ~~((is))~~ shall be the centerpiece

857 of the ~~((nonmotorized-system))~~ network for active transportation in the Rural

858 Area and Natural Resource Lands. The ~~((e))~~County's efforts to enhance the Rural

859 Area and Natural Resource Lands ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation network

860 should include filling in the Regional Trails ~~((System's))~~ network's missing links,

861 coordinating road and trail projects whenever possible, considering access from

862 roadways such as gateway (trailhead) parking, and enhancing access to transit,

863 especially park((-)-and((-)-ride((s)) lots and transit centers.

864

865 **T-236** In Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active

866 transportation improvements shall be consistent with providing rural levels of

867 service, preserving rural character, and avoiding impacts to the environment and

868 significant historic properties.

869

870 **T-237** To increase equitable access to walking, bicycling, and transit mobility options,

871 the ~~((e))~~County should actively seek grant funding to improve ~~((nonmotorized))~~

872 active transportation infrastructure that serves the needs of Black, Indigenous,

873 and other ~~((p))~~People of ~~((e))~~Color ~~((;))~~ immigrants; refugees; and other

874 intersectional populations, including ~~((low-income-communities))~~ those who earn

875 less than 80 percent of area median income, ~~((people-with-limited-English-~~

876 ~~speaking-proficiency, immigrant and refugee populations, and others who may~~

877 ~~have-limited-transportation-options-such-as-students, youth, seniors, and))~~

878 people with disabilities, seniors, LGBTQIA+ people, women, and others who may

879 have limited transportation options such as students and youth.

880

881 **T-238** New school development should address safe ~~((walking-and-bicycling))~~ active

882 transportation routes for students. If the existing transportation infrastructure

883 within a one-mile radius, together with the school's road frontage improvements,

884 cannot support safe ~~((walking-or-bicycling-to-school))~~ active transportation

885 access, King County shall use its development review authority to require the

886 school district and the new school to address the long-term transportation needs
887 of students, including through the state-mandated Safe Routes to School
888 program.

889
890 **T-239** New ~~((land use))~~ binding site plans and subdivisions shall seek to accommodate
891 internal ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation mobility and access to nearby
892 shopping, parks, trails, schools, healthcare, community resources, and other
893 public and private services and facilities, consistent with the different needs and
894 service levels for urban ~~((and))~~ areas, the Rural Area((s)), and Natural Resource
895 Lands.

896
897 **T-240** The specifications in the King County Road Design and Construction Standards
898 shall support ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation safety and accessibility,
899 consistent with the County’s adopted policies regarding appropriate urban and
900 rural levels of service.

901
902 **T-241** In supporting equestrian travel in the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource
903 Lands, King County should emphasize safety and connection to ~~((the Regional
904 Trail System and other))~~ established trail networks open to equestrian use.

905
906 **T-242** King County shall seek opportunities to acquire and develop ~~((nonmotorized))~~
907 active transportation corridors. ~~((Evaluation of requests to vacate unused road
908 rights-of-way will consider existing nonmotorized uses and future development
909 of such uses.))~~

910
911 **T-243** King County should coordinate with ~~((bicycling, pedestrian, and equestrian
912 stakeholders))~~ active transportation users and advocacy organizations to ensure
913 that their input is included early and throughout in the planning and project
914 design process for projects with ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation elements
915 or that have the potential to affect ~~((nonmotorized))~~ these users.

916
917 **T-244** King County should participate~~((d))~~ in the Puget Sound Regional Council’s
918 regional bicycle network planning efforts~~((;))~~ and consider related project needs
919 within King County’s jurisdiction ~~((should be considered))~~ in the ~~((e))~~ County’s
920 ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation planning and project prioritization
921 processes ~~((as financial resources allow)).~~

922

923 **~~((J))~~ Transportation Demand Management**

924 Transportation affects every aspect of the lives of King County residents, not only in terms of mobility but also in
925 terms of health, racial justice, economy, and environment. Transportation Demand Management consists of a
926 broad range of strategies that provide for reduced reliance on single occupancy vehicle trips, reduced vehicle
927 miles traveled, and increased efficiency of the whole transportation system. Transportation Demand
928 Management results in lower greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, and equitable access to alternative
929 mobility options.

930
931 King County, both as a government and as an employer, is a leader in implementing transportation initiatives
932 and encouraging land uses, policies, and development that lead people and businesses to reduce single occupant
933 vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled, while decreasing the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from the
934 transportation sector. King County’s ability to provide for the mobility needs of its residents will increasingly
935 depend on actively managing the existing transportation system.

936
937 Transportation Demand Management strategies include (but are not limited to):

- 938 • Public education/information and incentive programs;
- 939 • Public transportation ~~((i.e.))~~ bus, rail, passenger ferry, ~~((and))~~ vanpool, and carpool;
- 940 • ~~((Nonmotorized travel))~~ Active transportation options;
- 941 • State-mandated Commute Trip Reduction and Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers;
- 942 • Roadway and lane management (such as ridesharing, intelligent traffic systems, and active traffic
943 management);
- 944 • Congestion pricing strategies (such as high-occupancy toll~~((s))~~ lanes, express toll lanes, corridor tolling,
945 cordon tolling, system-wide tolling, and vehicle miles traveled charges);
- 946 • Joint use and intermodal transfer facilities (such as park~~((-))~~-and~~((-))~~-ride~~((s))~~ lots);
- 947 • Parking management and pricing (such as connecting supply with mode split targets);
- 948 • Telecommunications substitutes for physical travel ~~((e))~~, such as ~~((telecommuting, e-government, and~~
949 ~~internet based business to business activities))~~ remote work; and
- 950 • Land use decisions (such as site design standards and concurrency).

951
952 In its application of Transportation Demand Management strategies, King County fulfills many roles, including:

- 953 • The jurisdiction responsible for land use, transportation infrastructure, and permitting in unincorporated
954 areas;
- 955 • The operator and manager of unincorporated area roadways and ~~((Metro-T))~~ transit services;

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- 956 • ~~An advocate at the~~ local, regional, and state~~((wide advocate))~~ levels for integrated transportation
957 solutions, equitable access to mobility options, and climate change actions; and
- 958 • A leading edge employer implementing progressive employee transportation programs.

959

960 **T-245** King County shall implement policies and programs that support transportation
961 demand management, ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation, transit
962 service improvements, and expansion of high-occupancy~~((--))~~ vehicle travel ~~((in~~
963 ~~order))~~ to increase the share of trips made by modes other than driving alone.

964

965 **T-246** ~~((Where appropriate))~~ King County should support the use of Transportation
966 Demand Management strategies, including ~~((variable tolling on state highways))~~
967 congestion pricing, to increase mobility options, promote travel efficiency,
968 optimize the existing transportation system ~~((and))~~, support King County climate
969 goals, and reduce the adverse environmental impacts of the transportation
970 system.

971

972 **T-247** King County should consider Transportation Demand Management strategies,
973 beyond those adopted as ~~((c))~~ County regulation, among a menu of measures to
974 mitigate for traffic impacts of proposed development or major highway
975 construction projects. ~~((Transportation Demand Management, as well as other~~
976 ~~mitigation requirements, may be imposed on new development as mandatory~~
977 ~~mitigation measures as necessary to meet the requirements for mitigation of~~
978 ~~impacts pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act and the State~~
979 ~~Subdivision Act.))~~

980

981 **T-248** King County should promote employee transportation programs, including those
982 for its own employees, that encourage trip reduction, use of public
983 transportation, walking, and bicycling. ~~((King County should demonstrate~~
984 ~~regional leadership by continuing to provide a model program for its own~~
985 ~~employees.))~~

986

987 ~~((T-248a~~ King County should actively participate in developing and implementing
988 ~~state-mandated Commute Trip Reduction programs.))~~

989

990 **T-249** King County should participate in local, regional, and statewide efforts to
991 implement and measure the results of Transportation Demand Management
992 strategies, technologies, and systems, including policies developed through
993 regional consensus and adopted by the ~~((c))~~ County. To this end, the ~~((c))~~ County
994 shall identify funds to research, plan, implement, and measure the success of
995 Transportation Demand Management strategies.

996

- 997 T-250 King County ~~((will))~~ shall work with the Washington State Department of
998 Transportation, Washington State Transportation Commission, Puget Sound
999 Regional Council, and cities to develop and implement applications of managed
1000 transportation facilities and congestion pricing strategies on new and existing
1001 transportation facilities.
1002
- 1003 T-251 King County supports congestion pricing and other road usage pricing
1004 strategies, especially more equitable and less regressive approaches, as a
1005 means to optimize transportation system performance, generate revenues,
1006 reduce vehicle miles traveled, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
1007
- 1008 T-252 Revenue from congestion pricing and other road usage pricing should be used to
1009 improve, preserve, and operate the transportation system, including transit and
1010 other multimodal investments, as well as to help fund improvements that address
1011 the diversionary impacts on non-tolled facilities.
1012
- 1013 T-253 King County should partner with the Washington State Department of
1014 Transportation, Puget Sound Regional Council, local jurisdictions, employers,
1015 major institutions and developers to implement programs to encourage
1016 alternatives to commuting by single-occupant((-))_vehicles, and to improve travel
1017 options and awareness of those options.
1018
- 1019 T-253a King County shall provide culturally((-))_appropriate opportunities to inform and
1020 participate in programs that increase access to effective alternatives to driving
1021 alone for residents of low-income communities, Black, Indigenous, and other
1022 ((p))_People of ((e))_Color((r)); people ((with limited English proficiency)) speaking a
1023 language(s) other than English; ((and)) immigrants; and refugees_ ((populations to
1024 inform and participate in programs to increase access to effective alternatives to
1025 driving alone)).
1026

1027 ~~((H.))~~ Ensuring Effective Management and Efficient 1028 Operations

1029 This section contains policy direction to guide the ongoing design, maintenance, operation, and management of
1030 the county transportation system to provide for safety, efficiency, and sustainability. ~~((It is consistent with the~~
1031 ~~King County Strategic Plan, which, as a component of the county's Performance Management and~~
1032 ~~Accountability System, provides the foundation for managing the performance of county services.)) The
1033 Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Metro Service Guidelines, Metro Connects, and the Strategic Plan for
1034 Road Services~~((, as transportation functional plans,))~~ provide ~~((the))~~ detailed guidance on operational issues and
1035 ~~((also))~~ address transportation performance measurement and reporting.~~

1036

1037 **~~((A-))~~ Public Transportation Policies and Service Guidelines**

1038 Metro is committed to ~~((using))~~ delivering a regional, innovative, and integrated mobility network that is safe,
1039 equitable, and sustainable. To do this, Metro must invest in line with its values and policies, use resources
1040 wisely, and ((increasing)) increase the efficiency of its operations. Consistent with its Strategic Plan and ((Long
1041 Range Plan)) Metro Connects, Metro emphasizes planning and delivery of productive services and is committed
1042 to controlling costs. To help ensure efficiency and investments aligned with Metro's values, Metro uses service
1043 guidelines and performance measures to manage the transit system. Performance monitoring helps Metro
1044 evaluate its progress, plan and budget for the future, and improve agency practices. Metro is also committed to
1045 improving its transparency and so makes performance reports readily available to internal and external
1046 audiences.

1047

1048 Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects emphasize advancing
1049 equity and addressing climate change. The three documents strongly emphasize the need to invest upstream and
1050 where needs are greatest, including for priority populations: people who have low or no income; are Black,
1051 Indigenous, and other People of Color; are immigrants or refugees; have disabilities; or are linguistically diverse.
1052 For example, when considering where to add new service, Metro's Service Guidelines now direct Metro to
1053 consider social equity first, and land use second.

1054

1055 **T-301** King County should provide reliable, safe, convenient, equitable, and accessible
1056 public transportation services that are responsive to the needs of people,
1057 businesses, and communities in King County – especially where needs are
1058 greatest.

1059

1060 **T-301a** ~~((The))~~ King County ~~((Marine Division))~~ should be a leader in regional mobility by
1061 providing passenger-only ferry service that benefits the community, helps reduce
1062 road congestion, can assist in emergency management needs, and supports the
1063 economic development and growth management needs of King County.

1064

1065 **T-301b** King County~~((s))~~ should provide passenger-only ferry service ~~((should be))~~ that
1066 is efficient, safe, accessible, and reliable, ((and provide)) in addition to providing
1067 excellent customer service while being responsive and accountable to the public.

1068

1069 **T-302** ~~((The))~~ King County ~~((Marine Division))~~ should work with the Washington State
1070 Department of Transportation, Kitsap County, and other entities offering
1071 passenger ferry services, to ensure that service and capital plans for ferries are
1072 consistent with ~~((the King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan))~~ Metro's

1073 **Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and Metro**
1074 **Connects, or successor plans.**
1075

1076 **~~((B.))~~ Road Services Policies and Priorities**

1077 Effective design, management, and operation of the road system are critical to mobility and quality of life. King
1078 County strives to make efficient use of the existing infrastructure, serve the broad needs of users, address safety
1079 issues, and design facilities that are appropriate for the surrounding communities. King County has a structural
1080 funding deficit that continues to severely impact the ((e))County’s ability to provide basic preservation and
1081 maintenance of its aging and declining road system. Therefore, as the revenue available to manage the road
1082 system fluctuates, so will the ((e))County’s ability to maintain and preserve its roads and bridges. If sufficient
1083 revenue is not available to sustain the road system, then infrastructure may be downgraded or closed. The
1084 ((e))County’s focus will remain on the priorities in the Strategic Plan for Road Services to guide these critical
1085 decisions. The Strategic Plan for Road Services also prioritizes funding of services and projects, including both
1086 the type of activities and the location of investments.

1087
1088 The Strategic Plan for Road Services lays out the priority for the Road Services Division funding decisions in the
1089 following order:

- 1090 1. Prevent and respond to immediate operational life safety and property damage hazards.
- 1091 2. Meet regulatory requirements and standards in cooperation with regulatory agencies.
- 1092 3. Maintain and ((P))preserve the existing roadway facilities network.
- 1093 4. Enhance mobility (movement of people and goods) by facilitating more efficient use of the existing road
1094 system.
- 1095 5. Address roadway capacity when necessary to support growth targets in the urban area.

1096
1097 Based on the Strategic Plan for Road Services, King County has implemented a graduated service level decision
1098 framework that considers road function, traffic volume, life-safety needs, network connectivity, and transit use.
1099 Priority will be given to keep the most vital components of the road system operational for users. This approach
1100 guides service provision under limited funding scenarios and also helps direct investments toward the most
1101 critical needs when additional resources are available. Performance measurement and reporting is also an
1102 important aspect of the Strategic Plan for Road Services and a critical tool in managing the county’s road system.

1103
1104 To improve efficiency and productivity, King County has implemented and continues to enhance and refine a
1105 data driven asset management approach that, combined with the policy direction in this Comprehensive Plan
1106 and the Strategic Plan for Road Services, will guide investment choices over the next biennium and beyond.

1107
1108 The Road Services Division’s Capital Improvement Program and Financial Plan must be consistent with this
1109 Comprehensive Plan and consider the current performance of the transportation system, concurrency needs of

1110 planned developments, priority projects, phased implementation of improvements, and other related factors.
1111 Revenues from a range of sources, including grants, are programmed to appropriate projects.

1112
1113 While new streets are designed to balance the safety and mobility needs of all users, including people walking
1114 and biking, much of the network was built many generations ago using the standards of the time. Over time, as
1115 resources become available, the County strives to improve the system to one that is designed and operated in a
1116 human-centric manner to accommodate certain types and levels of human mistakes, accommodates physical
1117 human vulnerabilities, proactively addresses safety, and reduces risk through redundant measures. The
1118 responsibility for traffic safety outcomes on the road network is shared between multiple actors, including the
1119 Road Services Division as the road system manager, as well as public health organizations, law enforcement
1120 agencies, emergency responders, road users, and others.

1121
1122 Arterial Functional Classification, established in Appendix C, Transportation, is implemented through the
1123 specifications provided in the King County Road Design and Construction Standards. The Urban Growth Area
1124 boundary provides the distinction between urban and rural arterials.

1125
1126 Management of the county road network gives special consideration to its designated Heritage Corridors, where
1127 travelers can still experience a sense of the county’s rich transportation history. These historic and scenic
1128 corridors include:

- 1129 • Cedarhurst Road/Westside Highway and Dockton Road on Vashon Maury Island;
- 1130 • Green Valley Road in the Auburn Black Diamond area;
- 1131 • Issaquah Fall City Road, West Snoqualmie River Road, and West Snoqualmie Valley Road/Carnation
1132 Farm Road in the Snoqualmie Valley;
- 1133 • Old Cascade Scenic Highway and Old Sunset Highway in Stevens Pass; and
- 1134 • Osceola Loop in the Enumclaw Plateau.

1135
1136 Likewise, travelers in King County also benefit from multiple scenic, historic, and recreational highways located
1137 within King County. Designated Washington Scenic and Recreational Highways include:

- 1138 • I-90 (Mountains to Sound Greenway),
- 1139 • US 2 (Stevens Pass Greenway),
- 1140 • State Route 410 (Chinook Pass Scenic Byway), and
- 1141 • State Route 202 (Cascade Valleys Scenic Byway).

1142
1143
1144 **Equity and Racial and Social Justice**

1145 Equity and Racial and Social Justice principles receive significant consideration in decision((-))_making
1146 processes. The Road Services((-)) Division's approach to integrating equity and social justice into agency
1147 business operations and budgeting includes the following components:

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- 1148 • Prioritize emergency snow and ice response along Metro’s highest priority transit snow routes, since
1149 these may be the only source of transportation available to lower-income residents.

- 1150 • Promote equal access to, and availability of, information and services for all county residents by
1151 designing division communications and public engagement processes that are culturally relevant for
1152 diverse communities, including communities whose residents ~~((have limited English proficiency))~~ speak
1153 a language(s) other than English.

- 1154 • Utilize partnerships with other King County or external agencies, community groups, and non((-)profit
1155 organizations to better understand community needs and obtain community input and involvement.

- 1156 • When available, grant funded ~~((non-motorized))~~ active transportation improvements are directed to
1157 ~~((disadvantaged))~~ historically underserved communities because they both help to support active,
1158 healthy lifestyles ~~((and also))~~; facilitate mobility for people with disabilities((-)); and those who cannot
1159 drive or are unable to afford a car.

- 1160 • King County acknowledges that ~~((there are significant concentrations of))~~ Black, Indigenous, and other
1161 ~~((p))~~ People of ((e))Color((-, low-income populations)); people with low incomes((-); people ~~((with~~
1162 ~~limited English proficiency))~~ speaking a language(s) other than English((-, and)); immigrants; and
1163 refugees ~~((populations))~~ disproportionately reside in ((ertain areas)) some King County neighborhoods.
1164 The ((e))County also recognizes that these groups of people are ~~((disbursed))~~ dispersed across the
1165 county. Their mobility needs, as well as the mobility needs of students, youth, seniors, and people with
1166 disabilities, should be considered when evaluating division projects and programs.

((General Priorities))

- 1169 **T-303** **King County shall maintain and preserve the unincorporated area road system to**
1170 **keep it operating safely, protect mobility and infrastructure investments, and**
1171 **maximize the useful life of transportation assets to the extent feasible under**
1172 **available funding levels.**

- 1174 **T-304** ~~((In order to))~~ **To keep the most vital components of the road system operational**
1175 **for users, King County should use a decision framework that considers road**
1176 **function, life-safety needs, network connectivity, traffic volume, transit use, and**
1177 **other assessment criteria to both guide service provision and help direct**
1178 **investments toward((-e)) the most critical needs when additional resources are**
1179 **available.**

- 1181 **T-305** ~~((To ensure that the most vital components of the county’s road system are kept~~
1182 ~~operational,))~~ **King County should fund safety, essential regulatory compliance,**
1183 **and maintenance and preservation needs of the existing road system ~~((should be~~**
1184 **funded)) prior to mobility and capacity improvements.**

((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)) TBD

1186 ~~((T-306~~ Maintenance and preservation of the unincorporated rural roadway system shall
1187 be emphasized in long-term planning and asset management in recognition of
1188 the fact that Rural Area and Natural Resource Land roads and bridges will remain
1189 the county's long-term responsibility after all annexations are complete.))

1191 **T-306** King County should contribute to achieving the state traffic safety goal of zero
1192 deaths and serious injuries using a safe systems approach, through which road
1193 system managers, public health organizations, law enforcement agencies,
1194 emergency responders, road users, and other parties collaborate to prioritize the
1195 elimination of crashes that result in death and serious injuries.

1197 **T-306a** Decisions on road closures and abandonments should be made based on public
1198 safety considerations, technical/engineering standards, and the policy guidance
1199 set forth in the Strategic Plan for Road Services. Impacts to residents,
1200 businesses, and other road users or ~~((stakeholders))~~ affected parties should be
1201 identified and communicated to them in a timely manner.

1203 **T-307** Roadway stormwater facilities are an integral component of a properly
1204 functioning transportation network and shall be maintained, preserved, and,
1205 when practicable, upgraded ~~((in order))~~ to protect infrastructure, public health,
1206 and the natural environment, as well as meet federal, state, and local regulations.

1208 **T-308** Road projects and programs shall be implemented in ways that avoid or minimize
1209 negative impacts, as well as seek to provide positive benefits, for Black,
1210 Indigenous, and other ~~((P))~~People of ~~((E))~~Color~~((,))~~; immigrants; refugees; and
1211 other intersectional populations, including ~~((low-income communities))~~ those
1212 who earn less than 80 percent of the area median income, people with
1213 disabilities, seniors, LGBTQIA+ people, women, people ~~((with limited English~~
1214 proficiency)) speaking a language(s) other than English, ~~((immigrant and refugee~~
1215 populations)) and others who may have limited transportation options, such as
1216 students~~((,))~~ and youth~~((, seniors, and people with disabilities))~~. ~~((Projects and~~
1217 programs shall seek to provide tangible, positive benefits.))

1219 **T-309** To facilitate the establishment of a safe and efficient traffic circulation network
1220 reflecting all transportation modes and to retain the availability of access to
1221 adjacent properties, the ~~((E))~~County shall review and comment on the appropriate
1222 placement of new or major modified facilities or physical barriers, such as
1223 buildings, utilities, and surface water management facilities in or adjacent to road
1224 rights-of-way.

1225

((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)) TBD

1226 T-310 ~~((State highway facilities and arterial roads are designed to accommodate higher~~
1227 ~~traffic volumes, at higher speeds, than local roads. To protect residential~~
1228 ~~neighborhoods from the impacts of pass through traffic,)) Whenever possible,~~
1229 ~~King County should design and operate roads to direct ((such)) pass-through~~
1230 ~~traffic away from local roads and encourage such traffic to use highways or~~
1231 ~~arterials ((whenever possible)), which are designed to accommodate higher~~
1232 ~~traffic volumes at higher speeds.~~

1234 ~~((T-311) The Department of Local Services has responsibility for development and~~
1235 ~~maintenance of transportation facilities in County-owned road rights-of-way.~~
1236 ~~Other right-of-way users must obtain approval from the department regarding~~
1237 ~~projects, maintenance and other activities impacting the right-of-way.~~

1239 ~~T-312 Arterial Functional Classification, established in Appendix C of this plan, should~~
1240 ~~be implemented through the specifications provided in the King County Road~~
1241 ~~Design and Construction Standards. The Comprehensive Plan's Urban Growth~~
1242 ~~Area boundary provides the distinction between urban and rural arterials.))~~

1244 T-313 The King County((’s)) ((r))Road ((d))Design and ((e))Construction ((s))Standards
1245 shall, to the extent practical and allowed by law, incorporate complete streets
1246 infrastructure to promote safe, cost-effective roads that ((encourage multimodal
1247 use,)) balance the health and safety needs of all road users and reflect the

1248 function of the road and the different needs of and service levels for the Urban
1249 Growth Area and Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

1251 T-314 King County should provide road services in a manner that is sensitive to the
1252 natural environment, historical properties, and archaeological resources, and to
1253 design new facilities that fit within the context of the built or natural
1254 environments in which they are located.

1255

1256 T-315 King County should preserve its identified Heritage Corridors through context
1257 sensitive design, planning, and maintenance, as exemplars of historic and scenic
1258 character. ~~((The corridors include: Cedarhurst Road/Westside Highway (Vashon
1259 Island), Dockton Road (Vashon-Maury Island), Green Valley Road (Auburn-Black
1260 Diamond), Issaquah-Fall City Road (Snoqualmie Valley), Old Cascade Scenic
1261 Highway (Stevens Pass), Osceola Loop (Enumclaw Plateau), Old Sunset Highway
1262 (Snoqualmie Pass), West Snoqualmie River Road (Snoqualmie Valley), and West
1263 Snoqualmie Valley Road/Carnation Farm Road (Snoqualmie Valley).))~~ In-kind
1264 replacement of road and roadside features and the use of materials that
1265 complement the character of each corridor should be utilized to the extent that is
1266 practicable and meets safety needs. King County should encourage adjacent
1267 property owners, through outreach efforts, to similarly support the preservation
1268 of these corridors.

1269 T-316 King County shall support and encourage the preservation and enhancement of
1270 scenic, historic, and recreational resources along the designated Washington
1271 Scenic and Recreational Highways located in the county ~~((, including I-90
1272 (Mountains to Sound Greenway), US 2 (Stevens Pass Greenway), State Route 410
1273 (Chinook Pass Scenic Byway), and State Route 202 (Cascade Valleys Scenic
1274 Byway))).~~ The corridor management plans established for these highways
1275 should be considered in the development and implementation of King County's
1276 plans, projects, and programs.
1277
1278

1279 **~~((C.))~~ Air Transportation**

1280 T-317 King County shall plan, design, and implement services, programs, and facilities
1281 for the King County International Airport ~~((in compliance with Federal Aviation
1282 Administration regulatory requirements))~~ to support a safe, secure, and efficient
1283 global aerospace system.
1284

1285 T-317a King County International Airport shall continue to provide and maintain safe and
1286 secure transportation services and facilities for the flying public and aviation
1287 community in support of a broad range of uses, including corporate general
1288 aviation, small general aviation, charter and commercial passenger services,
1289 military aircraft, air cargo, and aircraft manufacturing, maintenance, storage, and
1290 service, while improving mobility for people and freight to meet growing and
1291 evolving demand.

1292
1293 **T-317b King County and King County International Airport planning efforts shall:**
1294 **a. Promote coordinated planning and effective management to optimize the**
1295 **movement of people and goods in the region's aviation system in a**

1296 manner that minimizes health, air quality, and noise impact to the
1297 community, especially frontline communities;

1298 b. Consider demand management alternatives as future aviation growth
1299 needs are analyzed, recognizing capacity constraints at existing facilities
1300 and the time and resources necessary to build new ones; and

1301 c. Support the ongoing process of development of a new commercial
1302 aviation facility in Washington State.
1303

1304 ~~((In 2005,))~~ King County International Airport noise reduction efforts in communities surrounding Boeing field
1305 are guided by the Federal Aviation Administration approved ((a)) Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility
1306 Plan ((to reduce noise impacts in communities surrounding Boeing Field. This is a significant event and
1307 represents a positive step in making)). The Plan supports King County International Airport efforts to be a
1308 “good neighbor” to affected residential areas((. The Part 150 plan)) and identifies many actions that ((are
1309 allowed to)) may be taken by King County International Airport, pilots, tenants, the Federal Aviation
1310 Administration, and others to reduce noise impacts on residential areas. ((The Part 150 noise mitigation
1311 program, including home insulation, was completed in 2015.))
1312

1313 **T-318** **Recognizing that certain noise reduction measures are contingent on ongoing**
1314 **and future Federal Aviation Administration funding, King County shall implement**
1315 **those actions((,)) under its control and identified in the Part 150 Noise and Land**
1316 **Use Compatibility Plan. King County shall encourage other entities to implement**
1317 **those measures under their control and also identified in the Part 150 Noise and**
1318 **Land Use Compatibility Plan.**
1319

1320 **T-319** **King County shall ~~((encourage all airports located in the county, whether owned~~**
1321 **~~by a public or private entities, to be responsible neighbors and make all~~**
1322 **~~reasonable efforts to minimize noise impacts on sensitive land uses such as~~**
1323 **~~residences, hospitals, and schools)) work with airports, federal agencies that~~**
1324 **oversee flight operations, local jurisdictions, community-based partners, and**
1325 **others to advance health equity and racial and social justice by mitigating**
1326 **exposure to noise and other airport-related harm.**
1327

1328 ~~((D-))~~ **Climate Change, Air Quality, and the Environment**

1329 Clean air and eliminating greenhouse gas emissions contribute((s)) to the health of people, ((the)) ecosystems,
1330 and the economy. ~~((Transportation is the primary source of air pollutants regionally. In addition to complying~~
1331 ~~with state and federal regulations described below, t))The ((e))County is working to reduce transportation-related~~
1332 ~~emissions – the primary source of air pollutants regionally and a major driver of climate change – through the~~
1333 ~~policies ((and actions contained in this)) of the Comprehensive Plan.~~
1334

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Attachment A to Ordinance ((18427, as amended by Ordinances 18623, 18810, 19034, 19146, and 19555)) TBD**

1335 The Washington State Clean Air Conformity Act establishes guidelines and directives for implementing the
1336 federal Clean Air Act Amendments(~~(– It specifically))~~ and links air quality conformity to growth management
1337 planning (~~(efforts at the local and regional level))~~). The King County transportation system complies with the
1338 federal and state Clean Air Acts by maintaining conformity with the Puget Sound Regional Council
1339 (~~(Transportation 2040 plan))~~ Regional Transportation Plan 2022-2050 and by following the requirements of
1340 Chapter 173-420 of the Washington Administrative Code.

1341

1342 (~~(Climate change is of significant local, national, and global concern. It is clear that greenhouse gas emissions
1343 from transportation sources are a significant contributing factor to climate change. In addition to meeting its
1344 regulatory requirements, King County is committed to addressing climate change through its decisions and
1345 actions and encouraging others to act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well. Climate change is projected to
1346 increase the frequency of flood events in most of western Washington’s river basins. Increased flood frequency
1347 and intensity will increase public investment needed to ensure public safety and mobility, particularly on the
1348 county road system. Climate change will affect the county’s road and transit infrastructure. More storm events
1349 and increased temperatures will disrupt service, increase road maintenance requirements, and adversely affect
1350 mobility. Changes in precipitation patterns and sea levels may cause greater damage to roads, bridges and
1351 seawalls from erosion, landslides, and flooding.~~

1352

1353 ~~The goals and activities of King County departments and agencies that provide transportation services in King
1354 County are integrally linked to the County’s strategies and activities for addressing climate change. This linkage
1355 was refined in the County’s 2012 Strategic Climate Action Plan, with an entire chapter focused on the
1356 operational and service targets related to transportation and land use. The Strategic Climate Action Plan
1357 identifies clear performance targets (how much change is the County attempting to achieve) and strategies and
1358 priority activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It allows for the reporting of strategies, program
1359 activities, and performance measures related to climate change in one location.~~

1360

1361 ~~The updated 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan provides a mechanism to evaluate progress since the 2012
1362 Strategic Climate Action Plan and refines strategies and program activities to achieve the objectives of reducing
1363 greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change impacts.)~~

1364

1365 In addition to reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, King County must also prepare County
1366 roads and transit infrastructure for climate change. More extreme heat events, heavier rain events, and sea level
1367 rise increase the potential for damage to roads, bridges, and sea walls, particularly as infrastructure ages. This
1368 can result in higher maintenance costs, more service disruptions, and mobility impacts. Increased flood impacts
1369 will require public investment to ensure public safety and mobility, particularly on the County road system.

1370

1371 King County transportation services are integral to implementing the Strategic Climate Action Plan. The plan
1372 sets transportation-related greenhouse gas reduction goals and guides the planning, development, prioritization,

1373 implementation, and tracking of County actions, such as linking transportation and land use, developing
1374 community-driven transit, and creating climate-resilient transit infrastructure and services.

1375

1376 **T-320** **Transportation improvements should be designed, built, and operated to**
1377 **minimize air, water, and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and the**
1378 **disruption of natural surface water drainage in compliance with provisions and**
1379 **requirements of applicable federal, state, and local environmental regulations.**
1380 **Natural and historic resource protection should also be considered. Particular**
1381 **care should be taken to minimize impacts where the location of such facilities**
1382 **could increase the pressure for development in critical areas or the Rural**
1383 **Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands.**

1384

1385 **T-320a** **King County should proactively identify barriers to fish passage created by**
1386 **existing County roads and prioritize multiple benefit solutions that enhance high-**
1387 **priority habitats and address critical roadway maintenance and preservation**
1388 **needs.**

1389

1390 **T-321** **Within new developments, King County supports designing and building roads,**
1391 **bicycle facilities, pedestrian ways, and trails in ways that minimize pollution,**
1392 **provide opportunities for physical activity, promote energy conservation,**
1393 **increase community cohesion, and preserve natural flora and wildlife habitat.**

1394

1395 **T-322** **Through its own actions and through regional partnerships, King County ~~((will))~~**
1396 **shall promote strategies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector. The**
1397 **~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall promote new vehicle technologies, the use of low-carbon**
1398 **fuels, and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including land use**
1399 **changes, investment in equitable transit-oriented development, provision of**
1400 **transit, promotion of ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation, joint**
1401 **purchasing, pilot projects, and actions to reduce vehicle miles traveled.**

1402

1403 **T-322a** **King County shall increase the share of its fleet that are electric vehicles, as**
1404 **guided by County policies and the Strategic Climate Action Plan, or successor**
1405 **plans.**

1406

1407 T-323 King County ~~((will))~~ shall strive to become a world leader in the use of
1408 transportation fuels and technologies that reduce operational greenhouse gas
1409 emissions from its fleets and vessels. King County ~~((will))~~ shall achieve this goal
1410 by buying ~~((hybrid electric,))~~ electric, zero-emission, and other clean
1411 transportation technologies when feasible to meet operational needs; using
1412 clean fuels in its fleets and vessels; implementing demonstration projects that
1413 use alternative fuels and technologies; purchasing locally~~((-))~~ produced energy
1414 sources when practical; seeking local and federal support to expand the use of
1415 low-carbon fuels and alternative, zero~~((-))~~-emission technologies; and promoting
1416 best practices, innovations, ~~((trends))~~ and developments in transportation fuels
1417 and technologies. The ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall also seek to deploy and use its
1418 vehicles in an energy-efficient manner through vehicle routing, idling-reduction,
1419 and operator practices.

1420
1421 T-324 King County ~~((will))~~ shall incorporate climate change impacts information into the
1422 construction, operations, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure
1423 projects~~((.- The department will incorporate climate change))~~ and into its
1424 transportation planning and design documents ~~((and also))~~. The County shall
1425 develop and implement strategies to incorporate climate change response into
1426 the design and operations of its transportation structures and services, where
1427 feasible.

1428
1429 T-324a King County ~~((will))~~ shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its off-road
1430 vehicles and equipment by using low-carbon fuels and advanced technologies,
1431 and by partnering with other agencies to implement demonstration projects
1432 using these vehicle technologies.

1433
1434 T-325 King County ~~((will develop methods to))~~ shall periodically evaluate ~~((the))~~ climate
1435 change impacts ~~((of its actions and))~~ related to transportation infrastructure and
1436 services, and ~~((will))~~ implement climate ~~((sensitive))~~ change strategies and
1437 practices consistent with ~~((the))~~ its environmental sustainability goals and
1438 policies ~~((described in Chapter 5, Environment, as well as existing))~~ and state,
1439 regional, and local plans, laws, and regulations.

1440
1441 ~~((T-326))~~ ~~—————~~ ~~To the extent practicable, future expansion or redevelopment of the county's~~
1442 ~~road stormwater infrastructure should minimize pollutant discharges and flow~~
1443 ~~alterations by mimicking the natural drainage system or preserving the ability to~~
1444 ~~create such a system in the future.))~~

1445

1446 **Electric vehicles**

1447 Transportation emissions – primarily from passenger cars and trucks – are the biggest source of carbon pollution
1448 in Washington, accounting for 39 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. Supporting the transition of
1449 private cars and trucks to electric vehicles will lead to fewer climate-altering pollutants, improved air quality,
1450 lower maintenance and fueling costs for car owners, and reduced pollution exposure for communities along
1451 major transportation corridors.

1452
1453 King County and Washington State have taken steps to support electric vehicle adoption and charging
1454 availability, including the Washington State Motor Vehicle Emission Standards – Zero-Emission Vehicles law in
1455 2020 (Revised Code of Washington 70A.30.010), Clean Fuels Program in 2022 (Chapter 173-424 Washington
1456 Administrative Code), and Climate Commitment Act 2022 (Chapter 173-446 Washington Administrative Code).
1457 The Strategic Climate Action Plan supports efforts to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles while ensuring
1458 the equitable distribution of benefits of electric vehicles and promoting equitable access to mobility that
1459 prioritizes shared mobility solutions. The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets targets that the share of new
1460 vehicles sold that are electric vehicles by 2035 are 100 percent of light-duty vehicles, 50 percent of medium-duty
1461 vehicles, and 28 percent of heavy-duty vehicles. King County and the State have adopted regulations requiring
1462 electric vehicle charging infrastructure be provided with new and substantial improvements to residential and
1463 nonresidential development. Washington State has also developed the Washington State Plan for Electric
1464 Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment and has set a target that all model year 2030 and later passenger and light-
1465 duty vehicles that are sold, purchased, or registered in Washington be zero-emission vehicles. The State also
1466 mandates that all new vehicles must be zero-emission vehicles from model year 2035 onward.

1467
1468 Challenges remain for equitable access to electric vehicles due to higher vehicle costs and access to charging
1469 infrastructure. On average, electric vehicles have a higher purchase price, though they are less expensive to own
1470 overall. Additionally, people who live in multifamily or rental housing face barriers to securing electric vehicle
1471 charging at home, as tenants do not have property control and property owners have few incentives to install
1472 charging equipment. Constricted charging supply is exacerbated by existing disparities, as historically
1473 underserved families disproportionately rent. However, there are some state and federal financial incentives
1474 available.

1475
1476 **T-327 King County supports expansion of private electric vehicle use and the**
1477 **necessary charging infrastructure, including opportunities to improve equitable**
1478 **access to the benefits of electric vehicle and geographically dispersed access to**
1479 **public vehicle charging at King County-owned facilities and at partner locations.**

1480

1481 ~~((IV.))~~ **Financing Services and Facilities that Meet Local**
1482 **and Regional Goals**

1483 Fully achieving King County’s transportation goals depends on adequate funding for transportation system and
1484 service needs. This section discusses the extent to which the transportation system and services can be funded
1485 within a reasonable revenue forecast and expenditure schedule. The Growth Management Act requires the
1486 ~~((e))~~County to include an analysis of funding capabilities, a multiyear financing plan based on needs, and a
1487 discussion of how to raise additional funds to build needed transportation projects, or to reassess growth and
1488 Level of Service standards to resolve potential funding shortfalls in a ~~((ten))~~10-year time frame. This analysis is
1489 provided in the Transportation Needs Report and summarized below.
1490

1491 ~~((A.))~~ **Public Transportation Revenue Sources**

1492 **Metro Transit**

1493 ~~((King County Metro Transit’s))~~ Metro’s budget provides for both the operating and capital needs of its public
1494 transportation system. The operating budget funds Metro’s broad range of public transportation services. The
1495 capital budget provides for transit facilities needed to operate Metro’s services, such as maintenance and bus
1496 storage facilities, transit centers and park-and-ride~~((s))~~ lots, bus shelters and other passenger facilities, buses, and
1497 non-revenue vehicles.

1498
1499 Metro’s primary source of revenue, a 0.9~~((%))~~ percent sales tax (the maximum authorized by the state), provides
1500 ~~((approximately 54%))~~ more than half of Metro’s revenues. This rate has been in effect since late 2006, when
1501 voters approved a 0.1~~((%))~~ percent increase as part of the Transit Now initiative. Sales tax is a highly volatile
1502 revenue source because it fluctuates with changes in economic conditions. It is also regressive, as people with
1503 lower incomes spend a larger portion of their income on sales tax than people with higher incomes. Metro has
1504 had to rely more on sales tax since 2000, when the Washington legislature eliminated the motor vehicle excise
1505 tax for transit.

1506
1507 ~~((Beginning in 2009, King County levied a 5.5-cent property tax to support transit.))~~ King County levies a 1.25
1508 cent property tax for ferry service and a 5.5 cent property tax for other Metro transit services. Fares paid by users
1509 of Metro’s system ~~((and transit advertising revenues))~~ provided about ~~((a quarter))~~ 15 percent of Metro’s
1510 operating revenues before the COVID-19 pandemic and about five percent of operative revenues in 2022.

1511 ~~((Metro also receives))~~ Other sources of revenues include federal and state grants, ~~((that))~~ which can fluctuate
1512 significantly and contributes primarily to capital expenses; vanpool operations, investment income, and service
1513 partners. Examples of service partnership funding include revenue from Sound Transit for operating Link light
1514 rail and Sound Transit Express, and from the City of Seattle; these sources account for about 15 percent of
1515 Metro’s total operating revenue.
1516

1517 ((The Great Recession and a slower than normal recovery took a major toll on Metro’s largest revenue source,
1518 sales taxes. After the 2008 recession caused a steep drop in sales tax revenue, Metro took action to preserve
1519 transit service by cutting costs, raising fares, and making a host of fiscal reforms. Metro’s ongoing efficiency
1520 gains, projections of lower fuel costs, improved sales tax forecasts and other financial improvements enabled the
1521 County to adopt a 2015/2016 budget and six year financial plan that does not envision future service cuts.

1522
1523 Beginning in 2011, sales tax revenues began to recover and by 2015, sales tax receipts have been restored to
1524 pre-recession levels in terms of purchasing power. The near term outlook is for continued growth; however this is
1525 tempered by the reality and need to plan for economic downturns. Over the last 50 years there has been, on
1526 average, a recession every eight years. The county’s financial policies and reserve requirements help Metro plan
1527 for the eventuality of economic downturns.

1528
1529 In November 2014, Seattle voters approved funding for additional transit service. The City of Seattle
1530 subsequently entered into a contract with King County to purchase Metro service through the County’s
1531 Community Mobility Contracts Program. Seattle will expand service on Metro routes that serve the city by about
1532 10%. Additionally, Metro will leverage Seattle’s Regional Partnership Fund created as part of the voter approved
1533 measure to improve transit service for suburban commuters through regional partnerships. This funding is
1534 scheduled to expire after 2020.))

1535
1536 The COVID-19 pandemic added uncertainty to Metro’s financial situation, particularly due to the pandemic’s
1537 impact on ridership and the resultant fare revenue impacts. The need remains for long-term, sustainable funding
1538 that fully meets King County’s current and future demand for ((bus)) transit service. The need for transit
1539 outlined in Metro Connects exceeds Metro’s current funding capacity for service, and the funding gap will only
1540 increase as Metro moves toward the 2050 service network, which envisions approximately 70 percent more
1541 transit service. Metro will not be able to grow its system as planned without significant amounts of new,
1542 sustainable funding. Funding source volatility has a uniquely negative impact on service growth and capital
1543 program development.

1544
1545 ((Metro will continue striving for efficiency improvements to make the most of every available transit dollar, and
1546 county leaders have pledged to continue working for a statewide transportation funding solution. Over the
1547 coming years, Metro will continue to take actions to stabilize its finances and improve the efficiency and
1548 effectiveness of service delivered as state, county and local officials work on a long term transit funding solution.

1549

1550 **B-)) Road-Related Funding Capabilities**

1551 King County is experiencing a structural roads funding crisis, largely due to municipal annexations, ((the 2008
1552 recession, declines in)) Washington State’s outdated tax system, stagnant gas tax revenues, the effects of voter
1553 initiatives, and an aging bridge and road system. The lack of revenue is significantly impacting the ((e))County’s

**((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)) TBD**

1554 capacity to maintain and improve roads. Regional growth over the last few decades has resulted in higher traffic
1555 volumes and congestion, contributing to the deterioration of the County's road network.

1556

1557 King County receives road revenues from a variety of sources, including a dedicated unincorporated King
1558 County property tax, ~~((federal and state grants,))~~ gas tax, federal and state grants, and local taxes ~~((and road~~
1559 ~~mitigation payments from private developments))~~. The dedicated property tax and gas tax provide the largest
1560 portion of funding for the Road Services Division ~~((71% in 2014))~~ 76 percent in 2023. The property tax is tied
1561 to the assessed value of properties in unincorporated King County. The county road system and its funding
1562 mechanisms predate growth management. However, as the only county to have so successfully implemented the
1563 Growth Management Act mandate to annex small, dense, urban areas of high-value properties into cities, King
1564 County's unincorporated area tax base is small relative to the size and age of the unincorporated road system. In
1565 King County, 13 percent of the total population pays for the roads that support more than one million trips every
1566 day.

1567

1568 ~~((During the recession, property values in unincorporated King County dropped sharply. While the economy~~
1569 ~~has shown signs of recovery, future growth in revenues is significantly limited by state law and is not predicted to~~
1570 ~~recover in real terms during the horizon of this plan.))~~ Property tax growth is capped at one percent annually, a
1571 pace slower than the ongoing growth in the cost of delivering services or the rate of inflation. Washington State's
1572 outdated tax system limits the County's ability to leverage revenue sources to support its funding needs. Local
1573 governments, like King County, need the flexibly and tools to help implement a more effective tax system and to
1574 preserve and maintain local roads. Gas tax revenues ~~((have been))~~ are flat, in part because of increased vehicle~~((s~~
1575 ~~that are more fuel efficient))~~ fuel efficiency, lower sales of gas due to ~~((the))~~ economic conditions, changing
1576 driving patterns, and a decline in the revenue allocation to King County due to the reduction in road miles from
1577 ~~((recent))~~ annexations.

1578

1579 Grant funding supports important road projects, but grants alone, even sizeable ones, will not be sufficient to
1580 address the current and growing volume of unmet road and bridge needs. In addition, grants typically fund
1581 capital projects, are rarely available for maintenance and operations, and are an unpredictable and unreliable
1582 source of funding due to the competitiveness of the grant process. Local and regional solutions to the roads
1583 funding crisis are still needed.

1584

1585 The County pursues structural funding solutions through collaboration at the local, regional, and state level.
1586 Initiatives have included the 2015-2016 Bridges and Roads Task Force and the 2017 Regional Transportation
1587 System Initiative. ~~((In August 2015, a panel))~~ This task force, comprised of regional leaders ~~((and))~~, community
1588 members ~~((began meeting to explore solutions for maintaining and preserving the aging bridge and road system~~
1589 ~~in unincorporated King County. The Bridges and Roads Task Force membership included neighbors,~~
1590 ~~representatives from agriculture and recreation organizations))~~, road experts, and public policy leaders~~((In~~
1591 January 2016, the Task Force recommended a host of reforms and funding principles. The Task Force)),
1592 identified the range of the bridges and ~~((R))~~roads funding gap as \$250 to \$400 million a year, and ~~((generated 152~~

1593 ~~recommendations)) recommended policy changes needed to address that gap((Among the recommendations~~
1594 ~~were the following)) including:~~

- 1595 • ~~((Revenue:))~~ Authority from the state Legislature for a fair, non-regressive, sustainable countywide
1596 revenue tool ~~((that is))~~ tied to inflation~~((, is sustainable over the long term, and))~~ that provides a benefit
1597 to both cities and the County. ~~((The Task Force recognized that the most successful approach may~~
1598 ~~involve using multiple revenue tools and efficiencies with some additional resources dedicated to city~~
1599 ~~transportation needs.~~
- 1600 • ~~Infrastructure: Authority))~~ Support from the state Legislature ~~((that provides for cities to annex~~
1601 ~~orphan))~~ to facilitate the annexation of ((€)county roads ((that lie)) inside ((their)) and adjacent to city
1602 boundaries(,)) and ((supports)) annexation of Potential Annexation Areas ((within the growth
1603 boundaries of those cities)).

1604
1605 Under the Regional Transportation System Initiative, a similar panel identified a transportation network of
1606 regionally significant city, county, and state facilities; its unmet needs; and ways to improve network
1607 performance on the roads, streets, and routes that connect communities.

1608
1609 Without additional funding, it is increasingly difficult to monitor, maintain operate, repair, and improve the
1610 system of bridges and roads in unincorporated King County. Aging infrastructure and maintenance facilities,
1611 and an inability to adequately invest in infrastructure asset management, have resulted in a system of roads,
1612 bridges, and buildings in decline and at risk of failure. Without the resources to perform timely preventative
1613 maintenance, the County is forced into a more reactive maintenance mode. Deferring maintenance leads to an
1614 exponential increase in the cost to repair and sustain roads in the future.

1615
1616 Financial viability to support the operation of the road system and provide for capital construction and
1617 preservation needs is tested over two time frames for the Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Needs
1618 Report, the ((€)County’s 20-year transportation plan, identifies the road-related investments needed to support
1619 the land use vision of the ((County’s)) Comprehensive Plan. The ~~((20-year plan))~~ Transportation Needs Report
1620 provides an assessment of revenues projected from currently available resources and identifies reasonable options
1621 for securing additional revenues over the life of the plan. Secondly, the biennial update of the ((€)Roads Capital
1622 Improvement Program examines the specifics of how to implement the financing plan over the next six years.

1624 **((€)) Funding Priorities Consistent with Transit and Road Strategic Plans**

1625
1626 **T-401 Financial investments in transportation should support a sustainable((,))**
1627 **transportation system, consistent with the priorities established in ((the King**
1628 **County Strategic Plan and)) each department and division’s strategic plan or**
1629 **other functional plans.**

1630

1631 **T-402** King County should fund services, operations, and capital facilities that support
1632 local and regional transportation and land use goals and result in a ~~((balanced,))~~
1633 sustainable, equitable, affordable, safe, and efficient multimodal transportation
1634 system.

1635
1636 **T-403** The unincorporated county road system provides transportation connections for
1637 large numbers of users that travel through the Rural Area and Natural Resource
1638 Lands to reach adjoining cities, other counties, or regional destinations. King
1639 County should ~~((seek))~~ pursue and support regional planning and funding
1640 sources that ~~((could be used to repair and maintain the arterial system))~~
1641 recognize the interdependent, cross-jurisdictional nature of the region’s
1642 transportation system, including impacts of urban development on the rural area
1643 transportation network.

1644
1645 **T-404** When funding transportation projects in areas where annexations or
1646 incorporations are expected, King County should seek interlocal agreements
1647 with the affected cities and other service providers to provide opportunities for
1648 joint grant applications and cooperative funding of improvements.

1649

1650 ~~((D.))~~ **Revenue Shortfall**

1651 The state Growth Management Act provides guidance for managing a revenue shortfall. The following actions
1652 can be used to balance the funding shortfall of the plan:

- 1653 1. Reduce transportation funding needs;
- 1654 2. Develop new revenue options;
- 1655 3. Change Level of Service; or
- 1656 4. Change land use.

1657

1658 **T-405** During review of its Comprehensive Plan, King County should consider and
1659 address any potential shortfalls likely to occur between expected revenues and
1660 costs to maintain, preserve, and improve transportation infrastructure and
1661 service levels. Such review could include a reassessment of land use, growth
1662 targets, Level of Service standards, and revenue availability.

1663

1664 **T-406** King County shall continually work to improve the efficiency of its operations
1665 and delivery of projects and services ~~((in order))~~ to minimize the need for new
1666 revenue sources.

1667

1668 **T-407** New funding sources should be identified and pursued that provide adequate
1669 and sustainable resources for transportation system investments. These funding

1670 sources should not be regressive, and whenever possible provide
1671 multi-jurisdictional benefits.

1672
1673 **T-408** To help finance transportation services, infrastructure, and facility
1674 improvements, King County should leverage partnership opportunities, grants,
1675 and other cooperative funding mechanisms and shall maximize its efforts to
1676 obtain other federal and state funding ~~((to help finance transportation services,~~
1677 ~~infrastructure, and facility improvements)).~~

1678
1679 ~~((T-409) King County shall maximize its efforts to obtain federal and state funding for its~~
1680 ~~transportation services, infrastructure and facility improvements.~~

1681

1682 **~~V.)~~ Coordination and Public Outreach**

1683 ~~((A))~~ The elements of the transportation system outlined in ~~((this))~~ the ~~((e))~~ Comprehensive ~~((p))~~ Plan ~~((update))~~
1684 are planned and operated in coordination with the cities in and abutting King County, the adjoining counties,
1685 the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Port of Seattle, the transit agencies providing service in and connecting to
1686 King County, and the Washington State Department of Transportation. ~~((Agencies and the public were invited~~
1687 ~~to review and comment on this plan.))~~

1688

1689 The following activities support the coordination process:

- 1690 • Review of plan updates by affected and interested parties, such as the transportation subarea boards ~~((;~~
1691 ~~Review by))~~ and unincorporated area residents and organizations ~~((within the county's Community~~
1692 ~~Service Areas))~~;
- 1693 • ~~((The u))~~ Updates of King County functional, strategic, and other plans such as the Strategic Plan for
1694 Public Transportation, ~~((and))~~ Metro Service Guidelines, Metro Connects , the Open Space Plan, and
1695 the Strategic Climate Action Plan;
- 1696 • ~~((The development of the Long Range Plan for Public Transportation;))~~
- 1697 • The statewide and countywide grant application process;
- 1698 • The Transportation Needs Report and Capital Improvement Program coordination process;
- 1699 • Participation in the Puget Sound Regional Council, which enables King County to coordinate its
1700 transportation planning activities with other local and regional agencies for the four central Puget
1701 Sound counties;
- 1702 • Review of information provided online by external agencies and organizations;
- 1703 • ~~((Internet sites and other p))~~ Public information provided in a variety of formats, including online; and

- Public outreach and meetings.

1705

1706 ~~((As a countywide transportation service provider, King County provides Metro Transit's public transportation
1707 services and works with Sound Transit and other transit and transportation agencies to provide seamless,
1708 multimodal transit services. King County cooperates with other local governments and the Washington State
1709 Department of Transportation to improve freight mobility and carry out strategies to maintain the efficiency of
1710 freeways and arterials in the region. One such strategy would include active management, which is the ability to
1711 dynamically manage congestion based on prevailing traffic conditions. King County works with the PSRC and
1712 its members to ensure that the transportation needs of the region's residents and economy are addressed in a
1713 timely manner.~~

1714

1715 **A.)) Regional Coordination**

1716 **T-501 King County should pursue regional coordination and partnership to address
1717 county((-))wide transportation challenges.**

1718

1719 **T-502 King County should promote a multi-jurisdictional, multimodal regional corridor
1720 approach to reducing congestion and improving efficiency on highways and
1721 arterial roads.**

1722

1723 **T-503 King County should lead, partner in, and promote regional technology initiatives
1724 that help to improve mobility.**

1725

1726 **T-504 King County should work with state agencies the Puget Sound Regional Council
1727 and its members to ensure that any regional projected aviation capacity
1728 problems, and the air transportation needs of the region's residents and
1729 economy are addressed in a ~~((timely))~~ manner that is timely and reflects the
1730 County's land use plans, transportation plans, and infrastructure capacity.**

1731

1732 **T-505 King County shall support active management of state-owned freeways to
1733 optimize movement of people. High((-))_Occupancy Vehicle, High((-))_Occupancy
1734 Toll, or Express Toll lanes should be managed to prioritize reliable speed
1735 advantage for transit and vanpools, and maintain a reliable speed advantage for
1736 the other high((-))_occupancy-vehicles consistent with the State's
1737 High-Occupancy((-))_Vehicle lane minimum performance standard.**

1738

1739 **T-506 King County shall advocate that transit should be exempt from paying tolls as it
1740 is an essential element of the transportation system, and is critical to maintaining
1741 and increasing the person-carrying capacity of the highway and arterial network.
1742 Transit provides an alternative travel mode and improves mobility for all users of
1743 the system. Transit also increases the efficiency of transportation infrastructure,**

1744 thereby reducing investments needed in roadway expansion and additional
1745 parking.
1746

1747 **T-507** **King County should collaborate with the Puget Sound Regional Council, cities**
1748 **and other affected agencies to develop a regional parking strategy consistent**
1749 **with the parking pricing and management recommendations of ((Transportation**
1750 **2040)) the Regional Transportation Plan, or successor plans.**

1751
1752 **T-507a** **King County should collaborate with the Puget Sound Regional Council, cities,**
1753 **and other agencies to improve interjurisdictional coordination on active**
1754 **transportation and Regional Trail infrastructure including bicycle/pedestrian**
1755 **facilities. The County should support efforts to maintain comprehensive**
1756 **information about existing and planned facilities, model plans and best practices,**
1757 **and grant opportunities.**

1758
1759 The ~~((Eastside Rail Corridor))~~ development of the Eastrail corridor provides a ~~((rare and))~~ unique opportunity to
1760 ~~((develop dual use (recreational trail and public transportation) facilities supporting mobility through transit,~~
1761 ~~nonmotorized and active transportation, including access to transit outside the corridor))~~ support active
1762 transportation and transit mobility, consistent with its federal railbanked status. The ~~((owners share other~~
1763 ~~multiple objectives for the corridor including))~~ County's goal for the corridor is to support economic opportunity
1764 for all King County residents by linking jobs and housing through multimodal connections between regional
1765 growth centers, urban communities, local and high-capacity transit, and other regional trails – while
1766 accommodating utilities, parks, recreation, and cultural amenities~~((, and encouraging equitable access to these~~
1767 ~~facilities, and housing and jobs, in support of economic opportunity for all King County residents. Development~~
1768 ~~of the corridor will provide multimodal facilities and connections that link jobs and housing, and provide an~~
1769 ~~opportunity to illustrate innovative ways of connecting growing communities)).~~

1770
1771 **T-507b** **King County ~~((shall support and participate in collaborative planning efforts –~~**
1772 **~~both inter-departmentally and))~~, in coordination with ~~((other))~~ federal, state, and
1773 **other local agencies ~~((–to))~~, shall develop the ~~((Eastside Rail C))~~ Eastrail corridor
1774 **in ways that enhance multimodal mobility and connectivity, with a commitment to**
1775 **dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), consistent with federal**
1776 **railbanking. Planning and development should consider opportunities for**
1777 **integration of multimodal facilities, including regional trails, into the greater**
1778 **transportation network.******

1779

~~((B.))~~ Freight Mobility

1780
1781 Freight mobility is critical to King County's economy and western Washington's role as a major national and
1782 international trading region. King County supports efforts to plan and create a fast, reliable freight
1783 transportation system in the region. To maintain the region's competitive edge, transportation infrastructure

1784 must provide for the efficient movement of goods and freight to and from ports, airports, and industrial areas
1785 balanced with the needs of general purpose and high((-)-)occupancy vehicle traffic.

1786

1787 **T-508** **The King County transportation system should support reliable and efficient**
1788 **movement of goods throughout the county, while minimizing the impacts of**
1789 **freight traffic on general purpose traffic and residential neighborhoods. The**
1790 **((e))County should participate in regional efforts and partnerships to achieve**
1791 **these goals.**

1792

1793 **T-509** **King County should support regional freight mobility by incorporating freight**
1794 **considerations into road planning, design, construction, and maintenance.**

1795

1796 **T-510** **King County should coordinate with other jurisdictions, the public, and the**
1797 **private sector to identify barriers to the effective and efficient movement of**
1798 **freight and goods and develop proposals to improve freight mobility on the**
1799 **arterial system.**

1800

1801 New or expanded truck parking along the I-5 corridor within the Seattle, Tacoma, and Federal Way areas is
1802 needed. Improved and expanded truck parking facilities are also needed at the chain-up locations on both sides
1803 of Snoqualmie Pass. The lack of truck parking capacity not only causes safety problems, it also has a negative
1804 impact on communities in high((-)-)demand areas. For example, the city of North Bend is inundated with trucks
1805 parking on local roads when Snoqualmie Pass is closed in the winter.

1806

1807 ~~((The Federal Hours of Service rule changed effective July 1, 2013, exacerbating the state's truck parking~~
1808 ~~problem as it shortened)) Federal law limits the number of hours that truck drivers may work. This ~~((rule~~
1809 ~~change)) means that drivers must stop for rest ~~((more))~~ frequently and need ~~((increased))~~ access to safe, secure,
1810 and legal truck parking facilities. The shortage of truck parking can contribute to truck drivers driving while
1811 fatigued and parking illegally, creating a safety hazard on highways and greater community impacts.~~~~

1812

1813 Interstate commerce is a state and national priority and small communities located next to high-volume,
1814 long-haul truck corridors are not able to resolve multistate truck parking issues by themselves. Washington State
1815 Department of Transportation Truck Parking Studies show that the state's greatest need for additional truck
1816 parking is along I-5, I-405, ~~((and))~~ State Route 167 in central Puget Sound, and ~~((on))~~ I-90 near North Bend.

1817

1818 **T-510a** **King County should work with regional public and private partners ~~((and~~**
1819 **stakeholders)) to plan for and develop adequate truck parking in high-demand**
1820 **locations along King County's Truck Freight Economic Corridors to improve**
1821 **safety and reduce negative impacts on local communities. Development of truck**
1822 **parking should be supportive of technologies that reduce greenhouse gases,**
1823 **such as electric charging, energy efficiency, and biodiesel.**

1824

1825 **~~((C.))~~ Public Involvement**

1826 **T-511** King County should provide accessible, culturally~~((-))~~ appropriate, timely,
1827 accurate, and consistent public information about transportation services,
1828 infrastructure, and funding issues, and ensure a wide range of opportunities for
1829 input and engagement with county residents, including ~~((low-income~~
1830 ~~communities,))~~ Black, Indigenous, and other ((p))People of ((e))Color((.));
1831 immigrants; refugees; and other intersectional populations, including those who
1832 earn less than 80 percent of area median income, people with disabilities,
1833 seniors, LGBTQIA+ people, women, people ((with limited English proficiency))
1834 speaking a language(s) other than English, ((immigrant and refugee populations))
1835 and other ~~((stakeholders))~~ affected community members.

1836

1837 **T-512** King County should actively engage the public and other appropriate
1838 ~~((stakeholders))~~ parties, such as the community service areas constituencies,
1839 community groups, ~~((and subarea transportation forums))~~ elected officials, and
1840 jurisdictions throughout the region, in transportation planning processes and
1841 plan updates.

1842

1843 **T-513** King County Metro Transit’s engagement should follow guidance in Metro’s
1844 Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and Metro
1845 Connects, or successor plans, to prioritize equity, involve communities in
1846 upstream decisions, and build lasting relationships with community partners.

1847

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CHAPTER 9

SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND UTILITIES

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 telecommunications.

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.

8
9

10 **~~((F-))~~ Regional Services**

11 King County government is a regional and local service provider. Types of regional services provided include
12 transit, wastewater treatment, human services, and solid waste management. Local services provided to
13 residents of unincorporated urban areas, the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands in King County may
14 include police, building permits, water, sewer, and health services. As annexations and incorporations of
15 unincorporated urban areas continue, King County government will focus more on its role as the coordinator
16 and provider of regional services and protector of the county’s Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. As
17 annexations of unincorporated urban areas continue, King County will transition out of the role of coordinating
18 with local service providers on how to best provide local services to those areas, and transition to lead for that
19 coordination role to the cities, through collaboration with current service providers, as those former
20 unincorporated areas become part of city limits. The following policies direct King County’s evolving role as
21 regional service provider. Provisions related to housing and human services are found in Chapter 4, Housing
22 and Human Services.

23
24 **F-101 King County, the cities, special purpose districts ~~((or)),~~ and local service**
25 **providers shall plan as partners. King County’s planning ~~((will))~~ shall focus on**
26 **unclaimed urban unincorporated areas and cities’ Potential Annexation Areas.**

27
28 **F-101a King County agencies ~~((will))~~ shall engage communities in a culturally~~((-))~~ and**
29 **audience-appropriate manner, including language access. King County agencies**
30 **~~((will))~~ shall also engage communities that are most affected by proposed**
31 **projects.**

32
33 ~~**((F-101b) King County shall adhere to the Executive Order on Written Language**~~
34 ~~**Translation Process and other applicable policies for those with limited English**~~
35 ~~**proficiency.))**~~

36
37 **F-102 King County shall work with cities, special purpose districts, other local service**
38 **providers, and residents to ~~((identify and distinguish))~~ provide local, countywide,**
39 **and regional services. ~~((Over time,))~~ As cities ~~((will))~~ assume primary**
40 **responsibility for coordinating the provision of local services delivery in urban**
41 **areas~~((-In general)),~~ the ~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to provide local**
42 **services delivery within the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, consistent**
43 **with rural standards and needs. Special purpose districts may still provide**
44 **services, where appropriate. The ~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall also assume primary**
45 **responsibility for coordinating the provision of countywide services, including**
46 **countywide services that must be delivered within city boundaries. The**
47 **~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall also work with cities, special purpose districts, and other**

48 counties to identify regional service and facility needs and develop strategies to
49 provide them.

50
51 **F-103** King County ~~((will))~~ shall provide or manage countywide services which include
52 but are not limited to:

- 53 a. Affordable housing;
- 54 b. Economic development;
- 55 c. Flood warning and flood hazard management;
- 56 d. Harborview Hospital;
- 57 e. Hazardous waste management;
- 58 f. Human services;
- 59 g. Protection and preservation of natural resource lands;
- 60 h. Public health;
- 61 i. Regional law and criminal ~~((justice))~~ legal services;
- 62 j. Regional park, trails and open space systems;
- 63 k. Regional wastewater collection ~~((and))~~, treatment, and ~~((reclamation))~~
64 resource recovery;
- 65 l. Solid waste management, including recycling;
- 66 m. Stormwater management;
- 67 n. Transit; and
- 68 o. Water resource management.

69
70 ~~((F-107) King County will, in cooperation with special purpose districts or local service
71 providers, continue to plan for and provide public services to the Rural Area and
72 Natural Resource Lands, consistent with rural standards and needs.))~~

73
74 **F-108** ~~((To support the intent of the Growth Management Act,))~~ King County should
75 work with cities and other service providers to establish priority areas for public
76 funding of capital facilities, services, and infrastructure.

77
78 **F-108a** King County should address ~~((historic))~~ historical inequities and
79 ~~((disadvantaged))~~ historically underserved communities both in rural and
80 unincorporated urban areas in determining the priority areas for public funding
81 of capital facilities, services, and infrastructure.

83 ~~((H.))~~ **Facilities and Services**

84 ~~((A.))~~ **Providing a Spectrum of Services**

85 King County and numerous service providers need to coordinate planning and funding activities to ensure that
86 needed facilities and services are provided in the region.

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~~((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 King County should seek to ~~((create quality communities))~~ support a high quality of life for county residents by ~~((defining))~~ identifying the needs and proposing 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 Results from ~~((the King County E))~~equity ~~((I))~~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-203 ~~((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 allow 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-205 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 county’s capital acquisition budget shall reflect the jointly agreed-upon priorities and time schedule.))~~

F-206 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 gasses. Joint siting and shared use of facilities should be encouraged for schools, community centers, health facilities,

128 cultural facilities, libraries, swimming pools, and other social and recreational
129 facilities. Sharing of facilities may include providing meeting space that can be
130 accessed by the community, as appropriate.

131

132 **F-206a** King County should make its public facilities and properties available for the
133 following, when such use is compatible with the primary public use of the facility:
134 a. ~~((#))~~Renewable energy production ~~((when such use is compatible with~~
135 ~~the primary use of the facility)), with particular emphasis on benefits to~~
136 King County ratepayers and communities, such as Community Solar
137 programs; and
138 b. Use as a P-patch or community garden.

139

140 ~~((F-207) King County should make its public facilities or properties available for use as a~~
141 ~~P-patch or community garden when such use is compatible with the primary~~
142 ~~public use of the facility.~~

143

144 **B.)) Urban and Rural Services**

145 Although growth will be directed to Urban Areas, it is recognized that Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands
146 have facility and service needs also.

147

148 **F-208** Public spending to support growth should be directed to the Urban Growth Area
149 and to maintain existing ~~((unincorporated))~~ infrastructure in the unincorporated
150 area, and should be prioritized through the Capital Facility Plan to comply with
151 the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act.

152

153 **F-209** In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, services provided by agencies
154 ~~((should))~~ shall support a rural level of development and support service that
155 meets the needs of the community and not facilitate urbanization.

156

157 **F-209a** King County ~~((will))~~ shall provide or manage local services for unincorporated
158 areas, which include but are not limited to:
159 a. ~~((Building))~~ Development permits;
160 b. District Court;
161 c. Economic Development;
162 d. Land use regulation;
163 e. Law enforcement;
164 f. Local parks;
165 g. Roads;
166 h. Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands management assistance; and
167 i. Surface water management.

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~~((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.~~

C.) 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 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 ((e))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 such as F-210, F-210a, F-213, F-214, and F-221;
- Chapter 8, Transportation, including the "Revenue Shortfall" subsection of the "Financing Services and Facilities that Meet Local and Regional Goals" section and policy T-405; 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;~~

- 207 a. ~~Technical Appendix A is an executive summary of the finance plans for facilities and services~~
- 208 ~~provided by the county and other entities.~~
- 209 b. ~~Technical Appendix A references the Transportation Needs Report, which includes an analysis of~~
- 210 ~~funding capability to judge needs against probable funding resources, and a 20-year financial~~
- 211 ~~forecast report based on identified needs.~~
- 212 ~~Current adopted King County Capital Improvement Program for facilities other than transportation.~~
- 213 4. ~~Requirement to reassess land use if funding is unavailable to meet existing and future needs:~~
- 214 a. ~~Policies of Chapter 9 Section II (Facilities and Services), subparts B through F.~~
- 215 b. ~~Chapter 8: Transportation, Section IV.~~

216

217 ~~D.)~~ **Capital Facility Planning**

218 King County and other service providers are required to prepare six-year capital facility plans that describe needs
219 for the six-year facility and propose funding to meet those needs.

220

221 **F-210** **The capital facility plans and capital improvement programs prepared by all other**
222 **agencies that provide services to unincorporated areas of the county should be**
223 **consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan.**

224

225 **F-210a** **King County shall engage in ongoing facilities planning to ensure that it has**
226 **sufficient work space to meet its operational needs on a going-forward basis.**
227 **Facilities planning shall include an assessment of current facilities and future**
228 **needs and shall promote equity, economic and operational efficiencies, and**
229 **environmental sustainability. This facilities planning policy shall be implemented**
230 **through the Real Property Asset Management Plan(~~, which shall be updated at~~**
231 **least every four years, but may also be updated, in whole or in part, when**
232 **proposals with significant impacts on county facilities are made.**

233

234 ~~**F-210b** **Consistent with K.C.C. 20.12.100, the Real Property Asset Management Plan shall**~~
235 ~~**consist of real property asset management policies, practices and strategies,**~~
236 ~~**including planning policies, locations of county agencies and implementation**~~
237 ~~**plans, planned moves and references to King County space standards.))** **The**
238 **Real Property Asset Management Plan shall guide facility planning processes,**
239 **decisions, and implementation.**~~

240

241 **F-210c** **King County shall take into account the equity and racial and social justice**
242 **opportunities for capital investments within a community when siting a facility or**
243 **changing locations to improve service delivery.**

244

245 **F-211** **To reduce overall public costs, noise, climate change impacts and disruption to**
246 **the local area during construction, installation of new, or maintenance of existing**

- 247 utility facilities should be timed and coordinated with other projects that utilize
248 public rights-of-way and easements, where possible.
249
- 250 **F-212** King County’s capital facility plans ~~((should))~~ shall identify financing strategies to
251 support ~~((its))~~ the land use assumptions in the Comprehensive Plan, including
252 adopted ~~((20-year))~~ growth targets ~~((and land use plan))~~ and allocated housing
253 needs.
254
- 255 ~~((F-205))~~ **F-212a** King County shall work with its neighboring counties, the state, Puget Sound
256 Regional Council, special purpose districts, ports, and the cities to identify areas
257 of shared need and adequate land supply for public facilities. The ~~((c))~~ County’s
258 capital acquisition budget shall reflect the jointly agreed-upon priorities and time
259 schedule.
260
- 261 **F-213** King County’s capital improvement program shall demonstrate that projected
262 needs for facilities and services can be met within the Urban Growth Area and
263 can be served in compliance with the concurrency requirements of the Growth
264 Management Act ~~((or, if))~~. If that is not possible, King County shall determine
265 where and when deficits may occur and how needed facilities and services might
266 be phased in and ~~((-))~~ or financed to serve such deficit areas. Alternative phasing
267 and financing strategies must be identified and determined to be infeasible prior
268 to triggering a land use and zoning reassessment under Policy ~~((F-223))~~ F-221.
269
- 270 **F-214** School districts that choose to have the ~~((e))~~ County collect impact fees for them,
271 and water and sewer utilities that provide their services to unincorporated King
272 County, shall prepare capital facility plans consistent with requirements of the
273 Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies and King County
274 Code.
275
- 276 **F-215** Provision of an adequate supply of kindergarten through twelfth grade public
277 schools and public school facilities is essential to avoid overcrowding and to
278 enhance the educational opportunities for children. King County shall adopt
279 regulations that are supportive of the permitting of kindergarten through
280 ~~((twelfth))~~ 12th grade public schools and facilities in a manner consistent with the
281 goals of the Growth Management Act and as provided in policies R-326 and R-
282 327.
283
- 284 **F-215a** King County should plan to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions
285 associated with new residential and commercial buildings built in King County by
286 ~~((2030))~~ 2031.
287

288 **F-215b King County shall strive to provide services and build and operate public buildings**
289 **and infrastructure that are ~~((carbon neutral))~~ fossil fuel free and to eliminate fossil**
290 **fuels in new construction.**

291

292 It is the goal of King County to work toward a model sustainable community to balance growth with natural
293 resource protection while addressing climate change. Sustainable development seeks to achieve this goal by
294 addressing the impacts of the built environment in which people live and work.

295

296 Traditional development practices can contribute significantly to the adverse impacts that buildings and
297 associated infrastructure have on the environment and people's health. These impacts include heavy
298 consumption of material resources, energy and water, large-scale production of wastes, water pollution,
299 degradation of habitats and other ecological resources, and contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

300 Implementing sustainable development includes incorporating green building practices into policies through
301 education, incentives and regulations that help reduce negative impacts.

302

303 The elements of green building include:

- 304 • siting the project (to take advantage of existing services, to retain existing landscaping and natural
305 features and to increase building energy performance);
- 306 • requiring energy efficiency (to reduce energy consumption, to increase occupants' comfort, and to
307 reduce greenhouse gas emissions);
- 308 • managing building construction and demolition materials efficiently to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
309 and to increase the life-cycle of the building);
- 310 • increasing water efficiency (to reduce water consumption and to reduce wastewater treatment) and use
311 of onsite non-potable water systems for appropriate commercial buildings to foster reuse of water
312 (including blackwater, stormwater, and rainwater);
- 313 • improving water management to reduce stormwater runoff and produce less pollution and damage to
314 water bodies;
- 315 • using sustainable materials to improve indoor air quality, minimize toxic materials, reduce material
316 consumption and foster sustainable manufacturing;
- 317 • addressing equity and racial and social justice to ensure equitable access to sustainable development,
318 services and community amenities; and
- 319 • implementing universal design to ensure potential for aging in place and to service diverse occupancy
320 opportunities.

321

322 The incorporation of sustainable practices into the design, construction and operation of King County capital
323 improvement projects can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution, reduce the use of natural

((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)) TBD

324 resources, reduce energy and other operating costs, enhance asset value, optimize performance, promote cultural
325 sustainability by preserving historic resources and create healthier and more appealing environments for the
326 visiting public and for King County employees. The strategic energy management, efficiency and conservation
327 program called for in F-312 will enable King County to monitor the effectiveness of sustainable development
328 practices in improving energy efficiency. The Green Building and Sustainable Development Ordinance
329 ~~((17709)) 19402~~, adopted in ~~((2013)) 2022~~, requires that new ~~((e))~~County capital projects ~~((set a goal to))~~ must
330 achieve a platinum level certification using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating
331 system ~~((e))~~ or the King County Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or the highest certification level using an
332 approved alternative rating system~~((, when the incremental costs do not exceed the maximums allowed by the~~
333 ~~King County Code))~~. Minimum performance requirements include: implementing energy and emission
334 reduction targets as instructed by the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan; diverting 80~~((%))~~ percent of
335 demolition and construction materials by 2016 and 85~~((%))~~ percent by 2025, and zero waste of resources by
336 2030; integrating equity and racial and social justice efforts; and implementing the King County ~~((Stormwater))~~
337 Surface Water Management Design Manual or more stringent guidelines required by jurisdiction.

338
339 The LEED rating system is a voluntary, consensus-based nationally standard for developing high-performance,
340 sustainable buildings and to guide project design. The LEED rating system components include sustainable site
341 design; water efficiency; energy and atmosphere; indoor environmental quality; materials and resources;
342 innovation in design and regional priorities. For those projects that are not eligible for LEED certification, the
343 ~~((e))~~County’s Green Building Team, comprised of representatives from the various ~~((e))~~County department that
344 have capital projects, developed a Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard and guidelines to help such projects
345 achieve measurable green building goals.

- 346
- 347 **F-216** **King County capital facilities and ~~((e))~~County-funded projects should be**
348 **designed and constructed using sustainable development practices, with**
349 **consideration for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.**
- 350
- 351 **F-217** **All eligible King County new capital projects shall ~~((plan for and should))~~ achieve**
352 **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification**
353 **level using the LEED rating system or the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard,**
354 **or achieve the highest certification level using an approved alternative rating**
355 **system~~((, and apply minimum performance standards when the incremental cost~~**
356 **impacts do not exceed the maximums allowed by King County code)).**
- 357
- 358 **F-217a** **All eligible King County major remodels and renovations shall ~~((plan for and~~**
359 **should)) achieve LEED Gold certification level using the LEED rating system or**
360 **the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or achieve a similar certification level**
361 **using an approved alternative rating system~~((, and apply minimum performance~~**

- 362 standards when the incremental cost impacts do not exceed the maximums
363 allowed by King County code)).
- 364
- 365 F-217b All King County owned new construction capital projects should achieve net-zero
366 greenhouse emissions by 2030.
- 367
- 368 F-217c All King County capital programs ~~((will))~~ shall evaluate their project portfolio for
369 opportunities to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through programs
370 such as the Living Building challenge, Living Communities Challenge, Net Zero
371 Energy, Envision, or EcoDistrict.
- 372
- 373 F-217d King County should build and operate public buildings and infrastructure that
374 result in regenerative and net positive benefits related to energy, water,
375 greenhouse gas emissions and other resources and, for private development,
376 guide development practices to achieve these same benefits.
- 377
- 378 F-217e King County ~~((will))~~ shall increase water efficiency and conservation, and reduce
379 purchased water consumption through appropriate and economically feasible
380 reuse of wastewater effluent, recycled water, stormwater, and harvested
381 rainwater.
- 382
- 383 F-219 King County should leverage its purchasing power related to capital
384 improvement projects to help expand the markets for green building products,
385 including recycled-content materials and clean, renewable energy technologies,
386 including zero-emission buses and particularly for products and services that are
387 locally produced.
- 388

389 **~~((E.))~~ Addressing Service Deficiencies**

390 In the event that needed facilities and services are not available to support either existing development or growth,
391 King County will work with other service providers, such as water, sewer or solid waste purveyors, to address
392 the service deficiency.

- 393
- 394 F-221 ~~((King County shall consider the initiation of a subarea study, or other corrective
395 action, with any))~~ If a service provider ((that)) declares, through their capital
396 facilities plan, an inability to accommodate projected service needs inside their
397 service area, King County and the service provider shall remedy the deficiency
398 through a joint planning process addressing capital improvement programs,
399 long-term funding strategies, or other appropriate corrective actions. If those
400 actions cannot resolve the deficiency, King County shall not allow for expansion

401 of the service provider's service area and shall consider regulations to mitigate
402 the effect of the deficiency.

403
404 ~~((F-221a~~ ~~Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an~~
405 ~~important consideration in evaluation funding and service delivery decisions~~
406 ~~when needed to address service deficiencies.))~~

407
408 **F-222** King County and ~~((its))~~ the cities in King County should coordinate planning for
409 health and human service facilities and services. County investments in health
410 and human service facilities should be targeted primarily to the designated Urban
411 Centers and secondarily to other locations in the Urban Growth Area and Rural
412 Towns.

413
414 ~~((F-223~~ ~~If a service deficiency is identified in a service provider's existing service area,~~
415 ~~King County and the applicable service provider shall remedy the deficiency~~
416 ~~through a joint planning process addressing capital improvement programs and~~
417 ~~long-term funding strategies. If financing and level of service remedies cannot~~
418 ~~solve the deficiency, King County shall not allow for expansion of the service~~
419 ~~provider's service area and shall consider regulations to mitigate the effect of the~~
420 ~~deficiency.~~

421
422 **~~((F-))~~ Financing Strategies**

423 King County, cities, and other service providers will work together to address the financing needs of facilities and
424 services.

425
426 **F-224** As part of pre-annexation or annexation agreements, King County shall work with
427 the cities to create a financing partnership for areas of the Urban Growth Area
428 that the cities will annex. This includes determining county/regional and
429 city/municipal facilities and services and then committing to a shared financing
430 strategy to build or provide these infrastructure improvements or services.

431
432 **F-225** King County should, in cooperation with other jurisdictions, develop funding
433 strategies for governmental infrastructure that take into account economic
434 development goals and consider the costs to, and benefits for, the jurisdictions
435 and the region.

436
437 **F-225a** King County should ~~((consider))~~ identify, strengthen, and support equitable
438 discount or low-rate service fees ~~((for))~~ to reduce cost burden on households
439 with low((-)-incomes ~~((households)).~~

440

441 **~~((G-))~~ Essential Public Facilities**

442 The region ~~((will))~~ works cooperatively to site essential public facilities in an equitable manner. Essential public
443 facilities are defined in the Growth Management Act and include large, usually difficult to site facilities such as
444 regional transit authority facilities, prisons, solid waste facilities, wastewater facilities, and airports.

445

446 **F-226** Proposed new or expansions to existing essential public facilities should be
447 sited consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan. Listed existing
448 essential public facilities should be preserved and maintained until alternatives
449 or replacements for such facilities can be provided.

450

451 **F-227** King County and neighboring counties ~~((, if advantageous to both,))~~ should share
452 essential public facilities to increase efficiency of operation ~~((Efficiency of
453 operation should take into account)), including consideration of the overall value
454 of the essential public facility to the region and the county and ((the extent to
455 which, if properly mitigated,)) whether expansion of an existing essential public
456 facility ~~((located in the county))~~ might be more economical and environmentally
457 sound.~~

458

459 **F-228** King County should strive to site essential public facilities equitably so that no
460 racial, cultural, or socio-economic group is ~~((unduly))~~ disproportionately
461 impacted by or benefits from essential public facility siting or expansion
462 decisions. No single community should absorb an inequitable share of these
463 facilities and their impacts. An assessment of existing facilities should be
464 conducted when siting new facilities. Siting ~~((will))~~ shall consider equity~~((,))~~;
465 environmental justice; and environmental, economic, technical, and service area
466 factors. Communities with a disproportionate share of existing facilities should
467 be actively engaged in the planning and siting process for new facilities. The net
468 impact of siting new essential public facilities should be weighed against the net
469 impact of expansion of existing essential public facilities, with appropriate
470 buffering and mitigation. Essential public facilities that directly serve the public
471 beyond their general vicinity shall be discouraged from locating in the Rural Area
472 and Natural Resource Lands.

473

474 **F-229** A facility shall be determined to be an essential public facility if it has one or
475 more of the following characteristics:

- 476 a. The facility meets the Growth Management Act definition of an essential
477 public facility;
- 478 b. The facility is on a state, county, or local community list of essential
479 public facilities;

- 480 c. The facility serves a significant portion of the county or metropolitan
- 481 region or is part of a countywide service system; or
- 482 d. The facility is the sole existing facility in the county for providing that
- 483 essential public service.

484

485 **F-230**

Siting analysis for proposed new or expansions to existing essential public facilities shall consist of the following:

486

- 487 a. An inventory of similar existing essential public facilities in King County
- 488 and neighboring counties, including their locations and capacities;
- 489 b. A forecast of the future needs for the essential public facility;
- 490 c. An analysis of the potential social, equity, health, and economic impacts
- 491 and benefits and burdens to ~~((jurisdictions and local))~~ communities
- 492 receiving or surrounding the facilities;
- 493 d. An analysis of the proposal's consistency with policies F-226 through
- 494 F-229;
- 495 e. An analysis of alternatives to the facility, including decentralization,
- 496 conservation, demand management, and other strategies;
- 497 f. An analysis of economic and environmental impacts, including
- 498 mitigation, of any existing essential public facility, as well as of any new
- 499 site(s) under consideration as an alternative to expansion of an existing
- 500 facility;
- 501 g. An analysis of potential climate change impacts on the essential public
- 502 facility, including consideration of sea level rise, and options for
- 503 reducing climate change impacts on the facility, including locating the
- 504 facility outside of the mapped 500-year floodplain along the marine
- 505 shoreline (unless water-dependent, such as wastewater treatment
- 506 facilities and associated conveyance infrastructure);
- 507 h. Extensive public involvement which strives to effectively engage a wide
- 508 range of racial, ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic group, including
- 509 communities that are the most impacted;
- 510 ~~((h-))~~ i. Consideration of any applicable prior review conducted by a public
- 511 agency, local government, or ~~((stakeholder group))~~ interested parties;
- 512 and
- 513 ~~((i-))~~ j. To the extent allowable under the Growth Management Act, the
- 514 locational criteria in policies R-326 and R-327.

515

516 **F-230a**

For existing essential public facilities, King County should considerer 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

517

518

519

520 marine shoreline (unless water-dependent, such as wastewater treatment
521 facilities and associated conveyance infrastructure).

522
523 ~~((F-231) King County supports coordination of regional water supply planning, sales of~~
524 ~~excess water supplies among municipalities in the region, water quality~~
525 ~~programs and water conservation, reuse and recycled water programs. This~~
526 ~~regional planning should support King County's goals of focusing growth in the~~
527 ~~Urban Growth Area and ensuring water availability for resource lands.~~

528

529 **H.)) Water Supply**

530 King County is not a water utility that provides potable water to residents and businesses in the region.
531 However, it plays an important role in the coordination or linking of water resources and growth and regional
532 protection and management of water resources. This regional protection and management includes protection of
533 the quantity and quality of groundwater, stormwater management, flood hazard management, protection of fish
534 and wildlife habitat, and commitment to regional water strategies through such efforts as the Puget Sound
535 Partnership, regional water supply planning, salmon recovery planning, and multiple groups engaged on climate
536 change mitigation and adaptation. It carries out this role through its responsibilities for planning, permit
537 issuance, and regulatory oversight. The King County Comprehensive Plan must demonstrate that projected
538 needs for facilities and service can be met within the Urban Growth Area and can be served in compliance with
539 the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act. Within Rural Areas and Natural Resource
540 Lands, the Comprehensive Plan must provide for rural services, including domestic water service, needed to
541 serve permitted densities and uses.

542

543 The Utilities Technical Review Committee, as authorized in King County Code ((e))Chapter 13.24, assures that
544 water system and water supply planning by water utilities in King County meet the requirements of the Growth
545 Management Act and other applicable statutory requirements, as well as determining consistency with the King
546 County Comprehensive Plan. The Utilities Technical Review Committee is responsible for identifying the
547 elements and provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations, adopted by the ((e))County
548 under the Growth Management Act, with which water system plans must be consistent, as prescribed in Revised
549 Code of Washington 43.20.260. The Utilities Technical Review Committee is also responsible for ensuring that
550 the purposes of ((e))Chapter 13.24, as provided in King County Code 13.24.005, are carried out. Water system
551 plans are ultimately approved by ordinance by the King County Council and King County Executive.

552

553 ~~((King County has been working with water utility representatives for the last several years on refinements to the~~
554 ~~Utilities Technical Review Committee review process. The intent of the refinements has been to clarify the~~
555 ~~County's interests in reviewing water systems plans, create more transparency in the review process, provide~~
556 ~~clarity on what the County does with the information it gets from water purveyors and reduce overall processing~~
557 ~~time. King County will continue coordinating with water utilities to help ensure successful implementation of~~
558 ~~the Utilities Technical Review Committee review process refinements.))~~

559

560 Water utility service areas in King County are described in Coordinated Water System Plans developed under
561 the Public Water System Coordination Act (((e))Chapter 70.116 Revised Code of Washington) and individual
562 water system plans developed under State Board of Health rules adopted under ((e))Chapter 43.20 Revised Code
563 of Washington. Coordinated Water System Plans describe future service areas for water utilities within which
564 they are provided the exclusive right to serve future customers, and are to include the means for meeting those
565 needs in the most efficient manner possible. Other service providers may serve within the future service area of a
566 designated water utility if the designated water utility is unable to provide service in a timely and reasonable
567 manner.

568

569 ~~((Individual water system plans must include the water utility’s retail service area, which includes existing
570 customers and areas where the utility plans future service. Under state law (Revised Code of Washington
571 43.20.260), the water utility is required to provide service within its retail service area, provided it can meet the
572 conditions prescribed in state law, including the ability to deliver such service in a timely and reasonable manner.
573 The planned provision of service must be consistent with local government comprehensive plans, land use plans,
574 and development regulations.))~~

575

576 Washington State laws encourage the development and use of recycled water, require consideration of recycled
577 water in wastewater planning, and recognize the importance of recycled water as a strategy for water resource
578 management statewide (Chapters 90.46, 90.48, and 90.82 Revised Code of Washington)((9)). Recycled water is
579 an important mechanism for improving water quality and reducing discharge of treated wastewater into Puget
580 Sound and other sensitive areas. Safely re-using non-potable water within a building requires sufficient plan
581 review and system inspection capacity. ~~((Recycled water is an important wastewater management tool that can
582 also be used as a beneficial resource. King County has been producing and distributing recycled water since
583 1997. Recycled water is used for treatment process water and onsite landscaping at the County’s wastewater
584 treatment plants. In addition, some of the recycled water from the South Treatment Plant is used off site for
585 irrigation purposes and public works uses, such as street sweeping and sewer flushing. Recycled water from the
586 Carnation Treatment Plant is sent to the wetlands at the Chinook Bend Natural Area in accordance with the
587 County’s commitment to use the wetlands as its primary discharge location rather than the Snoqualmie River.
588 The Brightwater Treatment Plant started distributing recycled water to the Sammamish Valley for irrigating golf
589 courses, nurseries, farms and for commercial and industrial uses.~~

590

591 **1.) Potable Water Systems**

592 Potable water is provided by Group A public water systems having 15 or more connections, Group B public
593 water systems having ~~((three))~~ two to 15 connections, and individual private wells serving one connection.
594 Exempt wells refer to wells that do not require obtaining a water right permit from the state for withdrawal of
595 water. These exempt wells are subject to all other rules and regulations of the water code other than the
596 requirement to get a permit from the state to withdraw water. ~~((Water withdrawn from an exempt well for
597 individual or group domestic water supply cannot exceed 5,000 gallons per day, nor may the water be used to~~

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598 irrigate more than a half acre of lawn or noncommercial garden.) Issuance of a building permit or subdivision
599 approval that is interconnected with a permit exempt well requires the following measures: (a) a fee of five
600 hundred dollars; (b) maximum average withdrawal of groundwater in an amount not exceeding 950 gallons per
601 day per connection and not exceeding 5,000 gallons per day per well; (c) curtailment of withdrawal of
602 groundwater to an amount not exceeding 350 gallons per day per connection for indoor use only upon issuance
603 of a drought emergency order; (d) outdoor use limited to watering of a lawn or noncommercial garden not
604 exceeding one-half acre in area; and (e) management of stormwater runoff on-site to the extent practicable to
605 maximize infiltration, including use of low impact development techniques. The type of water system required
606 for new development will depend upon whether a proposed development is ((or is not located within the Urban
607 Growth Area, is or is not)) within an approved service area of an existing public water system, and is or is not
608 able to provide an adequate water supply as required under Revised Code of Washington 19.27.097 and
609 58.17.110.

610
611 **F-232** **Water utilities that obtain water from, or distribute water in unincorporated King**
612 **County, and water utilities formed as special purpose districts under Title 57**
613 **Revised Code of Washington are required to submit water system plans to the**
614 **((e))County for review and approval and shall describe in their plans how they**
615 **intend to meet their duty to provide service within their retail service areas, and**
616 **generally how they plan to meet water service needs in their future service.**

617
618 **F-233** **In both the Urban Growth Area and Rural Areas of King County, all new**
619 **construction and all new subdivisions shall be served by an existing Group A**
620 **public water systems, except in the circumstance when no Group A public water**
621 **system can provide service in a timely and reasonable manner per Revised Code**
622 **of Washington 70.116.060 and 43.20.260 or when no existing system is willing**
623 **and able to provide safe and reliable potable water with reasonable economy and**
624 **efficiency per Revised Code of Washington 19.27.097.**

625
626 **F-234** **In the Urban Growth Area, individual private wells are not permitted unless**
627 **application of Policy F-233 to a proposal for a single((family residence))**
628 **detached home on an individual lot would deny all reasonable use of the**
629 **property. In that case, the well would be allowed only as an interim facility until**
630 **service by a public water system can be provided. The individual well must meet**
631 **the criteria of the King County Board of Health Code Title 13.**

632
633 **F-235** **~~((In the Urban Growth Area, i))~~If an existing Group A water provider cannot**
634 **provide direct or indirect service to new development under Policy F-233, a new**
635 **public water system may be established if it is owned or operated by the**
636 **following, in order of preference:**

- 637 a. **By a satellite management agency approved by the State Department of**
638 **Health under contract with the Group A system in whose service area the**

639 system is located, provided that the existing Group A water system
640 remains responsible for meeting the duty to serve the new system under
641 Revised Code of Washington 43.20.260; ~~((or))~~

642 b. ~~((By a satellite management agency))~~ If approved by both the State
643 Department of Health and King County;

- 644 i. In the urban area, by a satellite management agency; or
- 645 ii. In the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, by a satellite
646 management agency or an existing Group B system; then

647 c. In the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, by the owners of the lots,
648 which are provided water by a new Group A or B system if not within the
649 service area of an existing Group A system or not within the area
650 covered by a satellite management agency. Approval for any such
651 system shall be conditioned for future ownership or management by a
652 satellite management agency, when such service becomes available, and
653 for periodic review of system operations, as required by Revised Code of
654 Washington 70.119A.060.

655
656 All new public water systems ~~((formed in the Urban Growth Area))~~ shall connect
657 to the Group A water system in whose service area the new system is located
658 when direct service becomes available. Such a connection shall be made by the
659 homeowner or association in a timely and reasonable manner.

F-236

~~((In the Rural Area, King County land use and water service decisions support
the long-term integrity of Rural Area ecosystems. Within the Rural Area,
individual private wells, rainwater catchment, Group B water systems, and Group
A water systems are all allowed. If an existing Group A water provider cannot
provide direct or indirect service to new development per the exceptions in
Policy F-233, a new public water system or private well may be established if it is
owned or operated by the following, in order of preference:~~

- 668 a. ~~By a satellite management agency approved by the state Department of~~
669 ~~Health under contract with the Group A system in whose service area the~~
670 ~~system is located, provided that the existing Group A water system~~
671 ~~remains responsible for meeting the duty to serve the new system under~~
672 ~~Revised Code of Washington 43.20.260; and~~
- 673 b. ~~By a satellite management agency or an existing Group B system~~
674 ~~approved by both the State Department of Health and King County.~~

675
676 ~~If service cannot be obtained by means of the above stated options, then water~~
677 ~~service may be obtained by creation of a new system, use of private wells or~~
678 ~~rainwater catchment. All new public water systems formed in the Rural Area~~
679 ~~shall connect to the Group A water system in whose service area the new system~~
680 ~~is located when direct service becomes available.)) In the Rural Area or Natural~~

681 **Resource Lands, if water service cannot be obtained by the options provided in**
682 **F-235, then use of private wells or rainwater catchment may be allowed.**

- 683
- 684 ~~((F-237~~ **New public water systems established in the Rural Area shall be owned and**
685 **operated by the following, in order of preference:**
- 686 **a. By the Group A public water system in whose service area the system is**
687 **located, by direct service or satellite management by the Group A**
688 **system,**
 - 689 **b. By a satellite management agency approved by the State Department of**
690 **Health and providing service within the county and under contract with**
691 **the Group A system if it is located in a Group A system service area; or**
 - 692 **c. By the owners of the lots, which are provided water by a new Group A or**
693 **B system if not within the service area of an existing Group A system or**
694 **not within the area covered by a satellite management agency. Approval**
695 **for any such system shall be conditioned for future ownership or**
696 **management by a satellite management agency, when such service**
697 **becomes available, and for periodic review of system operations, as**
698 **required by Revised Code of Washington 70.119A.060(2).))**
- 699

700 The State Department of Ecology has determined that the rivers and streams in the major river basins in King
701 County have no water available for further consumptive appropriation without harmfully impacting instream
702 values. For that reason, it has by regulation closed those basins to issuance of new water rights, and has directed
703 that the natural interrelationships between surface and ground waters should be considered in future water
704 allocation decisions ~~((in order))~~ to avoid adverse impacts to instream flows. The installation and use of wells that
705 are exempt from ecology’s water rights permitting process may further harm those rivers and streams when the
706 wells are withdrawing groundwater that is directly connected to the water in the stream. The installation of new
707 exempt wells may also create health and safety problems by interfering with the water supplied by existing wells,
708 and by creating more holes in the ground that can lead to contamination of entire aquifers.

709

710 Under King County Code ~~((e))~~Chapter 9.14, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks is to act as lead
711 agency in coordinating the activities of the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division and Public
712 Health – Seattle & King County ~~((in order))~~ to ensure that groundwater quality and quantity are protected, and
713 facilitate implementation of the plans that have been developed to protect groundwater in five groundwater
714 management areas within King County. In accordance with new water law requirements, King County has an
715 established a hierarchy of water service that restricts the creation of new permit-exempt wells in closed basins,
716 except in very limited circumstances, and as consistent with state law and the in-stream flow rules applicable to
717 permit-exempt wells.

718

719 **F-238 New subdivisions with more than six single~~((family)) detached residential lots on~~**
720 **Vashon-Maury Island and in basins with closed streams in the Rural Area (as**

721 defined in Chapters 173-507, 173-508, 173-509, 173-510, and 173-515 Washington
722 Administrative Code (~~((173-507, 508, 509, 510, and 515))~~) may not be served by a
723 potable water system using an exempt well, or a combination of multiple exempt
724 wells. Exempt wells are allowed only in the Rural Area and only under the
725 following circumstances:

- 726 a. ~~((New subdivisions or short subdivisions with six or fewer lots;~~
727 ~~b-))~~ Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~((e-))~~ b. of this policy only
728 one exempt well per subdivision or short subdivision ~~((will))~~ may be
729 permitted unless more than one exempt well is needed to meet the water
730 flow requirements for the subdivision or short subdivision;
731 ~~((e-))~~ b. Individual private wells may be used in a subdivision or short
732 subdivision when all lots in the subdivision or short subdivision are
733 twenty acres in area or larger; and
734 ~~((e-))~~ c. New developments in the Rural Area served by one or more exempt
735 wells shall not exceed one-half acre of irrigation of land area.

736
737 **F-239** King County shall work with water service providers, the State Department of
738 Ecology and the State Department of Health to ~~((track and measure))~~ ensure
739 groundwater use and to meet the County’s obligation to protect groundwater
740 quality and quantity in Rural Areas, while supporting uses of groundwater that
741 meet public health, resource protection, land use planning, and fish recovery
742 objectives and obligations.

743
744 ~~((F-240~~ King County shall require any new or expanding Group B water system to have a
745 ~~totalizing source meter and make information from the meter available upon~~
746 ~~request of King County.))~~

747
748 **F-241** King County shall encourage the adoption of state or local laws and codes to
749 limit the construction of new exempt wells, as well as encourage abandoning
750 existing exempt wells, within ~~((existing))~~ water utility service areas and promote
751 the safe and timely decommissioning of wells no longer in service.

752
753 **~~((2-))~~ Regional Water Supply Planning**

754 ~~((In recent years King County worked cooperatively with many of the larger water utilities in the region to gather~~
755 ~~information about regional water demand and supply. As a result of potential impacts from climate change on~~
756 ~~water demand and supply, this effort will become increasing important in future years. King County would like~~
757 ~~to use this information to help develop a regional water supply plan.~~

758
759 ~~F-234))~~ **F-241a** King County supports coordination of regional water supply planning, sales of
760 excess water supplies among municipalities in the region, water quality

761 programs, and water conservation, reuse, and recycled water programs. This
762 regional planning should support King County’s goals of focusing growth in the
763 Urban Growth Area and ensuring water availability for resource lands.

764
765 **F-242** King County should support~~((s))~~ initiation of a water planning process for the
766 development of a regional or subregional water plan. ~~((The planning process
767 should at a minimum cover all of King County, but may include a broader
768 geographic area.))~~ The County ~~((will))~~ shall work in concert with water utilities,
769 state agencies, Indian tribes, and other~~((s that participate))~~ key partners. ~~((Key
770 components of this planning process should include:
771 a. Involvement, oversight and support of elected officials in the region;
772 b. Meaningful public participation including the involvement of the state
773 and federally recognized tribes; and
774 c. Recognition of, and making appropriate linkages with, other state,
775 regional, or local planning processes.))~~

776
777 **F-243** King County recognizes that a regional water planning process will be a
778 collaborative process. King County’s objectives for the process and a resulting
779 plan are that it:
780 a. Be consistent with, and support, growth management objectives and
781 decisions made by local and regional jurisdictions under the Growth
782 Management Act;
783 b. Address the need for sufficient flows to achieve salmon recovery
784 objectives of the approved regional recovery plan for species listed
785 under the Endangered Species Act, and recognize Indian tribal water
786 rights;
787 c. Be consistent with and support the approved water quality and quantity
788 strategies adopted by the region, local governments, and other
789 responsible entities (such as water utilities) in compliance with federal
790 requirements under the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and
791 other authorities relevant to water quantity and quality;
792 d. Include provisions for the efficient use of water, including recycled
793 water;
794 e. Consider the impacts of climate change on water demand and supply;
795 f. Address the water needs of other specific sectors of the local economy,
796 including agriculture and other industries with significant water uses;
797 g. Include, to the extent possible, assigned accountability for implementing
798 conservation and developing new supplies and related infrastructure;
799 and
800 h. Identify, and develop a strategy for, any legislative changes necessary or
801 desirable to implement the plan.

802

803 ~~((F-243a) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an~~
804 ~~important consideration to identify and assess the impacts of proposed service~~
805 ~~changes, and the county’s Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to~~
806 ~~improve residents’ access to the determinants of equity.~~

807

808 ~~F-244 King County shall participate in the development of a regional water supply plan~~
809 ~~or plans addressing potable water supply service by multiple water purveyors to~~
810 ~~ensure that uses of recycled water intended to augment or replace potable water~~
811 ~~supplies will be considered in the development of any such plans, and for such~~
812 ~~other purposes as are authorized in the underlying authority for such a plan.~~
813 ~~King County’s participation in the development of such plans shall be carried out~~
814 ~~in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 90.46.120, and pursuant to~~
815 ~~processes provided in the underlying planning authority.~~

816

817 ~~F-245 Prior to initiation of any process to develop a regional water plan as described in~~
818 ~~Policy F-243, King County shall work with utilities to conduct a joint assessment~~
819 ~~of the state of water planning and coordination in the region. Such an~~
820 ~~assessment should identify where current planning and coordination efforts by~~
821 ~~and among water utilities address County interests and where there are gaps.~~
822 ~~The assessment should be used to guide any efforts related to development of a~~
823 ~~regional water plan.~~

824

825 **3. Utility System Interties**

826 ~~Water utilities obtain water supplies from many varying sources. Some water utilities receive the vast majority~~
827 ~~of their water supply from wells. Others receive substantial portions from municipal watersheds and reservoirs.~~
828 ~~The varying water supply sources can differ substantially in terms of dependability of output, so that while one~~
829 ~~water utility may have excess capacity, a neighboring water utility could be experiencing severe shortages and be~~
830 ~~unable to adequately serve their customers.~~

831

832 ~~F-246 King County supports interties that allow the transfer of water resources among~~
833 ~~water utilities to meet the projected demands for growth where such interties~~
834 ~~meet the requirements of Revised Code of Washington 90.03.383 and are also~~
835 ~~consistent with any applicable locally adopted comprehensive plans, regional~~
836 ~~water supply plans, adopted groundwater management plans, watershed plans,~~
837 ~~approved Coordinated Water System Plans, Endangered Species Act response~~
838 ~~requirements and Clean Water Act requirements.~~

839

840 ~~F-247 King County supports the development of appropriate regional water intertie~~
841 ~~capital projects, subject to approval from appropriate local, state, and federal~~
842 ~~agencies and consistent with Policy F-246.~~

843

844 **4.)) Water Use Efficiency, Planning, and Management**

845 Water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource, which calls for commitments to improved planning, more
846 efficient water use, and better water management. The impacts of climate change on water demand and supply
847 adds to the need to make efficient use of this scarce resource. As part of its resource management and land use
848 planning responsibilities, the King County Utilities Technical Review Committee reviews water utility plans for
849 those water utilities serving unincorporated King County or otherwise subject to the planning requirements of
850 King County Code ((e))Chapter 13.24 and ensures the inclusion of elements related to recycled water, water use
851 efficiency, and water conservation in the plans as may be called for under state law, the King County Code, or
852 the King County Comprehensive Plan. As part of its evaluation process, the Utilities Technical Review
853 Committee also encourages water purveyors to include conservation and reuse measures, where applicable, as
854 well as development of new sources to support planned land use with reliable service at a reasonable cost.

855

856 Under Revised Code of Washington 43.20.310, larger water systems will be required to address the impacts of
857 climate change in future water system plans. Water systems that serve more than 1,000 connections will be
858 required to include a climate resilience element in plans initiated after June 30, 2025. This new plan element
859 must 1) determine the types of extreme weather events that would significantly challenge the system and build
860 scenarios to identify potential impact, 2) identify critical assets and steps necessary to protect the system from the
861 weather events on the systems operations, and 3) describe the costs and benefits of system’s risk reduction
862 strategies and capital project needs.

863

864 The Reclaimed Water Act of Washington State (Revised Code of Washington 90.46) recognizes the value of
865 recycled water in the process to better manage, protect, and conserve water resources. In addition, measures to
866 increase water conservation and expand the use of recycled water for non-potable uses throughout the county are
867 important elements in preparing for potential climate change impacts, and to address water as a recognized
868 limiting factor for Puget Sound and salmon recovery efforts. The King County Code also directs ((e))County
869 programs to act as a clearinghouse for data related to groundwater quality and quantity ((in order)) to facilitate
870 implementation by King County and others of the groundwater management plans that have been developed for
871 major portions of King County.

872

873 **F-248 King County shall partner with utilities to publicize water conservation and**
874 **encourage best management practices that conserve potable water supply**
875 **through measures that include use of alternative supplies such as recycled**
876 **water.**

877

878 F-249 ~~((Utilities with more than one thousand service connections required to submit~~
879 ~~water system plans for approval to King County shall include an evaluation of~~
880 ~~recycled water use opportunities by completing King County’s Water~~
881 ~~Reclamation Evaluation Checklist.)) Water system plans for large purveyors~~
882 ~~shall include an evaluation of recycled water use opportunities.~~

884 F-250 King County shall ~~((encourage))~~ allow local developers with new projects in
885 unincorporated King County to ~~((explore the possibility of using))~~ use recycled
886 water for nonpotable purposes when ~~((a plan for))~~ recycled water ~~((has been~~
887 ~~approved for the area))~~ is available for use.

889 ~~((F-251~~ In its review of water system plans, the Utilities Technical Review Committee
890 ~~shall consider the criteria provided in King County Code 13.24.010, 13.24.060,~~
891 ~~and 13.24.070, and determine the plan’s consistency with the following:~~
892 ~~a. Applicable provisions of the King County Comprehensive Plan, land use~~
893 ~~plans, and development regulations adopted under the Growth~~
894 ~~Management Act;~~
895 ~~b. Approved or adopted regional water resource plans, such as basin~~
896 ~~plans, groundwater plans, watershed-based conservation and recovery~~
897 ~~plans developed under Endangered Species Act, salmon recovery plans~~
898 ~~developed under chapter 77.85 Revised Code of Washington, water~~
899 ~~resource plans developed under chapter 90.54 Revised Code of~~
900 ~~Washington, watershed plans developed under chapter 90.82 Revised~~
901 ~~Code of Washington, and a regional water supply plan or water resource~~
902 ~~management plan;~~
903 ~~c. The county’s Regional Wastewater Services Plan; and~~
904 ~~d. Other applicable provisions of countywide plans managed by King~~
905 ~~County, as specified in Utilities Technical Review Committee guidance or~~
906 ~~checklists.~~

907
908 ~~The Utilities Technical Review Committee shall work with state agencies, water~~
909 ~~utilities, and other parties to develop any necessary rules, policies or checklists~~
910 ~~to provide clear information and guidance as to the county’s expectations for its~~
911 ~~reviews. For each plan submitted to the county for review, the Utilities Technical~~
912 ~~Review Committee should have the goal of providing an initial response and~~
913 ~~comments to the water utility within the same timeframes as the state~~
914 ~~Department of Health under Revised Code of Washington 43.20.250.))~~

915
916 F-252 In reviewing proposals for modified and expanded service area boundaries for
917 municipal water suppliers, as defined under Chapter 90.03 Revised Code of

- 918 Washington, the Utilities Technical Review Committee shall consider ~~((, in~~
919 ~~addition to Policy F-251))~~:
- 920 a. Compliance by the water system with its water system comprehensive
 - 921 plan, including water conservation elements;
 - 922 b. Whether it can meet its duty to provide service within its service area, as
 - 923 required under ~~((e))~~Chapter 43.20 Revised Code of Washington; and
 - 924 c. Consistency with the service provisions of any applicable Coordinated
 - 925 Water System Plan, as adopted in King County Code Chapter 13.28.

926

927 The ~~((e))~~County shall not approve a water system plan with a proposed retail
928 service area where the water system is unable to provide timely and reasonable
929 service for one or more of the reasons identified in Revised Code of Washington
930 43.20.260. King County accepts and encourages timely and reasonable service by
931 a water utility within its service area through the provision of satellite or remote
932 ownership or management of facilities that are not physically connected with the
933 water utility's other facilities. This does not preclude a modified or expanded
934 service area boundary for the water system ~~((in order))~~ to correct problems and
935 provide reliable potable water service to existing water users within the proposed
936 modified service area. The Utilities Technical Review Committee is responsible
937 for making determinations of timely and reasonable service, as provided for under
938 Chapter 70A.100 Revised Code of Washington ~~((70.146,))~~ and ~~((K.C.C.))~~ King
939 County Code Chapters 13.24 and 13.28.

940

941 **~~((5.))~~ Resource Management and Protection**

942 Water system reservoirs and watersheds often serve a number of functions. These functions can include open
943 space, recreation, forestry, and resource management. However, each function must be weighed against the
944 primary purpose of such reservoirs and watershed, which is to provide and protect supplies of potable drinking
945 water.

946

947 **F-253** ~~((Consistent with Countywide Planning Policies, p))~~Public drinking water system
948 surface water reservoirs and their watersheds should:

- 949 a. ~~((b))~~Be managed primarily for the protection of drinking water ~~((, but~~
950 ~~should))~~;
- 951 b. ~~((a))~~Allow for multiple uses, including recreation, when such uses do not
952 jeopardize drinking water quality standards ~~((, P))~~ and public watersheds
953 ~~((must be))~~ are managed to protect downstream fish and agriculture
954 resources.

955

956 **F-254** Groundwater-based public water supplies should be protected by preventing
957 land uses that may adversely affect groundwater quality or quantity to the extent
958 that the supply might be jeopardized. The ~~((e))~~County shall protect the quality

959 and quantity of groundwater used as water supplies through implementation of
960 Policies E-493 through E-497 where applicable.
961

962 **~~((6.))~~ Water Availability and ~~((New))~~ State Laws**

963 Water rights are generally regulated by the State of Washington. As part of project review, King County's has
964 historically reviewed whether sufficient water was physically available. As a result of some litigation, ((4))in
965 January 2018, the Washington State Legislature approved Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6091, now
966 codified in ((e)) Chapters 19.27, 58.17, 90.03, and 90.94 Revised Code of Washington. The adopted statutes
967 clarify the steps building permit and subdivision applicants must take to establish that water is "legally available"
968 when proposing to obtain water from a new permit-exempt well.

969
970 In King County, the ~~((new))~~ state water law requirements most directly affect development in the Rural Area and
971 on Natural Resource Lands where new development may not be served by public water systems and applicants
972 are proposing to use permit-exempt wells for a source of water supply. King County has a prioritization for
973 water use that intends to limit permit-exempt wells and require new development to be connected to Group A
974 water systems. Consistent with the ~~((new))~~ water law requirements, King County permitting processes ensure
975 that the hierarchy of water service is fully implemented with the Comprehensive Plan policies and the King
976 County Code. Additionally, consistent with ~~((new water law))~~ ESSB 6091, King County ~~((will participate))~~ has
977 participated in the Washington State Department of Ecology's Watershed Restoration and Enhancement
978 Committee process~~((, which may lead to the identification of new water planning provisions in future~~
979 ~~Comprehensive Plan updates))~~.

980
981 **~~((1.))~~ Public Sewers and On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal**
982 **Systems**

983 King County protects water quality and public health in the central Puget Sound region by providing high
984 quality and effective treatment to wastewater collected from 34 local sewer utilities. The ~~((e))~~ County's
985 Wastewater Treatment Division serves about ~~((1.6))~~ 1.9 million people within a ~~((420))~~ 424-square-mile service
986 area, which includes most urban areas of King County and parts of south Snohomish County and northeast
987 Pierce County. In addition to treating wastewater, King County also creates resources such as energy, recycled
988 water and biosolids from byproducts of the treatment process.

989
990 The County's wastewater system includes:

- 991 • three large regional wastewater treatment plants (the West Point Plant in the City of Seattle, the
992 South Plant in the City of Renton, and the Brightwater Plant in unincorporated Snohomish
993 County),
- 994 • two small wastewater treatment plants (one on Vashon Island and one in the City of Carnation),
- 995 • one community septic system (Beulah Park and Cove on Vashon Island),

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- 996 • ~~((four))~~ five combined sewer overflow treatment facilities (Alki, Carkeek, Georgetown,
- 997 Henderson/Martin Luther King Jr. Way, and Mercer/Elliott West~~((, and Henderson/Norfolk))~~--all
- 998 in the City of Seattle),
- 999 • more than ~~((350))~~ 390 miles of pipes,
- 1000 • ~~((19))~~ 25 regulator stations,
- 1001 • ~~((42))~~ 48 pump stations, and
- 1002 • ~~((38))~~ 39 combined sewer overflow outfalls.

1003

1004 relocated from "Water Supply" section above with edits

1005 Recycled water is an important wastewater management tool that can also be used as a beneficial resource. King
1006 County has been producing and distributing recycled water since 1997. Recycled water is used for treatment
1007 process water and onsite landscaping at the County’s wastewater treatment plants. In addition, some of the
1008 recycled water from the South Treatment Plant is used off-site for irrigation purposes and public works uses, such
1009 as street sweeping and sewer flushing. Recycled water from the Carnation Treatment Plant is ~~((sent to the~~
1010 ~~wetlands))~~ is used for wetland enhancement at the Chinook Bend Natural Area in accordance with the County’s
1011 commitment to use the wetlands as its primary discharge location rather than the Snoqualmie River. The
1012 Brightwater Treatment Plant ~~((started distributing))~~ distributes recycled water to the Brightwater Education
1013 Center for irrigation and toilet and urinal flushing, as well as to the Sammamish Valley ~~((for irrigating golf~~
1014 ~~courses, nurseries, farms and for commercial and industrial uses))~~ to irrigate turf and trees.

1015

1016 ~~((King County adopted the Regional Wastewater Services Plan in 1999 to make sure the regional wastewater~~
1017 ~~system keeps pace with growth and meets permitting standards. The Regional Wastewater Services Plan includes~~
1018 ~~a number of planned projects through 2030 to protect public health, the environment and the economy for both~~
1019 ~~present and future wastewater customers, such as:~~

- 1020 • ~~building the Brightwater Treatment System to accommodate growth in the northern portion of the~~
1021 ~~wastewater service area;~~
- 1022 • ~~improvements to the county’s regional conveyance system to meet the 20-year peak storm design~~
1023 ~~standard and accommodate increased wastewater flows;~~
- 1024 • ~~improvements to reduce existing and future levels of infiltration and inflow into local collection~~
1025 ~~systems; and~~
- 1026 • ~~improvements to control combined sewer overflows so that an average of no more than one untreated~~
1027 ~~discharge occurs per year at each combined sewer overflow site by 2030.~~

1028

1029

1030 ~~The adopted policies that guide implementation of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan are in King County~~
1031 ~~Code 28.86.010 through 28.86.180.))~~

1032

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1033 The King County Regional Wastewater Services Plan establishes, or set direction to establish, a number of
1034 programs to guide long-term planning and investments in wastewater infrastructure. The Regional Wastewater
1035 Services Plan guides improvements to the regional wastewater system to ensure the continuation of wastewater
1036 treatment services in the future to sustain a healthy environment and economic development in the King County
1037 wastewater service area. Many of the major projects outlined in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan have
1038 been completed, are underway, or are planned to begin by 2030.

1039
1040 The Regional Wastewater Services Plan, codified in King County Code Chapter 28.86, and component plans
1041 (such as the Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan) serve as the most recent amendment to King
1042 County’s general sewer plan until a new plan is developed. The County is working on a wastewater planning
1043 effort that is expected to result in a new plan that sets the direction beyond 2030.

1044
1045 In addition to King County's role as the regional wastewater treatment provider, Public Health – Seattle & King
1046 County is the agency responsible for permitting on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems (septic
1047 systems). In addition, the Utilities Technical Review Committee and the King County Council review and
1048 approve sewer utility comprehensive plans.

- 1049
1050 **F-255** **In the Urban Growth Area, all new development shall be served by public sewers**
1051 **unless:**
- 1052 **a. Application of this policy to a proposal for a single- family residence on**
1053 **an individual lot would deny all reasonable use of the property; or**
 - 1054 **b. Sewer service is not available for a proposed short subdivision of urban**
1055 **property in a timely or reasonable manner as determined by the Utilities**
1056 **Technical Review Committee. These on-site systems shall be managed**
1057 **by one of the following entities, in order of preference:**
 - 1058 **1. The sewer utility whose service area encompasses the proposed**
1059 **short subdivision; ((ø))**
 - 1060 **2. The provider most likely to serve the area; or((;))**
 - 1061 **3. An Onsite Sewage System Maintainer certified by the Public**
1062 **Health – Seattle & King County.**

1063
1064 **The onsite system shall meet all state and county approval requirements. The**
1065 **approved short subdivision shall indicate how additional lots to satisfy the**
1066 **minimum density requirements of the zoning will be located on the subject**
1067 **property in case sewers become available in the future. There shall be no further**
1068 **subdivision of lots created under this policy unless served by public sewers.**

- 1069
1070 **F-256** **In the Urban Growth Area, King County and sewer utilities should jointly**
1071 **prioritize the replacement of onsite systems that serve existing development with**
1072 **public sewers, based on the risk of potential failure. King County and sewer**
1073 **utilities should analyze public funding options for such conversion and should**

1074 prepare conversion plans that will enable quick and cost-effective local response
1075 to health and pollution problems that may occur when many on-site systems fail
1076 in an area.

1077
1078 **F-257** City-owned parks that are redesignated from Rural to Urban on or after
1079 September 20, 2004, to allow future annexation by a city and that are
1080 subsequently served by public sewers shall be tightlined. ~~((This policy applies to~~
1081 ~~parks that were redesignated from Rural to Urban on or after September 20,~~
1082 ~~2004.))~~

1083
1084 **F-258** The existing public sewer system in the Rural Towns of Vashon and Snoqualmie
1085 Pass shall not be expanded to serve land beyond the boundaries of the town,
1086 except as provided in Policy ~~((F-264))~~ F-262a and as consistent with Title 57
1087 Revised Code of Washington. Subject to F-262, ~~((O))~~ onsite systems, community
1088 on-site systems or decentralized treatment systems may be used as appropriate
1089 for planned growth in the Rural Towns of Fall City ~~((and Snoqualmie Pass))~~.

1090
1091 **F-259** Sewer facilities such as pump stations, force mains, and trunk lines that do not
1092 provide connections to the Rural Area may be located in the Rural Area only
1093 when they are identified in a King County-approved comprehensive sewage
1094 system plan and upon a finding by King County that it is technically necessary
1095 ~~((in providing))~~ to provide service to the Urban Growth Area.

1096
1097 **F-260** Onsite wastewater treatment systems in the Rural Area and Natural Resource
1098 Lands that serve Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands should be designed,
1099 built, and operated as permanent methods of sewage disposal.

1100
1101 **F-261** King County should monitor onsite wastewater systems that have shown
1102 evidence of failure or potential for failure. The data should be used to correct
1103 existing problems and prevent future problems. King County should analyze
1104 public funding options for correcting on-site wastewater system failures and only
1105 as a last resort in Rural and Natural Resource Lands, and as otherwise
1106 consistent with this plan, conversion to community sewage systems or
1107 installation of public sewers.

1108
1109 ~~((F-262a))~~ **F-261a** King County should work with landowners, other jurisdictions, the state
1110 Department of Health, sewer districts, and the Puget Sound Partnership to
1111 develop effective strategies and additional resources for working with
1112 landowners to provide technical assistance and requested support regarding

1113 managing onsite septic systems, and proactively addressing failing septic
1114 systems in ~~((environmentally))~~ sensitive areas.

1115
1116 **F-262** Developments using a ~~((Collective))~~ community on-site sewage system~~((s))~~ or
1117 large on-site sewage system may be ~~((used))~~ permitted only in the following
1118 circumstances in the Rural Area and ~~Natural~~ Resource Lands:

- 1119 a. Existing on-site systems are failing within an area and ~~((the Seattle/King~~
1120 ~~County Department of))~~ Public Health – Seattle & King County concurs
1121 that long-term individual on-site sewage system repairs are not feasible
1122 or water quality is threatened by the presence of or potential for health
1123 hazards resulting from inadequate on-site wastewater disposal methods;
- 1124 b. An authorized public agency will manage the ~~((community))~~ system;
1125 ~~((and))~~
- 1126 c. The ~~((community))~~ system is designed only to serve existing structures
1127 and lots and cannot be used as a basis to ~~((increase))~~ exceed base
1128 density for the zone or applicable special district overlay(s) or p-
1129 suffix(es) ~~((or to expand permitted nonresidential uses))~~. Substandard
1130 vacant lots must be combined to the extent feasible to meet rural density
1131 policies~~((– Management of the community system must be by an~~
1132 ~~authorized public agency–))~~ and regulations;
- 1133 d. A system serving residentially developed lots cannot be used to: expand
1134 existing permitted nonresidential uses in size or scale; establish new
1135 permitted nonresidential uses; or serve commercially zoned properties;
1136 and
- 1137 e. For a system serving commercially developed lots: the system is used
1138 only to serve commercially zoned properties; property-specific
1139 development conditions are imposed that establish a range of allowed
1140 uses that can be adequately served by the system at the time of its
1141 construction; and the allowed uses are not more expansive than those
1142 allowed in the underlying zone.

1143
1144 ~~((F-264))~~ **F-262a** Except as otherwise provided for in this policy, public sewer service shall be
1145 prohibited in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands.

- 1146 a. Public sewer service may be expanded to the Rural Area or to Natural
1147 Resource Lands, only:
 - 1148 1. Where needed to address specific health and safety problems
1149 threatening the use of existing structures and the use of septic
1150 or other onsite wastewater systems has been determined by
1151 King County to be not feasible; or
 - 1152 2. To serve a new school authorized to be located in the Rural Area
1153 by R-327.

1154 b. Public sewers may be extended, pursuant to this policy, only if they are
1155 tightlined and only after a finding is made by King County that no
1156 reasonable alternative technologies are feasible.

1157
1158 ~~((e))~~ Public sewers that are allowed in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands
1159 pursuant to this policy shall not be used to convert Rural Area land or Natural
1160 Resource Lands to urban uses and densities or to expand permitted
1161 nonresidential uses.

1162
1163 ~~((Greywater is residential wastewater generated from bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks, washing machines,
1164 dishwashers, and kitchen sinks. It includes sewage from any source in a residence or structure that has not come
1165 into contact with toilet wastes. Greywater comprises 50-80% of residential wastewater.))~~

1166
1167 **F-263** King County supports innovative technologies to process greywater for safe use
1168 on-site in the Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands.

1169
1170
1171 ~~**((F-264** Except as otherwise provided for in this policy, public sewer service shall be
1172 prohibited in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands.~~

1173 ~~a. Public sewer service may be expanded to the Rural Area or to Natural
1174 Resource Lands, only:~~

1175 ~~1. Where needed to address specific health and safety problems
1176 threatening the use of existing structures and the use of septic or other
1177 onsite wastewater systems has been determined by King County to be
1178 not feasible; or~~

1179 ~~2. To serve a new school authorized to be located in the Rural Area by
1180 R-327.~~

1181 ~~b. Public sewers may be extended, pursuant to this policy, only if they are
1182 tightlined and only after a finding is made by King County that no
1183 reasonable alternative technologies are feasible.~~

1184 ~~c. Public sewers that are allowed in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource
1185 Lands pursuant to this policy shall not be used to convert Rural Area
1186 land or Natural Resource Lands to urban uses and densities or to
1187 expand permitted nonresidential uses.~~

1188
1189 **J.)) Solid Waste**

1190 King County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, prepared by the Solid Waste Division of the
1191 Department of Natural Resources and Parks, guides the management of solid waste in the unincorporated
1192 county and for cities with which the ~~((e))~~County has interlocal agreements. The Comprehensive Solid Waste
1193 Management Plan presents policies, recommendations and goals for the following elements of solid waste

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1194 management: system planning, policy priorities, waste prevention, recovery and recycling, solid waste collection
1195 and processing, the transfer system, landfill management ~~((and))~~, solid waste disposal, and system financing.
1196 The overall vision is for healthy, safe, and thriving communities in a zero waste county, working in partnership
1197 with communities, businesses, local jurisdictions, and residents to create a more circular economy through
1198 programs like Re+.

1199
1200 **F-265** **Regional solid waste planning should integrate the principles of environmental**
1201 **stewardship, circular economy, equity and racial and social justice, and**
1202 **sustainable development into all aspects of solid waste management.**

1203
1204 **F-266** **Solid waste should be collected, handled, processed, and disposed of in ways**
1205 **that reduce waste, conserve resources, and protect public health and the**
1206 **environment.**

1207
1208 **F-267** **King County should achieve ~~((Z))~~zero ~~((W))~~waste of ~~((R))~~resources by 2030 and a**
1209 **85 percent construction and demolition diversion rate by 2025 by targeting areas**
1210 **of the waste stream that have the greatest potential for ~~((diversion))~~ prevention**
1211 **and reuse, product stewardship, recycling and composting, beneficial use, and**
1212 **recovery while regenerating natural systems.**

1213
1214 ~~**(F-268** **Solid waste management should be planned, and transfer and disposal capacity**~~
1215 ~~**provided, on a regional basis.))**~~

1216
1217 **F-269** **King County shall plan for and operate a regional transfer system that is**
1218 **dispersed throughout the county to ensure access to safe, reliable, efficient, and**
1219 **affordable solid waste services, and improves recycling opportunities for**
1220 **residents and businesses. King County should continue to provide facilities for**
1221 **self-haulers.**

1222
1223 **F-269a** **King County should ~~((consider demand management))~~ implement strategies that**
1224 **maximize the safety and efficiency of the transfer system and encourage use of,**
1225 **and equitable participation in, solid waste curbside collection services.**

1226
1227 **F-269b** ~~**((In order to support achieving a 70% recycling goals))**~~ **To minimize the disposal**
1228 **of useful materials, King County should work with partners and jurisdictions to**
1229 **encourage implementation of frequency and separation policies for curbside**
1230 **collection of garbage, recyclables, and organics throughout the county, including**
1231 **in unincorporated areas.**

1232
1233 **F-269c** **King County shall collaborate with cities to achieve a circular economy and**
1234 **preserve landfill space by implementing policies and hauler contract**

1235 amendments that harmonize recycling and compost standards countywide, such
1236 as through the Re+ Program.

1237
1238 **F-270** King County should maximize the capacity and lifespan of the Cedar Hills
1239 Regional Landfill and plan for future disposal when Cedar Hills Landfill closes to
1240 ensure no gap in service, subject to environmental constraints, relative costs to
1241 operate, ~~((stakeholder))~~ partner and public interests, and overall solid waste
1242 system optimization. A replacement landfill shall not be located in King County.

1243
1244 **F-271** King County shall:
1245 a. ~~((e))~~ Encourage sustainable development and development of markets for
1246 reusable and recyclable materials~~((r))~~; and
1247 b. ~~((p))~~ Provide consumer education in the public and private sectors
1248 regarding green building practices, product stewardship, ~~extended~~
1249 producer responsibility, circular economy, recycling, purchasing, and
1250 consumption ~~((in order))~~ to reduce the amount of waste disposed.

1251
1252 **F-271a** King County should consider ~~((whether))~~ opportunities to increase energy
1253 recovery from select solid waste materials including organics, mixed plastics,
1254 and the non-recyclable portion of the waste stream ~~((are beneficial in terms of~~
1255 ~~cost,))~~ by factoring in the financial, ~~((natural environment))~~ environmental,
1256 greenhouse gas ~~((emissions))~~, and community impacts~~((, as well as whether any~~
1257 ~~such energy recovery facilities might be more appropriately located outside King~~
1258 ~~County))~~.

1259
1260 ~~((F-271b)) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an~~
1261 ~~important consideration to identify and assess the impacts of proposed service~~
1262 ~~changes, and the county's Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to~~
1263 ~~improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.~~

1264 ~~K.))~~ **Stormwater Management**

1266 Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation runs off the landscape and picks up pollutants, including pesticides,
1267 fertilizers, pet wastes, oils, metals, and many other chemicals. These pollutants enter surface and ground waters,
1268 disrupt ecosystems, and threaten public health. Runoff can also cause erosion, create higher peak flows in
1269 streams and rivers in winter and, because of reduced infiltration, create lower flows in summer.

1270
1271 ~~((Early King County stormwater management strategies primarily focused on reducing the risk of localized~~
1272 ~~flooding, without concern for potential adverse impacts on receiving water bodies. Over time, experts recognized~~
1273 ~~the harm stormwater runoff was having on receiving waters and regulations have been put into place to address~~

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1274 those impacts. Current stormwater management programs and policies focus on protecting the quality and
1275 beneficial uses of surface and ground waters and are a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act.))

1276

1277 Prevention or mitigation of flooding, erosion, sedimentation, and water quality and habitat degradation is
1278 important for both the built and natural environments. Stormwater water management activities address the
1279 quantity and quality of stormwater runoff entering the natural environment as well as its quality. ((As described
1280 in Chapter 5: Environment, the management of stormwater runoff is generally driven by the National Pollutant
1281 Discharge Elimination System Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit and the County’s Stormwater
1282 Management Program plan, which can be found online at:

1283 [http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/pollution-discharge-](http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx)
1284 [permit/annual-reports.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx)))

1285

1286 Untreated stormwater runoff is the largest source of pollution to Puget Sound. The lack of stormwater controls
1287 in older developed areas is one of the most significant problems impacting receiving water bodies in King County
1288 and preventing Puget Sound recovery. Although King County has been developing and applying best available
1289 stormwater controls to new development since the late 1970s, the application of water quality controls and more
1290 effective flow controls did not occur until the early 1990s.

1291

1292 Consequently, nearly all development occurring prior to 1990 has little or no flow control and no water quality
1293 control. In unincorporated King County, over two-thirds of the developed land was created prior to 1990. This
1294 amounts to about 150 square miles of land on which native forest was converted to impervious surfaces, such as
1295 roads, parking lots, rooftops, lawns, and landscape surfaces((, and pasture and crop land surfaces)) without
1296 stormwater controls to mitigate the increased runoff and pollution generated by these surfaces.

1297

1298 The County ((is)) also ((working to)) promotes site development that preserves natural hydrologic processes by
1299 protecting and enhancing native vegetation and soils, reducing impervious surfaces, and managing stormwater
1300 onsite. This approach, termed ((L))low ((I))impact ((D))development, is used to reduce impacts on aquatic
1301 resources. In the King County Surface Water Design Manual, King County provides a menu of ((L))low
1302 ((I))impact ((D))development options for individuals planning new or re-development projects. King County
1303 ((will)) continues to help minimize new impervious surfaces through code and incentive programs that keep
1304 lands in forest and agricultural uses. Implementing ((L))low ((I))impact ((D))development satisfies requirements
1305 of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, while helping to protect the region’s streams,
1306 rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound from harmful pollutants.

1307

1308 The County has identified watershed based management efforts as a strategy that simultaneously integrates
1309 floodplain connectivity, salmon recovery, habitat restoration, stormwater flow control and water quality retrofits.
1310 economic development, agricultural preservation, and principles of equity and racial and social justice. The
1311 County will leverage alternative funding mechanisms, and engage in various partnerships with groups that
1312 include, but are not limited to, the existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitted

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1313 jurisdictions, Water Resource Inventory Areas, the Puget Sound Partnership, and Local Integrating
1314 Organizations to undertake a collaborative watershed-based approach to restoring aquatic ecosystems.

1315
1316 ~~((King County has been and will continue to be a leader in developing and implementing state-of-the-art
1317 stormwater management strategies including education and outreach, source control programs, basin or
1318 sub-basin planning for retrofitting in built-out areas with inadequate stormwater controls, and mapping and
1319 maintenance of stormwater infrastructure. Strategies for managing stormwater runoff are continuing to evolve.
1320 Development of regional, collaborative approaches, including the creation of watershed basin plans across
1321 multiple disciplines, will be the next evolution of stormwater management.))~~

1322
1323 **F-272 To reduce flooding, erosion, and sedimentation, prevent and mitigate habitat
1324 loss, enhance groundwater recharge, and prevent groundwater and surface water
1325 quality degradation, consistent with the Growth Management Act, King County
1326 shall manage stormwater through plans, programs, and regulations developed by
1327 ((King)) the County in cooperation with affected jurisdictions and agencies
1328 whenever possible.**

1329
1330 **F-273 A watershed approach shall be taken for stormwater management, with
1331 responsibility shared between King County and affected jurisdictions. This
1332 approach should emphasize prevention of surface water and groundwater
1333 degradation through education programs, retrofits of existing stormwater
1334 controls or the placement of new controls, and implementation of best
1335 management practices to reduce pollution entering the region's groundwater and
1336 surface waters, including Puget Sound. This approach should also support and
1337 build upon regional collaborative stormwater management planning and
1338 management approaches as outlined in Policy E-446.**

1339
1340 **F-274 In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County shall minimize the
1341 use of ~~((constructed facilities)) grey infrastructure~~ for stormwater management
1342 and, through ~~((L))low ((H))high~~ impact ~~((D))development~~, maximize the use of natural
1343 systems, provided that the ecological functions of the natural systems are not
1344 harmed. The County should provide incentives to keep these natural systems
1345 intact. Low ~~((H))high~~ impact ~~((D))development~~ is also preferred in the Urban Growth
1346 Area, but it is recognized that structural systems may be needed to realize urban
1347 growth and density goals in these areas.**

1348

1349 **F-275** King County ~~((will))~~ shall plan and manage stormwater by basin or sub-basin
1350 consistent with Policies E-463 and E-464. To accomplish this goal, stormwater
1351 runoff should not be diverted from one basin or sub-basin into another, unless
1352 no other reasonable alternative is available for managing run-off within the same
1353 basin or an analysis using best available science determines cross-basin
1354 diversion or mitigation actions for unavoidable impacts will have greater benefit
1355 to regional stormwater management. Where such diversions are permitted, King
1356 County ~~((will))~~ shall require environmental analysis and mitigation adequate to
1357 protect surface water and groundwater resources from significant adverse
1358 impacts.

1360 **F-276** In the Urban Growth Area, regional and shared surface water management
1361 facilities should be encouraged to support infill development to preclude the
1362 need for individual on-site facilities, provide development incentives, encourage
1363 efficient use of land, and reduce overall facility maintenance costs. These
1364 facilities should be planned and financed through public and private
1365 partnerships.

1367 **F-277** Stormwater programs including public education, stormwater system mapping,
1368 construction of regional and shared stormwater facilities, retrofitting developed
1369 areas, and operation and maintenance programs should be funded through an
1370 adequate and equitable funding mechanism. Stormwater facilities required for
1371 new development, redevelopment and retrofitting should be designed and built to
1372 improve regional water quality to the maximum extent possible, as well as for
1373 aesthetic value~~((, as well as for))~~ and low-cost, long-term maintenance.

1375 **F-278** King County shall continue to ~~((encourage, support and))~~ require the use of low
1376 impact development as a part of its strategy to mitigate stormwater impacts from
1377 new development to the maximum extent feasible and should consider additional
1378 supportive strategies, such as in lieu fee mechanisms which are determined
1379 through analyses according to best available science to result in overall benefits
1380 to regional stormwater management and water quality.

1382 **F-279** King County should incorporate state-of-the art stormwater management
1383 techniques ~~((including))~~ and ~~((L))~~ low ~~((I))~~ impact ~~((D))~~ development into the design,

1384 construction and operation of all ~~((c))~~County facilities and ~~((c))~~County-funded
1385 projects to the maximum extent feasible.

1386
1387 **F-279a** **When scoping and designing flood risk reduction, fish passage, park, trails, and**
1388 **habitat restoration projects, the County should actively review and pursue**
1389 **opportunities to support stormwater retrofit projects.**

1390
1391 **F-280** King County shall continue to promote the preservation of native vegetation and
1392 soils and the restoration of disturbed soils on rural residential zoned parcels to
1393 the maximum extent feasible. Minimized impervious areas and the dispersion of
1394 stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces into native vegetation in accordance
1395 with the Surface Water Design Manual are the preferred methods of stormwater
1396 management in the Rural Area.

1397
1398 **F-281** King County should work with residential and commercial developers to
1399 incorporate state-of-the art stormwater management techniques, such as ~~((L))~~low
1400 ~~((H))~~impact ~~((D))~~development , that protect native vegetation and soils, restore
1401 disturbed soils by increasing the use of compost, facilitate reuse of resources
1402 such as recycled or harvested water, reduce the carbon footprint of the project,
1403 and minimize impervious surfaces.

1404
1405 **F-282** When King County provides technical assistance and incentives for the use of
1406 state-of-the art stormwater management techniques, it shall be at no cost to any
1407 private sector development.

1408
1409 ~~**((F-282a** King County should work with landowners, other jurisdictions, the state
1410 Department of Health, sewer districts, and the Puget Sound Partnership to
1411 develop effective strategies and additional resources for working with
1412 landowners to provide technical assistance and requested support regarding
1413 managing onsite septic systems, and proactively addressing failing septic
1414 systems in environmentally sensitive areas.))~~

1415
1416 **F-282a** **King County should continue to implement and support innovative stormwater**
1417 **management programs, such as the RainScapes Green Stormwater Infrastructure**
1418 **Incentive program for private landowners.**

1419
1420 **F-282b** **King County should work with regional partners to identify locations for stormwater**
1421 **parks, focusing first on communities with the most polluted water that lack easy**
1422 **access to green space.**

1423

1424 **F-283** King County ~~((shall))~~ should identify and evaluate potential changes to land use
1425 development regulations and building codes to support and promote state-of-the
1426 art stormwater management techniques.

1427
1428 ~~((F-284~~ King County ~~should work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to develop and~~
1429 ~~implement plans and programs that address the appropriate recycling, reuse,~~
1430 ~~reclamation and disposal of the materials generated from maintenance of~~
1431 ~~stormwater infrastructure.))~~

1432
1433 **F-285** King County shall work with jurisdictions to ensure that storm and surface water
1434 management facilities are transferred from King County to the local jurisdiction
1435 that annexes or incorporates that portion of King County.

1436

1437 ~~((L-))~~ **Floodplain Management**

1438 Six major river systems flow through King County – the South Fork Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Sammamish,
1439 Cedar, Green and White. These rivers, and their ~~((major))~~ tributaries, pass through lands ranging in use from
1440 forested to agricultural to urbanized cities. Each of these major river systems are unique in their geology and
1441 geomorphology as well as the extent in which the hydraulics of the rivers have been altered by dams, levees, and
1442 bank hardening. All of these rivers are used by federally listed endangered species of salmonid. Communities
1443 along the marine shorelines of King County, including Vashon-Maury Island and in the Lower Duwamish, also
1444 face flood risks from tidal flooding and storm surge.

1445

1446 Within unincorporated King County over 61 ~~((%))~~ percent of the mapped floodplain is within land zoned for
1447 agriculture, forest or mining. Another 32~~((%))~~ percent is zoned as rural leaving just under seven percent within
1448 the urban area, mainly contained within Potential Annexation Areas around the City of Carnation.
1449 Consequently, much of the flood risk in unincorporated King County is to natural resource lands, primarily
1450 agriculture, and rural lands with a lower relative risk to residential and resource based commercial activities.
1451 Most of these rivers also pass through highly urbanized incorporated cities that are important economic centers
1452 for King County and the Puget Sound region. These river segments are often constrained by levee systems that
1453 provide varying level of flood risk reduction. More localized flooding from small tributary streams, lakes, and
1454 closed depressions can also cause flood damage to homes, roads, farmland, and public and private infrastructure.

1455

1456 Both the Washington State Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A and Title 86 of the Revised Code of
1457 Washington, Flood Control require interlocal coordination for effective flood hazard management. Counties are
1458 directed to prepare comprehensive flood hazard management plans with participation of the cities. ~~((Once King~~
1459 ~~County adopts the plan it is binding on all jurisdictions within the county.))~~ Flooding is a countywide issue
1460 impacting public safety, regional economic centers, Agricultural Production Districts, transportation corridors,
1461 and public and private properties. As such, King County is a regional service provider for floodplain
1462 management.

1463

1464 **F-286** King County shall participate with cities to prepare, update, and implement
1465 comprehensive flood hazard management plans that meet or exceed standards
1466 established by the National Flood Insurance Program and Washington State
1467 Flood Control statutes.

1468

1469 **F-287** King County shall include equity and racial and social justice principles in
1470 ~~((planning))~~ updating and implementing the King County Flood Hazard
1471 Management Plan to ~~((assure floodplain property owners and residents are given
1472 equitable access to flood risk reduction services. Outreach should consider
1473 vulnerable populations that may face barriers to accessing services and
1474 programs based on age, income, disability, English language proficiency, race
1475 and ethnicity, or other factors.))~~ assess flood risks, evaluate impacts of risk
1476 reduction actions, and work in partnership with the most impacted communities
1477 to develop and prioritize future actions.

1478

1479 ~~((In 2011 King County celebrated the 50th anniversary of the King County Flood Warning Program, which is
1480 responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of flood data and forecasts to individuals and
1481 organizations and for coordinating the response to flooding.))~~

1482

1483 **F-288** King County shall maintain a regional flood warning program in King County.

1484

1485 ~~((There is now evidence that climate change is resulting in significant changes in temperatures; sea level rise; and
1486 timing and magnitude of stream and river flows, resulting in impacts on plant and animal species, water supply
1487 and humans. King County's ability to adapt to these changing conditions will likely depend on the policy
1488 decisions made today. King County can expect to see more frequent and severe flooding and a shifting of when
1489 storm events occur during the winter months.))~~

1490

1491 **F-289** King County should continue to assess and revise current flood warning phases
1492 based on the most current data on hydrology and climate change ~~((predictions))~~
1493 projections and modify the King County Flood Warning Program, as needed, to
1494 reflect these revised flood phases.

1495

1496 **F-290** King County should assess the most appropriate level of service for flood risk
1497 reduction along river segments based on existing and predicted development
1498 density, land use, and hydrologic conditions, inclusive of climate change.

1499

1500 **F-291** King County ~~((will))~~ shall review available information on the potential impacts of
1501 climate change on ~~((winter floods))~~ flooding conditions and other natural hazards
1502 that may affect flooding, and consider those potential impacts when updating the
1503 flood risk reduction policies and capital improvement projects for the King

County Flood Hazard Management Plan.

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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, contribute 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 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 compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Services Biological Opinion on the Federal Emergency Management Agency National

1543 Flood Insurance Program standards for levee vegetation, as well as cost-effective
1544 maintenance and repair of levees, is achieved.

1545
1546 ((The Biological Opinion for the National Flood Insurance Program established ‘reasonable and prudent
1547 alternatives’ that may be taken to reduce the adverse effects of development with the 100-year floodplain.
1548 Compliance with the Biological Opinion is required in order to participate in the National Flood Insurance
1549 Program.))

1550
1551 **F-295 King County ((will)) shall maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance
1552 Program by:**

- 1553 a. **Assessing the projects and programmatic actions recommended in the
1554 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan for compliance with the
1555 Biological Opinion prepared for the Program; and**
1556 b. **Making necessary amendments to the Plan and its implementing
1557 development regulations.**

1558
1559 ((In 2007 King County established the King County Flood Control District to protect public health and safety,
1560 regional economic centers, public and private properties and transportation corridors. The Flood Control District
1561 adopted the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan as its comprehensive plan. A private firm,
1562 ECONorthwest, was hired to study the economic benefits of implementing the plan. This report, the “Economic
1563 Connections Between the King County Floodplains and the Greater King County Economy,” estimated that a
1564 one-day shutdown of economic activity in the King County floodplain areas would result in at least \$49 million
1565 in forgone economic output in the region (2007 dollars). The study also found that, 52,000 people in King
1566 County commute into or out of the 100-year floodplain for work.))

1567
1568 Implementation of the ((2006)) King County Flood Hazard Management Plan has played a significant role in
1569 protecting King County’s economic base. ((The 2006 Flood Hazard Management Plan was updated in 2013.))

1570
1571 **F-296 King County ((will)) shall work cooperatively with the King County Flood Control
1572 District, cities and other ((stakeholders)) partners to implement the integrated
1573 approaches to floodplain management outlined in the Flood Hazard Management
1574 Plan, or successor plans, to protect public safety, prevent property damage, and
1575 help protect the greater King County economy, consistent with the Growth
1576 Management Act. Actions should advance King County’s equity and racial and
1577 social justice goals, promote resiliency to the potential impacts of climate
1578 change, and provide multiple benefits for the residents of King County.**

1579
1580 **F-297 Consistent with guidance from Federal Emergency Management Agency and the
1581 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, King County’s flood risk reduction strategies
1582 should focus first on risk avoidance, followed by actions intended to reduce**

1583 vulnerability in at risk areas. New levees and other flood facilities should be the
1584 last rather than the first line-of-defense.

1585
1586 **F-298** King County shall continue to ~~((promote))~~ **encourage** the purchase of flood
1587 insurance to ~~((businesses))~~ **owners and tenants of properties** located within ~~((the~~
1588 ~~floodplain))~~ **flood hazard areas**, including those ~~((businesses))~~ **properties** located
1589 behind accredited levees, to protect the ~~((economic))~~ value of the ~~((business))~~
1590 **properties** and reduce the **economic** vulnerability ~~((to the region's economic~~
1591 ~~activity from a larger but less frequent))~~ **from** flood events.

1592
1593 **F-299** King County should continue to discourage new ~~((, at-risk))~~ development in
1594 mapped flood hazard areas.

1595
1596 **F-299a** King County should seek to site new critical public facilities outside of the
1597 **500-year floodplain**.

1598
1599 Levee setbacks (moving levees away from the river channel) can provide a higher level of risk reduction, reduce
1600 future maintenance costs, enhance habitat, and provide open space benefits. However, levee setbacks require
1601 purchase of additional right-of-way and, in some cases, relocation of homes and businesses. The ~~((e))~~ County has
1602 **purchased homes and** relocated ~~((homes))~~ **residents** from high hazard residential areas along the Tolt, Raging,
1603 Snoqualmie, Middle Green, and Cedar Rivers. Levee setbacks can be more challenging in urban areas with
1604 higher land costs, well established businesses, and more extensive relocation needs.

1605
1606 **F-299b** King County should work with cities, businesses, and landowners to evaluate the
1607 **alternatives for levee setbacks that would provide a higher level of risk reduction,**
1608 **reduce long-term maintenance costs, and enhance habitat while promoting**
1609 **long-term economic resilience and vitality.**

1610

1611 ~~((H.))~~ **Energy and Telecommunications**

1612 King County's economy and quality of life depend on readily available, affordable and clean energy and
1613 telecommunications resources. Energy and electronic communications systems provide important public
1614 services and their implementation must be coordinated with land use planning. The sustainable development
1615 and efficient use of energy resources can ensure their continued availability while minimizing long-term costs,
1616 risks and impacts to public health and safety, air and water quality, and essential public infrastructure and
1617 services.

1618

1619 ~~((In order t))~~To help mitigate global climate impacts resulting from human energy use, King County is planning
1620 its energy uses in ways that will improve energy efficiency; increase production and use of renewable energy;

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1621 reduce risk to public health, safety, critical services, and the environment; and reduce the release of greenhouse
1622 gases and emissions. This includes rigorous and transparent review and regulation of fossil fuel facilities.

1623

1624 ~~((The 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan provides targets for reducing energy usage in operations and increasing
1625 the amount of renewable energy that the County produces or uses. These targets are measured for the County
1626 government as a whole; divisions are directed to make policies and plans consistent with the King County
1627 Strategic Climate Action Plan and implement those as practical, considering the Plan and their other service
1628 priorities. Some divisions may exceed the targets, while others may not meet them in given years—but all
1629 divisions will use the Strategic Climate Action Plan as the basis for strategic energy planning and direction.~~

1630

1631 ~~King County divisions are taking steps to translate countywide energy targets into agency specific plans and
1632 action. Agency specific plans are important steps that support progress towards countywide targets.~~

1633 ~~The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets the County's long term goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions
1634 from government operations, compared to a 2007 baseline, by at least at least 80% by 2050. In order to
1635 accomplish this goal, the County is dedicated to reducing its energy use, which is the most cost effective
1636 approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Energy reduction goals are included in the Strategic Climate
1637 Action Plan. In its government operations, the County set buildings and facilities normalized energy use
1638 reduction goals of five percent reduction by 2020 and 10% by 2025, as measured against a 2014 baseline. In its
1639 vehicle operations, the County set a reduction goal of at least 10% of its normalized net energy use by 2020,
1640 again measured against a 2014 baseline.))~~

1641

1642 Various local, state, and federal agencies regulate ~~((retail))~~ energy providers in King County. Gas and electric
1643 utility resource and conservation plans are approved by the utilities and other agencies through a public process.

1644 The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission reviews and accepts plans of investor-owned electric
1645 and gas utilities, the Seattle City Council approves the plans of Seattle City Light and Snohomish Public Utility
1646 District is governed by a utility board. Electric and gas utilities operate in King County under franchises with the
1647 ~~((e))~~County for use of the public right-of-way. The Utilities and Transportation Commission also defines the
1648 costs that investor-owned utilities can recover, approves rates, sets service standards and resolves customer
1649 complaints.

1650

1651 Telecommunications services are regulated by several entities, including the Federal Communications
1652 Commission and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. King County has some regulatory
1653 authority over telecommunications services through franchises and the development approval process.

1654

1655 **~~((A.))~~ Energy**

1656 **~~((1.))~~ Consistency with Land Use Plans**

1657 State law mandates that electric and gas public service companies provide the same level of service on a uniform
1658 basis, regardless of location(~~(-)~~) (Revised Code of Washington 80.28.110). Policies in this chapter encourage the
1659 utilities to prioritize capital improvements in a manner consistent with land use.

1660

1661 **F-301 Energy providers' resource and facility plans should be consistent with the King**
1662 **County Comprehensive Plan and should provide for a reliable source of energy**
1663 **in the event of natural disaster or other potential threats of disruption to service.**

1664

1665 ~~((Disruption of traffic due to public and private road projects frequently occurs in King County. Policies in this~~
1666 ~~chapter support existing programs to notify utilities of upcoming projects to build, expand, or maintain county~~
1667 ~~roads so utility and road construction can be coordinated. Distribution systems for gas, electric and~~
1668 ~~telecommunications installation in new construction now have separate permits. Permit consolidation is~~
1669 ~~desirable as a means to expedite review while protecting the environment.))~~

1670

1671 **F-302 King County should coordinate public road construction and maintenance**
1672 **projects with utility construction and maintenance.**

1673

1674 ~~((Appropriate planning, such as increased housing density, transit-oriented development and walk-to-work~~
1675 ~~housing can significantly reduce regional energy use over time. Similarly, land use regulation can support~~
1676 ~~increased availability and use of renewable energy. For example, consideration of solar access in land use codes~~
1677 ~~and building siting can increase the potential for solar energy use. Policies in this chapter encourage such~~
1678 ~~energy-conscious development.))~~

1679

1680 **F-303 King County ~~((should))~~ shall encourage land uses and development that will**
1681 **reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the improvement of energy efficiency,**
1682 **and should support the expansion of renewable energy resources through**
1683 **development regulations(~~(-prudent variances)~~) and active incentive programs**
1684 **when the benefits of doing so outweigh the costs.**

1685

1686 **Environmental justice**

1687 The siting of hazardous utility infrastructure can have disproportionately negative impacts on communities
1688 already experiencing other existing and historical social, environmental, and economic inequities. King
1689 County's permit review process creates an opportunity to advance more equitable outcomes.

1690

1691 **F-303a Results from an equity impact review shall be used as an important**
1692 **consideration to identify impacts and opportunities of adding, expanding, or**

1693 upgrading transmission and distribution lines; siting new gas or hazardous liquid
1694 transmission pipelines; or new modified, or expanded fossil fuel facilities. The
1695 County’s equity and racial and social justice principles should be used to
1696 improve residents’ access to the determinants of equity.
1697

1698 **~~((2.))~~ Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Alternative Energy Sources**

1699 ~~((King County Countywide Planning Policy CO-6 states that "aggressive conservation efforts shall be~~
1700 ~~implemented to address the need for adequate supply for electrical energy and water resources, protect natural~~
1701 ~~resources, and achieve improved air quality.")) King County has a continued commitment to energy efficiency,
1702 conservation, use and production of renewable resources and quality enforcement of the energy code. Recent
1703 recognition of climate change and other negative impacts of energy infrastructure have brought the need to
1704 improve the ~~((e))~~County’s energy use patterns and supplies into the forefront of policy discussions. King
1705 County’s current energy use patterns and energy supplies could be modified and improved to reduce air pollution
1706 (including greenhouse gas emissions), conserve non-renewable resources important to future generations, and
1707 help to limit the growth in energy costs.
1708~~

1709 **F-304 All King County departments and divisions shall use the Strategic Climate Action**
1710 **Plan, or successor plans, as the basis for strategic energy planning and**
1711 **direction.**
1712

1713 The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets the ~~((e))~~County's long term goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions
1714 from government operations, compared to a 2007 baseline, by at least at least 80(~~((%))~~) percent by ~~((2050))~~ 2030.
1715 ~~((In order to))~~To accomplish this goal, the ~~((e))~~County is dedicated to reducing its energy use, which most heavily
1716 contributes to its greenhouse gas emissions. Included in the Strategic Climate Action Plan ~~((were))~~ are short
1717 term goals for energy reduction. ~~((For 2015, i))~~In its government operations for buildings and facilities, the
1718 county set a reduction goal of ~~((15%))~~ 25 percent by 2030 and 45 percent by 2050 for normalized net energy use
1719 as measured against the ~~((2015))~~ 2017 baseline. In its vehicle operations, the county set a ~~((reduction goal of at~~
1720 ~~least 10% of its normalized net energy use, again measured against a 2007 baseline))~~ goal to reduce greenhouse
1721 gas emissions by 45 percent by 2025 and 70 percent by 2030, compared to a 2017 baseline.
1722

1723 To measure its progress in reducing facility energy consumption, the county uses the process of "normalizing"
1724 energy use, which provides a measure of the energy use per unit of service value delivered (units of energy / units
1725 of service delivered). Application of this methodology is typically adjusted for weather, with the Wastewater
1726 Treatment Division making adjustments according to weather and wastewater flow. Normalization is intended
1727 to reflect actual energy use reductions given varying weather conditions compared to the baseline.
1728

1729 King County is a large producer of methane gas associated with landfills and wastewater treatment facilities it
1730 owns and operates. Because such gas can serve as a greenhouse gas-reducing substitute for fossil fuel natural gas,
1731 and become a feedstock for aviation fuels, maritime fuels, the generation of green hydrogen and for other

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1732 beneficial purposes to help de-carbonize various industries, several of the energy policies in this subsection relate
1733 to this energy source.

1734

1735 ~~((Reaching the specified energy reduction targets directly reduces the county's greenhouse gas emissions.))~~

1736

1737 **F-305** King County shall plan for further reduction in its energy use from government
1738 operations by setting near and long term energy use and fossil fuel use
1739 reductions, consistent with its long term goals of working to continuously reduce
1740 operating costs and environmental impacts, maximizing energy efficiency and
1741 minimizing waste.

1742

1743 **F-306** King County shall maximize the ~~((production))~~ capture, use and marketing of
1744 renewable energy at its wastewater treatment plants and Cedar Hills Landfill, to
1745 the extent feasible and consistent with other County goals, and pursue other
1746 renewable energy generation projects where cost-effective.

1747

1748 **F-307** King County should foster the development and increased use of clean,
1749 renewable and alternative fuel and energy technologies, such as anaerobic
1750 digestion and co-digestion of organic material to create energy sources that
1751 result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, with a particular emphasis
1752 on creating renewable natural gas.

1753

1754 ~~((F-308))~~ ~~King County shall:~~
1755 ~~a. Continue to increase the energy efficiency of county buses and vehicles,~~
1756 ~~through adoption and promotion of innovative technology vehicles and~~
1757 ~~greenhouse gas reducing fuels with a focus on electric vehicles, all-~~
1758 ~~electric battery buses and associated infrastructure, where appropriate;~~
1759 ~~and~~
1760 ~~b. Consistent with policy E-203, collaborate with other local governments~~
1761 ~~regionally, nationally and internationally to develop a common approach~~
1762 ~~to accounting for the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the~~
1763 ~~operation of its public transportation system, for offering carbon offsets~~
1764 ~~or other environmental attributes for purchase and for claiming rights to~~
1765 ~~any greenhouse gas emissions reduction attributes associated with its~~
1766 ~~operation.))~~

1767

1768 **F-308a** Consistent with Ordinance ~~((47974))~~ 18106, King County Metro Transit ~~((should~~
1769 ~~implement a strategy to sell transit carbon offsets and other environmental~~
1770 ~~attributes to))~~ shall make carbon offsets or environmental attributes available for
1771 purchase by individuals, public entities, and private entities, if doing so is likely
1772 to be financially beneficial to the department. ~~((To reduce their greenhouse gas~~

1773 **emissions, the King County wastewater treatment division and solid waste**
1774 **division should consider purchasing transit carbon offsets from King County**
1775 **Metro Transit.) Revenue from the sale of carbon offsets or environmental**
1776 **attributed shall be used by the department solely for the purposes of reducing**
1777 **greenhouse gas emissions through mobility services or investments that reduce**
1778 **greenhouse emissions from transit operations.**

1779
1780 ((In support of its environmental, long term sustainability and energy security goals, King County will provide
1781 leadership by shifting to the use of renewable resources. Renewable resources include those sources listed in
1782 Revised Code of Washington 19.285.030(20), now and as may be amended, as well as "service by products",
1783 such as including methane gas generated from the operation of the county's landfill and wastewater treatment
1784 plants. Although renewable energy sources can be more expensive than traditional power sources on a per unit
1785 basis, careful choices of technology and expanded economic considerations including "triple bottom line"
1786 life cycle cost analyses show that in proper applications the benefits of some renewable energy technologies
1787 already exceed their costs.

1788
1789 Additionally, subsidies and grants are available for some renewable power systems. For example, solar electric
1790 power is cost effective in some applications at county facilities and rapid cost changes in this technology will
1791 require regular reconsideration of its use as an addition or alternative to traditionally produced electricity.))

1792
1793 **F-309 King County shall maximize practical applications of renewable natural gas (such**
1794 **as from wastewater or landfill gas), renewable electricity, and renewable heat**
1795 **production ((from renewable resources)).**

1796
1797 **F-310 King County shall support the conversion of renewable resources and service**
1798 **by-products to energy for beneficial use ((consistent with E-208)). King County**
1799 **shall claim and/or generate economic benefit for any and all renewable energy**
1800 **and greenhouse gas reduction attributes resulting from renewable energy**
1801 **generation.**

1802
1803 ((King County, working with its utility partners, has a long and successful history of energy efficiency and
1804 conservation projects. The combination of generally increasing energy costs and climate change mitigation goals
1805 will require that the county continuously increase its energy efficiency for many years to come.))

1806
1807 **F-311 King County should encourage its energy utilities to provide energy efficiency**
1808 **services ((and)), renewable energy options, and fossil fuel use reduction**
1809 **strategies to all their customers. Additionally, the County should encourage the**
1810 **state and energy utilities to mitigate the environmental and greenhouse gas**
1811 **emissions impacts of energy and, as conservation and ((alternative energy)) no-**
1812 **and low-carbon sources demonstrate capacity to address energy needs, phase**

1813 out existing coal and other fossil fuel based power plants, and replace such
1814 facilities with resource efficiency and renewable generation sources.

1815
1816 ~~((To achieve energy goals already set and more aggressive goals expected in the future, a coordinated, strategic
1817 approach to energy management and investment in energy efficiency is being implemented in the county.))~~

1818
1819 **F-312** King County shall develop and adopt strategic energy management, efficiency,
1820 and conservation programs in its own operations, including:
1821 a. Consolidated energy accounting of ~~((e))~~ County facilities to establish
1822 baseline energy performance for the ~~((e))~~ County, benchmarking of
1823 facilities against comparable best practices where possible, setting
1824 goals for facility efficiency improvements, and measuring and reporting
1825 progress toward ~~((e))~~ County energy goals;
1826 b. Fossil fuel elimination action plans;
1827 c. Purchase of 100 percent greenhouse gas neutral electricity for
1828 operations;
1829 d. Energy efficiency audits of all ~~((e))~~ County facilities over 20,000 square
1830 feet and the creation of action plans for reducing energy use at such
1831 facilities;
1832 ~~((e-))~~ e. Energy management plans for energy-intensive or special-purpose
1833 ~~((e))~~ County facilities such as wastewater treatment plants, correctional
1834 facilities, and transit bases that focus on least-cost management and
1835 that include specific approaches for each facility's use, as well as the
1836 production and sale of energy where appropriate;
1837 f. Capital portfolios managed to maximize greenhouse gas emissions
1838 reductions, including no new natural gas or fossil fuel powered
1839 equipment installed, with minor exceptions allowed;
1840 ~~((e-))~~ g. Mandatory energy efficiency and resource use guidelines for operation
1841 and maintenance of all ~~((e))~~ County-occupied facilities, while recognizing
1842 the unique operating requirements of specialty facilities;
1843 ~~((e-))~~ h. Programs to encourage employees to implement energy conserving
1844 measures at work; and
1845 ~~((f-))~~ i. Incentives, including retaining a portion of energy cost savings, to
1846 ~~((e))~~ County agencies and departments for achieving energy efficiency.

1847
1848 **F-313** King County should benchmark all applicable ~~((e))~~ County buildings as a basis for
1849 measuring energy efficiency improvements, using the Environmental Protection
1850 Agency Portfolio Manager Tool, where applicable.

1851
1852 **F-314** King County should purchase only certified energy efficient appliances and
1853 office equipment (such as ENERGY-STAR labeled equipment) when available for
1854 specific equipment and shall require consideration of energy efficiency and life-

1855 cycle costs in all procurement decisions as an element of determining the lowest
1856 responsive bids.

1857
1858 ~~((Meeting the County's energy goals will require a commitment to pursuing multiple funding strategies. Grants,
1859 loans, and utility rebates provide essential seed money for up front investments in energy efficiency projects, and
1860 the County should seek them aggressively. County departments should use the county's Fund to Reduce Energy
1861 Demand loan program to fund cost effective energy and water efficiency projects that cannot otherwise be
1862 funded.))~~

1863
1864 **F-315 King County shall use its Resource Life Cycle Cost Assessment calculator to**
1865 **evaluate energy projects to determine if the operations and maintenance cost**
1866 **savings over the life of an energy project's assets exceed the implementation**
1867 **costs, taking into account all identified costs associated with energy efficiency**
1868 **and renewable energy projects.**

1869
1870 **F-316 Efficient energy consumption, conservation, the use of renewable technologies,**
1871 **and energy responsible land use decisions should be a priority in King County.**
1872 **King County promotes the maximum use of energy conservation and renewable**
1873 **energy resources now, while leaving options for increasing conservation and**
1874 **renewable technologies in the future.**

1875
1876 District energy systems provide space and water heating and/or cooling to multiple buildings, through pipes
1877 originating from a central heating or cooling source – generally a central energy plant. ~~((King County
1878 government is unique in that it also has the ability to serve as a district heat supplier through the potential for
1879 buildings to utilize the energy value of the warmer than ambient water in the County's almost 400 miles of
1880 wastewater conveyance.))~~ Centralizing the generation of heat and/or cooling through a district plant and/or
1881 delivering energy content to multiple facilities through a distribution network can eliminate the need for
1882 equipment in each individual building.

1883
1884 District heating and cooling plants can be constructed with energy efficiency in mind. Central plants that
1885 provide combined heat and power can offer increases in energy efficiency compared to on-site heat generation in
1886 individual buildings, by sharing heating and cooling resources, and can be an effective method of cutting carbon
1887 emissions.

1888
1889 ~~((The t))~~Technologies used to generate energy from wastewater are emerging, and offer the potential to achieve
1890 environmental and economic benefits through the recovery of resources from wastewater. King County
1891 government is unique in that it also has the ability to serve as a district heat supplier through the potential for
1892 buildings to utilize the energy value of the warmer-than-ambient water in the County's almost 400 miles of
1893 wastewater conveyance.

1894

1895 F-317 King County should pursue district energy opportunities to maximize resource
1896 recovery efforts, in ways that can offer economic and environmental benefits to
1897 the county and community at large. This ~~((will))~~ shall be done by pursuing
1898 opportunities such as encouraging the use of wastewater for heat extraction and
1899 other forms of energy generation in the ~~((e))~~ County's wastewater conveyance
1900 system.

1902 F-318 King County should pursue combined heat and power district energy
1903 opportunities in its own facilities, as well as in partnership with other public and
1904 private entities, that result in reduced energy consumption, greenhouse gas
1905 reductions, and financial savings to the ~~((e))~~ County.

1906 ~~((F-319))~~ ~~————— To implement the Countywide Planning Policy of aggressive conservation and~~
1907 ~~promotion of regional air quality, King County should:~~
1908 ~~a. Effectively enforce the energy code as part of the general permit~~
1909 ~~process;~~
1910 ~~b. Provide density incentives through the zoning code for energy-efficient~~
1911 ~~developments;~~
1912 ~~c. Continue to improve the fuel efficiency and emissions of the~~
1913 ~~county-owned fleet of motor vehicles;~~
1914 ~~d. Work with utilities to become a model of energy efficiency in facilities~~
1915 ~~owned or operated by Metropolitan King County; and~~
1916 ~~e. Seek cost-effective ways to capture energy from county operations~~
1917 ~~which other wise would be lost, such as methane gas from landfills and~~
1918 ~~sewage treatment.~~

1921 ~~Methane generated from sewage treatment plants and landfills is a potential source of energy. In addition,~~
1922 ~~methane is a potent greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, capturing methane from these facilities and putting it~~
1923 ~~to a productive use provides a dual benefit.))~~

1925 F-320 King County should support new energy resources and technologies that reduce
1926 energy use, decarbonize energy sources, and electrify energy use in the building
1927 and transportation sectors. In supporting these efforts, King County should:
1928 a. Allow for siting of distributed energy resources, while considering
1929 appropriate use of land and associate impacts, including protection of
1930 designated Natural Resource Lands and open spaces;
1931 b. Accommodate the use of distributed energy resources in new and
1932 redeveloped properties;
1933 c. Reduce barriers to new and upgraded substations, transmission
1934 facilities, and the distribution system, for infrastructure that is needed to
1935 achieve County greenhouse gas reductions targets;

- 1936 **d. Encourage and support the integration of new technologies and fuel**
- 1937 **sources;**
- 1938 **e. Minimize negative impacts on and maximize benefits for frontline**
- 1939 **communities resulting from related projects;**
- 1940 **f. Support equitable engagement strategies during project planning to**
- 1941 **actively solicit public participation and input from impacted frontline**
- 1942 **communities;**
- 1943 **g. Support equitable opportunities for frontline communities to participate**
- 1944 **in distributed energy resources;**
- 1945 **h. Support efforts by utilities and other entities to advance these outcomes;**
- 1946 **and**
- 1947 **i. Review and update development regulations periodically to ensure that**
- 1948 **they appropriately support new energy resources and technologies and**
- 1949 **mitigate for associated impacts.**
- 1950

1951 The moderate climate of the Puget Sound region provides an opportunity for significant use of solar energy.
1952 Relatively low heating and cooling needs in much of the county allow for the potential for passive and active
1953 solar technologies to meet heating and cooling needs with proper building design. Similarly, the mild climate
1954 and available solar energy allows growing some food year((-)-round, potentially decreasing the use of fossil fuels
1955 for a portion of residents’ food needs. This opportunity for local investments in passive and active solar design
1956 and in local food production can only be realized if building and neighborhood site design provides for solar
1957 orientation and through the development of regulations to protect solar access.

1958
1959 Although permit staff attempt to accommodate solar design, current regulations do not typically take into
1960 account solar orientation or solar access protection from development on neighboring properties. In addition,
1961 regulations, such as building height and building setback allowances, road access requirements, and protections
1962 for critical areas, stormwater, and native vegetation, may limit suitable locations for providing solar access.
1963 Requirements to create and maintain view corridors may or may not provide solar gain. ~~((In order to))~~To protect
1964 solar access, landowners or developers enter into voluntary solar easements. As an alternative, some
1965 municipalities have incorporated measures to protect solar access in their comprehensive plans and development
1966 regulations. King County ~~((should study these measures and))~~ continues to evaluate and implement best
1967 practices in this area in support of the ~~((e))~~County’s larger sustainability goals.

- 1968 **F-321 King County encourages the:**
- 1969 **a. ~~((the u))~~Use of solar energy;**
 - 1970 **b. ~~((the s))~~Siting of roads, lots, landscaping and buildings for improved**
 - 1971 **solar orientation;**
 - 1972 **c. ~~((the u))~~Use of passive solar design and active solar technologies;**
 - 1973 **~~((and))~~**
 - 1974 **d. ~~((the p))~~Protection of solar access; and**
 - 1975

1976 e. The pursuit and allocation of funds to support access to solar energy for
1977 frontline communities.

1978
1979 **F-322** King County should consider passive and active solar energy collection systems
1980 in all new facility designs and major rehabilitations. Solar electric generation
1981 systems interconnected with local utilities should be employed where
1982 cost-benefit analysis shows net benefits, considering emergency power potential
1983 and capitalizing on utility net-metering and power production credit programs.

1984
1985 Gas and electric utilities offer low-income energy assistance programs. All feasible actions to increase the
1986 availability of conservation measures to ~~((low-income residents))~~ frontline communities should be pursued, such
1987 as public-private cooperation and combining existing rehabilitation efforts with installation of energy efficiency
1988 measures.

1989
1990 **F-323** King County should expand the availability of energy efficiency, renewable
1991 energy, and fossil fuel use reduction and transition measures to ~~((low-income~~
1992 ~~residents))~~ frontline communities most likely to be disproportionately impacted
1993 by climate change.

1994
1995 **~~((3.))~~ Electric Utilities**

1996 The four-state ~~((Seventh Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Plan (also called the 6th Power Plan)~~
1997 ~~produced in 2016))~~ 2021 Northwest Power Plan by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council provides a
1998 blueprint for the development of electricity resources in the region. Bonneville Power Administration and other
1999 federal agencies, the region's utilities, state and local government, private businesses and the people of the
2000 Northwest all participate in implementing the council's goals. Electric utilities serving unincorporated King
2001 County include Bonneville Power Administration ~~((, Seattle City Light, Snohomish Public Utility District))~~ and
2002 Tanner Electric Cooperative. Puget Sound Energy provides both electricity and natural gas service.

2003
2004 A number of significant events in the past years have influenced the electric power business in King County's
2005 power markets. These include:

- 2006 1) Ongoing very large expenditures by hydropower utilities (notably Bonneville Power Administration) to
2007 mitigate salmon habitat losses caused by dams;
- 2008 2) The recognition of human-caused climate change, driven mostly by carbon dioxide release—a
2009 significant portion of which can be attributed to electric power generation; and
- 2010 3) The passage of ~~((State Initiative 937 codified at))~~ Energy Independence Act in Chapter 19.285 Revised
2011 Code of Washington ~~((chapter 19.285))~~, requiring utilities to acquire an increasing portion of their
2012 electric supplies from qualified renewable resources (a ~~((so-called))~~ renewable resource portfolio
2013 standard).

2014

**((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)) TBD**

2015 Hydropower is the largest single source of the existing electrical power, with the county’s major electric resources
2016 located outside King County. These include the Grand Coulee, North Bonneville and Ross Dams. No new
2017 large dam sites are available in the region, making hydropower a very small part of projected new regional
2018 power-generating resources.

2019
2020 ~~((Existing hydropower facilities in King County include Snoqualmie Falls, Cedar Falls, Twin Falls, Weeks Falls,
2021 and Black Creek. Proposed projects include new facilities at Hancock Creek and Calligan Creek (both are
2022 tributaries of the North Fork Snoqualmie), Martin Creek near Stevens Pass, and Black Canyon on the North
2023 Fork Snoqualmie. Few if any additional projects beyond these listed are expected to be built in King County,
2024 and some of those listed above, although licensed, may not be built.))~~

2025
2026 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses such projects, but in doing so must consider existing plans
2027 and policies of public and private jurisdictions. While power generation benefits the public, care must be taken
2028 to ensure that small hydroelectric projects are constructed in an environmentally sound manner, directing new,
2029 small hydropower facilities, for example, to streams that do not have anadromous fish. Construction and
2030 operation must also be consistent with the intended functions and uses of forestlands, where most small
2031 hydroelectric projects are located.

2032
2033 The Northwest Power and Conservation Council’s ~~((seventh plan))~~ 2021 Northwest Power Plan indicates no
2034 significant addition of hydropower resources is projected. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council plan
2035 also identifies Protected Areas to protect some streams and wildlife habitats from hydroelectric development
2036 where such development would have major negative impacts that could not be reversed. In these areas, the
2037 Northwest Power and Conservation Council finds that mitigation techniques cannot assure that all adverse
2038 impacts of hydroelectric development on these fish and wildlife populations will be mitigated; that even small
2039 hydroelectric projects may have unacceptable individual and cumulative impacts on these resources; and
2040 protecting these resources and habitats from hydroelectric development is consistent with an adequate, efficient,
2041 economical, and reliable power supply.

2042
2043 Electrical utilities supplying King County are required by Washington State law to plan for their electric power
2044 resources in an integrated resource planning process very similar to the process that the Northwest Power and
2045 Conservation Council used for its ~~((6th))~~ 2021 Northwest Power Plan. ~~((County suppliers Puget Sound Energy,
2046 Seattle City Light and Snohomish County Public Utility District))~~ These are required by state law to regularly
2047 assess their power needs, supply strategies and impacts using Integrated Resource Plans.

2048
2049 ~~((The passage of the I-937 renewable resource portfolio standard has increased the demand (and attendant value
2050 of) qualified renewable resources. I-937, codified as the Energy Independence Act under 19.285 Revised Code of
2051 Washington, specifically excludes new freshwater hydroelectric projects from the definition of renewable for
2052 purposes of qualifying energy credits, with the exception of incremental efficiency improvements to certain
2053 existing facilities.))~~

2054

2055 **F-324**

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:

- 2062 a. Have climate change impacts considered and mitigated to the greatest extent practical;
- 2063
- 2064 b. Be consistent with, and preferably directly incorporated in, utility
- 2065 integrated Resource Plans;
- 2066 c. Use renewable resources to the greatest extent practical;
- 2067 d. Include public engagement;
- 2068 e. Not significantly interfere with commercial forestry operations;
- 2069 f. Be located and operated in a manner such that impacts to salmonid fish
- 2070 and wildlife are minimized;
- 2071 g. Avoid unstable and erosion-prone areas;
- 2072 h. Include performance bonding to fund erosion control;
- 2073 i. Provide full mitigation for construction and operation impacts;
- 2074 j. Avoid, to the extent practicable, diminishing scenic values;
- 2075 k. Incorporate adequate public safety measures; and
- 2076 l. In the case of hydropower, not be located within a Protected Area as
- 2077 designated by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

2078

2079 **F-325**

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:

- 2083 a. Identification of appropriate shared uses and recognition of the values
- 2084 provided by nonutility uses, such as recreation;
- 2085 b. Recognition of county roads as utility corridors; and
- 2086 c. Evaluation of proposed facility plans on a system-wide basis, rather than
- 2087 project-by-project.

2088

2089 ~~((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.))~~

2090

2091

2092

2093

2094

2095 **F-326** When new, expanded or upgraded transmission is required, use of existing
2096 corridors that have above-ground utilities should be evaluated first. King County
2097 should facilitate appropriate corridor sharing among different utility types and
2098 owners.

2100 **F-327** New electrical distribution lines should be installed underground where
2101 reasonably feasible and not a health or safety concern. ~~((The county should
2102 encourage underground placement of existing distribution lines through such
2103 tools as local improvement districts.))~~

2104
2105 ~~((Public concern exists over the potential health effects of electrical power lines. The concern focuses on the
2106 effects of extremely low level electromagnetic fields. Seattle King County Department of Public Health currently
2107 responds to inquiries from residents about extremely low level electromagnetic fields and keeps abreast of current
2108 research. The following policy recognizes the inconclusive nature of the data concerning extremely low level
2109 electromagnetic fields and the need to have an informed citizenry through public disclosure of available research
2110 about the potential health risks. Scientific evidence to date does not support firm conclusions about the existence
2111 of adverse health effects related to extremely low level electromagnetic fields.~~

2112
2113 ~~**F-328** King County will monitor scientific research on potential human health effects of
2114 extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields. If federal or state agencies
2115 promulgate rules to reduce exposure to extremely low level electric and magnetic
2116 fields — through changes in the use of appliances, construction practices, the
2117 location of electrical infrastructure or other activities — the county shall inform
2118 its residents, in adherence with the Executive Order and other applicable policies
2119 on written language and translation processes, and take appropriate actions.~~

2120
2121 **4.)) Natural Gas**

2122 ~~((Generally, the most thermally efficient use of natural gas is in "direct applications." The choice of fuel shall be
2123 based on market conditions and the prudently weighted greenhouse gas emissions impacts of using natural gas as
2124 compared with alternatives, with the customer comparing various fuels.)) King County works to reduce fossil
2125 fuel natural gas use in the built environment through a combination of energy use reduction, the use of renewable
2126 natural gas, and conversion to high-efficiency heating systems (such as heat pumps) that use electricity. Many
2127 homes and businesses in King County do not have the choice of natural gas, however, even within the Urban
2128 Growth Area.~~

2129
2130 King County has by far the largest resource of biologically produced methane in the region, from its wastewater
2131 treatment facilities and its solid waste landfills. King County should continue to develop and promote the
2132 development of biologically-derived sources of fuel gas ~~((i.e.))~~ renewable natural gas, research technologies and
2133 opportunities to utilize low methane concentration gas from closed landfills for beneficial uses, and support the
2134 efficient marketing and use of such gas. Any renewable energy production associated with methane or

2135 biologically derived materials should consider other potential uses of relevant resources, such as the use of edible
2136 food to reduce hunger.

2137

2138 **F-329 King County should work to remove barriers to the availability and efficient use**
2139 **of renewable natural gas.**

2140

2141 **F-330 King County ((will)) shall provide leadership in and promotion of the use of**
2142 **renewable natural gas to minimize climate change impacts, including that from**
2143 **its own sources, as a substitute for fossil-sourced natural gas where practical,**
2144 **while discouraging the use of human food feedstocks for the creation of**
2145 **renewable natural gas.**

2146

2147 **~~((5.))~~ Hazardous Liquid and Gas Transmission Pipelines**

2148 Part of the fossil fuel system is the movement of hazardous liquid and gas by transmission pipelines. Hazardous
2149 liquid and gas transmission pipelines, as defined by Revised Code of Washington 81.88.010 and Washington
2150 Administrative Code 480-93-005, respectively, provide a vital service of transporting hazardous materials from
2151 one location to another. Long-distance transmission pipelines move a variety of hazardous materials, including
2152 crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas and hazardous liquids, such as anhydrous ammonia. Pipeline rupture
2153 or failure can result in release of these materials, which are highly flammable, explosive or toxic. The policies in
2154 this chapter identify public values and goals to assure that the transmission of hazardous materials by pipeline
2155 address public health and safety.

2156

2157 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates the location, construction and operational conditions of
2158 interstate natural gas pipelines through its certification process. The state and federal government regulate the
2159 location, construction and operational conditions of hazardous liquid and intrastate gas pipelines through the
2160 Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. In its review of pipeline applications, however, the Energy Facility Site
2161 Evaluation Council must determine whether the pipelines are consistent with ((e))County land use plans and
2162 zoning codes. Thus, King County's authority to regulate the location of pipelines is through the comprehensive
2163 plan and development regulations.

2164

2165 **F-331 King County recognizes that federal and state regulatory programs govern the**
2166 **design, construction, and operation of hazardous liquid and gas transmission**
2167 **pipelines. King County's land use designations, zoning classifications, and**
2168 **development regulations should be focused on increasing safety and reducing**
2169 **environmental impacts of transmission pipelines regulated by the federal and**
2170 **state government. King County shall actively engage in federal and state review**

2171 processes to identify local impacts and risks and advocate for safety and
2172 environmental protections.

2173
2174 **F-332 Any new, modified, or expanded hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines**
2175 **proposed for construction in King County shall meet the County’s development**
2176 **regulations, including but not limited to, King County’s zoning code, building**
2177 **code, grading code, and shoreline management code. Proposals for**
2178 **modifications, such as regular maintenance or changes required to address**
2179 **hazards or comply with federal or state safety requirements, shall be clearly**
2180 **distinguished from proposals to modify or expand facility capacity or uses.**

2181
2182
2183 King County anticipates that few new hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipelines will be constructed in the
2184 near future. However, as existing pipelines age and the relationship between resources, refineries and markets
2185 changes over time, new pipelines will need to be constructed. Hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines
2186 are best constructed away from locations where large numbers of people assemble. King County recognizes
2187 however, that under some circumstances, new gas transmission pipelines may need to locate in densely
2188 populated areas as the only practical alternative to meet the demand for service.

2189
2190 ~~((F-332a Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an~~
2191 ~~important consideration to identify impacts and opportunities of siting new gas~~
2192 ~~or hazardous liquid transmission pipelines and the county’s Equity and Social~~
2193 ~~Justice principles should be used to improve residents’ access to the~~
2194 ~~determinants of equity.))~~

2195
2196 **F-333 New hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines should be located away**
2197 **from high-density residential zones, Urban Activity Centers, ((and B))business**
2198 **((C))centers, ((Q))office ((P))parks, sports fields, schools and day care centers or**
2199 **other land uses where large numbers of people would assemble.**

2200
2201 ~~((F-334 When new, expanded or upgraded hazardous liquid or gas transmission~~
2202 ~~pipelines are required, use of existing corridors should be evaluated first. King~~
2203 ~~County should facilitate appropriate corridor sharing among different utility types~~
2204 ~~and owners.))~~

2205
2206 **F-335 Hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines should not be located in areas**
2207 **susceptible to soil disturbance or liquefaction or in aquifer recharge areas.**
2208 **When it is impractical to avoid such areas, special engineering precautions**
2209 **should be taken to protect public health, safety, and welfare.**

2210

**((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)) TBD**

2211 ~~((It is essential to map the location of existing hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines within King
2212 County so that developers know where they are and who to call for information before construction begins.
2213 Accurate maps will assist King County in reviewing land use applications for land uses located near pipelines.))~~

2214

2215 **F-336 King County should map the location of existing and new hazardous liquid and
2216 gas transmission pipelines. Maps shall not substitute the one-call locating
2217 system and shall not be used for any construction or maintenance activity.**

2218

2219 ~~((Risks to life and property can be minimized by keeping land uses a safe distance from hazardous liquid and gas
2220 transmission pipelines. Pipelines transport a variety of materials, some of which flow under the force of gravity.
2221 While standard setbacks do not assure protection from materials that have the ability to migrate, setbacks may
2222 protect life and property from hazardous materials that are highly flammable, explosive or toxic. Limiting the
2223 allowable uses within pipeline rights-of-way can further reduce risks to life and property.))~~

2224

2225 **F-337 Structures designed for human occupancy shall not be located within hazardous
2226 liquid or gas transmission pipeline rights-of-way and should be set back from the
2227 pipeline to protect public health, safety and property. No structures shall be
2228 located over the pipeline.**

2229

2230 **F-338 Land uses shall be restricted within hazardous liquid and gas transmission
2231 pipeline rights-of-way. Passive recreational uses, such as hiking trails, may be
2232 allowed if the risk to life and property is assessed and determined to be minimal.**

2233

2234 ~~((Pipeline failure can result from damage caused by excavation near existing pipelines. Many existing pipelines
2235 initially were constructed in less populated areas with little development. As demand for land grows, the risk of
2236 conflict between existing pipelines and land development increases.~~

2237

2238 ~~**F-339 King County should promote the safety and reliability of the hazardous liquid and
2239 natural gas transmission pipeline systems by requiring developers, contractors,
2240 and excavators to notify the state, pipeline operators and utilities through the
2241 one-number locator service, before beginning excavation or construction.))**~~

2242

2243 **F-340 In the interest of safety and reliability of the hazardous liquid and natural gas
2244 interstate transmission pipeline systems, the ((e))County should take steps to
2245 protect and preserve the signs that mark pipelines.**

2246

2247 **((6.)) Natural Gas Distribution Systems**

2248 Natural gas pipelines fall into two major categories: gas transmission lines that transport natural gas from
2249 production fields to ((local)) distribution companies and distribution systems that deliver natural gas from
2250 transmission pipelines to retail customers. ~~((The federal government may define certain parts of the natural gas~~

2251 ~~distribution system that serve large volume gas users as part of the transmission system.))~~ Distribution systems
2252 for transporting natural gas are fundamentally different from transmission gas pipelines, and should be regulated
2253 based on their design, use, and location.

2254

2255 Gas distribution systems are owned and operated by ~~((local))~~ distribution utilities. Such systems consist of the
2256 pipelines that deliver natural gas to end users together with intermediate supply lines. The distribution system is
2257 constructed incrementally, with addition of new segments and upgrading of existing lines in numerous small
2258 projects. The distribution system is a network that is primarily located in road rights-of-way, where service is
2259 available. ~~((Local))~~ Distribution companies are subject to the comprehensive safety regulations administered by
2260 the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission under state law and regulations and by the ~~((federal))~~
2261 United States Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety under federal law and regulations. The
2262 rates and services of investor-owned utilities also are subject to comprehensive regulation by the Utilities and
2263 Transportation Commission under state law and regulations.

2264

2265 **F-341** King County ~~((recognizes that the))~~ shall use franchise agreements process to
2266 require gas distribution ((system is primarily located in road rights-of-way))
2267 utilities comply with county, state, and federal safety and health regulations.

2268

2269 **F-342** In the interest of safety and reliability of the natural gas distribution pipeline
2270 systems, the ~~((c))~~ County should take steps to protect and preserve the signs that
2271 mark pipelines.

2272

2273 **F-343** Structures designed for human occupancy shall not be located within gas
2274 distribution pipeline rights-of-way and should be set back from the pipeline to
2275 protect public health, safety, and property. No structures shall be located over
2276 the pipeline.

2277

2278 ~~((F-344)) Permit requirements shall require excavators to ensure adequate protection of~~
2279 ~~any facilities that are encountered during their work. This shall include but not~~
2280 ~~be limited to adhering to the foreign facility owners requirements for separation~~
2281 ~~and backfill, developing joint plans when drilling or boring parallel to foreign~~
2282 ~~facilities, and potholing all facilities that will be crossed by drilling or boring.~~

2283

2284 **7-)) Crude Oil Transport by Rail, Truck and Vessel**

2285 Part of the fossil fuel system is the transport of crude oil by rail, truck and vessel. King County and local
2286 governments across the United States are facing rapid and significant increases in train traffic carrying crude oil.
2287 ~~((According to the Washington State Department of Ecology's 2014 Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study,~~
2288 ~~the volume of crude oil transported by rail across the US increased 42-fold from 2008 to 2013.~~

2289

**((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)) TBD**

2290 In Washington State, shipments increased from zero in 2011 to approximately 19 unit trains a week in 2014,
2291 each carrying as much as 3 million gallons of Bakken crude, mostly destined to refineries in Washington and
2292 California. If the proposed facilities and refinery expansions to accommodate rail imports are permitted and fully
2293 built over the next few years, the weekly unit train number could jump to 137 or more. Congress’s repeal of the
2294 export ban on U.S. produced oil in 2015 has the potential to further increase transportation of Bakken crude
2295 through our state.

2296
2297))Oil trains travel through densely populated areas of King County and pass through a century-old tunnel under
2298 downtown Seattle. Many of the trains carry highly volatile Bakken Crude oil, creating risks for catastrophic
2299 explosions and loss of life and property in the event of a derailment. The passage of mile-long unit trains delay
2300 traffic and emergency vehicle access at numerous at-grade crossing.

2301
2302 Oil train routes cross numerous rivers, streams, and aquifers and trace the Puget Sound shoreline, putting aquatic
2303 resources and Endangered Species Act-listed salmon at risk. Despite facing impacts and risks from oil transport
2304 by rail, and burdens for emergency planning and response, local governments like King County have almost no
2305 authority to require disclosure of hazards, establish safety standards for trains passing through their jurisdiction,
2306 or require railroads and shipper to pay for mitigation of impacts.

2307
2308 King County Office of Emergency Management acts as a regional convener of public and private emergency
2309 management entities to plan for, mitigate and respond to oil train spills and explosions. Additionally, King
2310 County convenes and leads a coalition of ~~((more than 160 elected))~~ local, state, and Indian tribal leaders known
2311 as the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance to advocate for assessment of the full costs and risks of oil and coal
2312 transport and coal export on our regional, local and Indian tribal economies, environment, health, and cultural
2313 resources.

2314
2315 **F-344a** King County ~~((Office of Emergency Management))~~ shall convene local emergency
2316 managers, first responders, railroads and others to prepare for and mitigate the
2317 increasing risk of oil spills, fire, and explosions posed by oil transport by rail,
2318 truck, and vessel. This work should consider potential risks from related fossil
2319 fuel facilities.

2320
2321 **F-344b** King County should advocate for environmental reviews of proposed oil
2322 terminals and other related fossil fuel facilities in Washington State to assess
2323 and mitigate for area-wide, cumulative risks and impacts to public safety,
2324 infrastructure, traffic, health, water supplies, and aquatic resources from
2325 increased oil transport by rail, truck, and vessel.

2326
2327 **F-344c** King County should collaborate with local and Indian tribal governments to
2328 jointly advocate for stronger federal and state disclosure requirements for
2329 hazardous materials being transported by rail, safety requirements and speed
2330 limits for tank cars, minimum liability coverage for railroads and oil shippers, and

2331 financial support for increased local emergency planning and response to oil
2332 spills, fires, and explosions.
2333

2334 **((8.)) Fossil Fuels and Fossil Fuel Facilities**

2335 Fossil fuels are petroleum and petroleum products, coal, and natural gas, such as methane, propane and butane,
2336 derived from prehistoric organic matter and used to generate energy. Fossil fuels do not include non-fuel
2337 petrochemicals, fuel additives, or renewable fuels. Fossil fuel facilities are commercial facilities used primarily to
2338 receive, store, refine, process, transfer, wholesale trade, or transport fossil fuels. They do not include individual
2339 storage facilities for the purposes of retail or direct to consumer sales, facilities or activities for local
2340 consumption, non-commercial facilities, and uses preempted by federal or state rule or law.

2341
2342 New or expanded fossil fuel facilities may create significant public health risks, including air pollution causing
2343 impaired respiratory functions from fine particulates, noise pollution affecting hearing loss and psychological
2344 health, exposure to heavy metals, and contamination of drinking water sources. These risks may result in
2345 cancer, premature death, and lung and heart diseases. Fossil fuel facilities also pose a threat to King County's
2346 ecology through extensive land disturbing activities that cause adverse impacts to natural ecosystems,
2347 contamination of surface water and groundwater, risks from impacts in areas with seismic and geological
2348 instability, and destruction of critical habitat for wildlife. New and expanded fossil fuel facilities may create
2349 congestion at vehicle/train crossings, increase noise levels through additional vehicle trips, and generate dust,
2350 debris, and odor. Additionally, there have been multiple incidents across the United States and Canada in which
2351 spills of crude oil from train derailments and tanker ships and natural gas pipeline explosions have caused
2352 numerous fatalities and illnesses, substantial loss of property, and significant environmental damage.(([†]))
2353

2354 Fossil fuel extraction, processing, infrastructure, transport, and end use as a fuel contribute significantly to
2355 climate change and environmental pollution. According to the International Panel on Climate Change, the
2356 combustion of fossil fuels is the largest human source of global greenhouse gas emissions.² Washington state
2357 and King County are also threatened by impacts resulting from climate change, including warming temperatures,
2358 sea level rise on coastal communities, diminishing snowpack and water availability, ocean acidification, and
2359 forest decline.³
2360

(([†]Ordinance 18866))

² ((IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland.)) IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz, J. Malley, (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. doi: 10.1017/9781009157926.004

³ Ordinance 18866

2361 Local regulations can address these impacts by ensuring comprehensive environmental review and permitting
2362 requirements, particularly for fossil fuel facilities such as terminals, storage facilities, and refining and handling
2363 facilities. Federal and State statutes also regulate components of the fossil fuel system, such as the location,
2364 construction, and operational conditions for pipelines and railroad lines.

2365

2366 **F-344d King County land use policies, development regulations, and permitting and**
2367 **environmental review processes related to fossil fuel facilities shall be designed**
2368 **to:**

- 2369 a. ~~((p))~~**Protect public health, safety, and welfare;**
- 2370 b. ~~((m))~~**Mitigate and prepare for disasters;**
- 2371 c. ~~((p))~~**Protect and preserve natural systems;**
- 2372 d. ~~((m))~~**Manage impacts on public services and infrastructure; and**
- 2373 e. ~~((r))~~**Reduce impacts of climate change.**

2374

2375 **F-344e King County shall thoroughly review the full scope of potential impacts of**
2376 **proposals for new, modified, or expanded fossil fuel facilities. Fossil fuel**
2377 **facilities include commercial facilities used primarily to receive, store, refine,**
2378 **process, transfer, wholesale trade, or transport fossil fuels, such as, but not**
2379 **limited to bulk terminals, bulk storage facilities, bulk refining, and bulk handling**
2380 **facilities.**

2381

2382 **F-344f When reviewing proposals for new, modified or expanded fossil fuel facilities,**
2383 **King County shall require comprehensive environmental assessment, and early**
2384 **and continuous public notice and comment opportunities. King County shall**
2385 **only approve proposals for new, modified, or expanded facilities when:**

- 2386 a. **The proposed facility can confine or mitigate all operational impacts;**
- 2387 b. **The facility can adequately mitigate conflicts with adjacent land uses;**
- 2388 c. **The full scope of environmental impacts, including life cycle greenhouse**
2389 **gas emissions and public health, have been evaluated and appropriately**
2390 **conditioned or mitigated as necessary, consistent with the County's**
2391 **substantive State Environmental Policy Act authority;**
- 2392 d. **The applicant ~~((must comply))~~ has complied with applicable federal and**
2393 **state regulations, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and**
2394 **Endangered Species Act;**
- 2395 e. **The applicant has demonstrated early, meaningful, and robust**
2396 **consultation with the public, surrounding property owners, and with**
2397 **Indian tribes to assess impacts to tribal treaty-protected cultural and**
2398 **fisheries resources; and**
- 2399 f. **Risks to public health and public safety can be mitigated.**

2400

2401 ~~**((F-344g Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool shall be used as an**~~
2402 ~~**important consideration to identify and mitigate impacts of new, modified, or**~~

2403 ~~expanded fossil fuel facilities. The Equity Impact Review should take into~~
2404 ~~consideration the potential effects of a new, modified or expanded fossil fuel~~
2405 ~~facility on the health of a population, and how those effects may be different~~
2406 ~~within a population.))~~

2407
2408 **F-344h** King County shall ~~((establish))~~ **implement** a periodic review process for fossil fuel
2409 facilities. The periodic review shall be a part of King County’s ongoing
2410 enforcement and inspections of fossil fuel facilities, and to assure compliance
2411 with applicable conditions, mitigations, and the most up-to-date safety and public
2412 health standards. The periodic review process should, subject to applicable law:
2413 a. Provide opportunities for public review and comment;
2414 b. Evaluate whether the facility is in compliance with current federal, state,
2415 and County regulations and implementation of industry-standard best
2416 management practices; and
2417 c. Allow King County to modify, add, or remove permit conditions to
2418 address new circumstances and/or unanticipated fossil fuel
2419 facility-generated impacts.

2420
2421 **F-344i** Local distribution companies that convey fossil fuels in King County shall
2422 prepare and submit a greenhouse gas impact analysis when applying for a new
2423 utility franchise agreement or an extension or renewal of an existing utility
2424 franchise agreement.

2425

2426 ~~((B.))~~ **Telecommunications**

2427 ~~((1.))~~ **Telecommunications**

2428 Various companies provide telecommunications services throughout unincorporated King County, including
2429 voice, data, and video on various mediums such as wire, fiber optic, or radio wave. Effective
2430 telecommunications services promote and enhance individual information exchange, contribute to a robust
2431 regional economy, and afford numerous public services, including delivery of emergency services, education,
2432 and opportunities for community involvement.

2433

2434 Telecommunication networks are privately owned, publicly regulated entities that are driven by market forces
2435 more than statutory requirements. The County has limited control of telecommunication service providers.
2436 However, its regulation of rights-of-way and associated franchise agreements with those companies help ensure
2437 technical quality, protect customer rights, and support public services.

2438

2439 Telecommunications systems will need to grow to continue to support government, business, resident,
2440 education, health, service sector, and mobile communication needs, as well as to respond to new technologies.
2441 Telecommunication technologies ((are changing)) change rapidly and will continue to change during the horizon
2442 of this plan. The future telecommunication system ((may make little distinction between cable, telephone and

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2443 cellular) will build off of the existing telecommunication infrastructure, while utilizing an expanded range of
2444 radio frequencies transmitted through antennas to improve capacity and access. ((Telecommunication services
2445 include voice, data, video and other communication services on various mediums including, but not limited to,
2446 wire, fiber optic or radio wave. Effective telecommunications services are critical to residents in several ways.
2447 They promote and enhance individual information exchange, contribute to a robust regional economy, and
2448 afford numerous public services, including delivery of emergency services, education and opportunities for
2449 community involvement.))

2450
2451 King County's 2020 Broadband Access Study states that, for "many in the region, King County is a great place to
2452 live, learn, work and play. Yet the region has deep, persistent, and widening inequities – most visible by race
2453 and place – that threaten the collective prosperity, where everyone's basic needs are met, and everyone has
2454 access to economic opportunity. This holds true for Digital Equity, in which everyone has the technological
2455 access and knowledge needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital Equity is
2456 increasingly necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential
2457 services. Regional collaboration on digital equity solutions with public, private, and civic partners offers an
2458 opportunity for change." Consistent with King County's equity and racial and social justice goals, the County is
2459 working to advance Digital Equity, such as increasing internet access as discussed later in this section.

2460
2461 **F-345** **Telecommunication services ((are to)) shall be encouraged ((as a means)) to**
2462 **mitigate the transportation impact of development and growth, including**
2463 **((G))greenhouse ((G))gas ((E))missions.**

2464
2465 **F-346** **King County should encourage((s the)) telecommunication service providers to**
2466 **engage in long-term planning for telecommunications construction,**
2467 **reconstruction, and facility upgrades, including provisions to ensure that the**
2468 **system's capacity, design, and equipment will allow users to take advantage of**
2469 **innovative uses, services, and technology.**

2470
2471 **F-347** **Telecommunication companies and the ((e))County should coordinate activities**
2472 **when facilities are being installed or road construction projects are scheduled.**

2473
2474 **F-348** **((Long term planning for telecommunications systems by the)) King County**
2475 **regulations should encourage telecommunication service providers ((should**
2476 **allow)) to plan and provide for uninterrupted service during natural disasters.**

2477
2478 **F-349** **Co-location of telecommunication facilities is encouraged to reduce the**
2479 **unnecessary proliferation of individual, single-user towers. Co-location shall be**
2480 **required unless an applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the**

2481 ~~((e))~~County that collocation on an existing tower is not feasible and not
2482 consistent with service quality and access.

2483
2484 **F-350** Although visual impacts are always an important consideration in the decision to
2485 approve or deny a proposal, King County shall give greater weight to the visual
2486 impacts of telecommunication facilities proposed to be located on
2487 residentially-zoned lands or in the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands. In
2488 addition, the visual impacts of proposals for an individual tower with a single
2489 user shall be given greater weight than proposals to collocate facilities.

2490
2491 **F-351** King County considers the placement of telecommunication facilities within
2492 street rights-of-way as the preferred alternative to the construction of facilities on
2493 private property. Regulatory standards shall require placement in street
2494 rights-of-way, especially within residential neighborhoods and Rural Areas,
2495 unless such a location is not feasible or not consistent with service quality and
2496 access.

2497

2498 **~~((2.))~~ Cable Services**

2499 ~~((King County Ordinance 10159 dictates current policy for cable services. It states in part: “it is the County’s
2500 policy to promote the widespread availability of cable service and diverse information to County residents and to
2501 encourage the development of cable systems and cable technology as a means of communication between and
2502 among members of the public and public institutions.” The county’s cable related needs are expressed in the
2503 following policies:)) King County Code Chapter 6.27A establishes regulations for companies using County
2504 rights-of-way to provide cable television services to customers in unincorporated areas via franchise agreements.
2505 As of 2023, King County has franchise agreements with two cable companies, Comcast and WAVE Broadband.~~

2506

2507

2508 **F-352** Long-term planning for cable systems should include service to all areas of the
2509 county ~~((which))~~ that meets the minimum density established in the cable
2510 company’s franchise agreement and ~~((the county’s Cable Television Ordinance))~~
2511 King County Code Chapter 6.27A.

2512

2513 **F-353** Cable companies should provide services that meet the cable-related needs and
2514 interests of all segments of the community, taking into account the cost of
2515 meeting such needs and interests.

2516

2517 **F-354** Cable companies should take proactive steps to ensure that there is widespread
2518 availability of and equitable access to cable service. Cable companies should
2519 ensure information is culturally~~((--))~~ appropriate and made available to ~~((residents
2520 of the county, especially low income and limited English proficient~~

2521 communities)) county residents, especially those with low incomes and/or that
2522 speak a language(s) other than English.

2523
2524 **F-355** ~~((The goal of I))~~ Long-term cable planning should ((be)) support:
2525 a. _____ ((a)) A high-capacity, state-of-the-art system((-));
2526 b. _____ Installation and activation of ((T))two-way capacity ((should be installed
2527 and activated.))
2528 c. _____ Interconnection of ((C))cable systems ((should be interconnected)) to
2529 other communications systems((- They should be designed to be)); and
2530 d. _____ ("open"; that is, the systems should be) Open systems, usable by
2531 many, for a variety of purposes.

2532
2533 **F-356** Public uses of the cable system should be expanded as the system is upgraded.

2534
2535 **~~((3.)) Internet Access~~**

2536 Increased high-speed (or broadband) internet access and ((R))rapidly changing technologies ((are providing))
2537 provide opportunities for alternative work environments and lifestyles ((as more people transmit and receive
2538 information through the internet)). ((Although there is a growing interest in the use of computer technologies,
2539 few new developments are including high-speed internet access lines or home cabling. King County encourages
2540 private partnering between developers, builders and communication providers to expand the opportunities for
2541 access to the internet.)) In King County and nationwide, people without broadband internet service are at a
2542 growing disadvantage when it comes to education, health care, access to government services, the job market,
2543 and civic and cultural engagement. Equal access to technology can help improve the quality of everyone's life.

2544
2545 In 2020, the King County Broadband Access Study was completed, which evaluated the availability and
2546 accessibility of broadband internet services for King County residents. The study:

- 2547 1. Assessed the broadband infrastructure and services available and accessible to the community;
2548 2. Identified unserved locations (a location that does not have a broadband connection available) and
2549 underserved populations (residents who have broadband service available to them, but they cannot
2550 afford to buy it, or they have some other barrier to using broadband, such as lack of digital literacy or
2551 lack of access to broadband-enabled devices); and
2552 3. Included data collection, analysis, findings, and recommended solutions across multiple demographics.

2553
2554 King County is exploring and implementing actions to enable expansion of internet and broadband access to
2555 more county residents. For example, King County's Institutional Network (I-Net) provides broadband to eligible
2556 government agencies such as schools, libraries, courts, public safety groups, and public health facilities. King
2557 County's Institutional Network (I-Net) has over 2,000 miles of fiber installed, connecting to approximately 300
2558 public facilities. I-Net is expanding access to broadband to ensure all nonprofits, community, and educational
2559 organizations have the information technology capacity needed to deliver government services to effectively
2560 serve all communities so they can have full participation in society, democracy, and the economy. Focusing on

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2561 advancing Best Start for Kids and healthier communities, I-Net also continues working with nonprofits,
2562 government, and educational institutions to bring “last mile” connectivity, which continues to be a barrier.

2563
2564 In addition, the County understands the importance of state and other local organizations and their initiatives to
2565 expand broadband access within King County. The County is creating partnerships with these entities to help
2566 make high-speed broadband a reality for everyone in King County.

2567
2568 **F-357** **Developers should collaborate with major employers to create developments that**
2569 **facilitate and encourage telecommuting by installing high-speed internet lines**
2570 **during construction of the project.**

2571
2572 **F-358** **Builders and architects should work with the telecommunication industry to**
2573 **design and retrofit state-of-the art cable-ready homes and offices ((and)), as well**
2574 **as community centers, social service agencies, community health clinics, and**
2575 **other buildings that serve low-income residents.**

2576
2577 **F-358a** **King County should explore opportunities to increase access to broadband**
2578 **internet services to underserved and unserved areas, such as expanding the I-**
2579 **Net network, pursuing grant funding to support infrastructure investments,**
2580 **partnering with service providers to expand coverage, supporting fiber optic**
2581 **cable installation in the Eastrail corridor, and marketing to underserved**
2582 **communities.**

2583
2584 ((Wireless internet connections, also referred to as “hotspots,” first conceived in 1993, now number over 300,000
2585 nationally. A hotspot is a location (park, coffee shop, airport, office building, etc.) that offers Wi-Fi access.
2586 Hotspots allow the public to use laptop computers, Wi-Fi phones or other suitable portable devices to access the
2587 Internet. Ninety percent of the hotspots in the nation are free. Of the estimated 150 million laptops and 14
2588 million personal digital assistants sold annually, most include Wi-Fi capability.))

2589
2590 **F-358b** **King County should increase wireless capabilities at County-owned facilities and**
2591 **sites, such as County parks, for public access, where appropriate.**

2592
2593 **F-359** **King County encourages public and private organizations to create wireless**
2594 **internet connections where the public can access the Internet, including in**
2595 **community centers, social service agencies, community health clinics, libraries,**
2596 **schools, and other buildings that serve ((low-income)) residents with low**
2597 **incomes.**

2598

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CHAPTER 10

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

~~((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.)) King County aims to be a welcoming community where every person can thrive. Residents cannot thrive without equitable access to high quality jobs and wealth building~~

The policies in this chapter are designed to continue King County's long-term commitment to a ~~((prosperous,))~~ diverse, equitable, prosperous, resilient, and sustainable economy; contribute to a strong and stable tax base; and create a desirable quality of life for all residents. They do so by promoting public programs and actions that ~~((support a successful economy, one in which the))~~ that are both managed internally and leverage private, nonprofit, and public sector ~~((s))~~ partnerships ~~((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

opportunities, which are supported by a robust and inclusive economy. To be successful in creating that access and opportunity, businesses and organizations need a competitive business climate with consistent and predictable regulations, an educated and skilled workforce, adequate public infrastructure, research and development tools, affordable workforce housing, reliable transportation, low-cost childcare, and a safe and healthy environment. These are among the principles that guide the economic development element of the Comprehensive Plan.

and programs that promote the strength and health of both groups.

7

8

9 ~~((I.))~~ **Overview**

10 ~~((A.))~~ **The State of the Economy**

11 King County's labor market and economy ~~((is))~~ are the largest~~((,))~~ and most diverse~~((, and most significant))~~
12 economy in Washington State. Industries with the highest employment concentration in King County include
13 agriculture; manufacturing; construction; retail; trade, transportation, and utilities; professional and business
14 services; information education, and health services; and leisure and hospitality. ~~((In 2014, King County's~~
15 ~~economic base included:~~

- 16 ● ~~1,285,000 nonagricultural jobs. This represents 67% of the Central Puget Sound Region's~~
17 ~~(King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties) 1,923,000 nonagricultural jobs and 42% of the~~
18 ~~state's 3,070,400 nonagricultural jobs;~~
- 19 ● ~~An \$87.4 billion payroll. This represents 74% of the region's \$118.5 billion payroll and 52% of~~
20 ~~the state's \$167.4 billion payroll; and~~
- 21 ● ~~79,500 business firms, excluding sole proprietorships. This represents 63% of the region's~~
22 ~~125,000 firms and 36.4% of the state's 219,000 firms.~~

23
24 ~~The last fifteen years have been characterized by two major recessions and three periods of recovery and growth.~~
25 ~~Nonagricultural employment in King County peaked in 2000 at 1,187,000 jobs, but as the dot-com recession~~
26 ~~took hold, declined 7% to 1,109,000 jobs in 2003. Employment began to rise again in 2004, and by the job peak~~
27 ~~in 2008, employment had exceeded 2000 levels, growing to a total of 1,216,000 jobs. During the Great~~
28 ~~Recession, employment decreased by 7% again to 1,134,000 jobs in 2010, 4% below levels of a decade before.~~
29 ~~However, as the Great Recession ended employment began to grow again reaching more than 1,285,000 in 2014,~~
30 ~~a 13% increase over 2010 levels.~~

31
32 ~~King County employment in 2014 was comprised of the following sectors:~~

- 33 ● ~~Trade, Transportation and Utilities was the largest sector, with 238,000 employees primarily in~~
34 ~~retail trade, wholesale trade, and transportation services.~~
- 35 ● ~~Professional and Business Services was the second largest sector with 211,000 jobs. This sector~~
36 ~~includes legal services, engineering services, computer software design, company management~~
37 ~~and administration.~~
- 38 ● ~~Two sectors each had about 166,000 employees: Government at all levels including public~~
39 ~~education, and Health Services/Private Educational Services. Another sector, Leisure and~~
40 ~~Hospitality, which includes hotels and restaurants, had 129,000 employees.~~
- 41 ● ~~Four other sectors are smaller but vital in terms of bolstering the county's economic base with~~
42 ~~substantial payroll. They include Manufacturing (108,000 jobs); Information (software~~
43 ~~publishing and tele-communications, 88,000 jobs); Financial Activities (banks, insurance, real~~

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44 estate, 71,000 jobs); and Construction with 62,000 jobs.

45 • ~~Other Services had the remaining 47,000 jobs, in repair and maintenance, personal services,~~
46 ~~religious, professional and civic organizations.~~

47

48 In 2014, unincorporated King County had 252,000 residents and about 38,000 jobs.) Within the unincorporated
49 jurisdiction are ~~((two))~~ three broad ~~((geographic types))~~ geographies, designated by King County under the
50 Growth Management Act and the Comprehensive Plan:

51 • Urban unincorporated ~~((King County, within the Urban Growth Area))~~ areas;

52 • The Rural Area~~((s));~~ and

53 • Natural Resource Lands ~~((outside the Urban Growth Area)).~~

54

55 Covering only 45 square miles, urban unincorporated King County contains a number of residential
56 communities and a small number of business centers with about half of the unincorporated population~~((, 127,000~~
57 ~~people)).~~ Major communities within this urban jurisdiction include North Highline, Skyway-West Hill,
58 Fairwood, East Renton, and Lakeland South/East Federal Way. ~~((The urban unincorporated communities~~
59 ~~together had about 17,600 jobs in 2014.))~~ The largest job sector is services, ~~((with about 6,000 jobs throughout~~
60 ~~urban unincorporated King County.))~~ followed by ~~((E))~~ education and government ~~((is the second largest sector~~
61 ~~with 5,000 jobs.[†]))~~

62

63 Other large sectors within the urban unincorporated geography include construction and resources, wholesale-
64 transportation, retail, and manufacturing. In addition to its jobs ~~((–i.e.,))~~ (people working in urban
65 unincorporated job centers ~~((–))~~), much of the urban unincorporated area is residential, and includes a skilled
66 labor force. ~~((About 70,000 urban unincorporated residents are in King County’s labor force, and approximately~~
67 ~~63,000 were employed in 2014, contributing significantly to the county’s economy.))~~

68

69 The Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands portions of the county’s economic base plays a significant role in
70 helping the county maintain a diversity of economic sectors, thus contributing to the county’s overall economic
71 health. Evaluation and discussion of the rural economy includes the Rural Area, Natural Resource Lands, and
72 the Cities in the Rural Area, which include Black Diamond, Carnation, Duvall, Enumclaw, North Bend,
73 Snoqualmie, and Skykomish.

74

75 ~~((Information on the rural economy is as follows:~~

76 • ~~In 2014, about 8.3% (168,000) of the county’s total population of 2,017,300 lived in the Rural~~
77 ~~Area, Resource Lands, and Cities in the Rural Area.~~

78 • ~~However, only 2.7% (34,200) of the total 1.2 million jobs in the county are located within the~~

[†] This 2014 data does not reflect that Klahanie was annexed to Sammamish in 2016. Updated figures are not currently available.)

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 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:)).

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- 114 ED-101 King County ~~((has a long-term commitment to))~~ should support sustainable,
115 inclusive, and equitable economic development throughout the county.
116
- 117 ED-101a King County ~~((is committed to promoting))~~ should promote diversity, equity, and
118 equality of opportunity in all economic development policies and programs, and
119 to ~~((integrating))~~ prioritize these ~~((as))~~ factors in~~((to))~~ decision and policy-making
120 efforts.
121
- 122 ED-101b King County shall engage with the public to inform County economic
123 development plans, policies, and programs. This includes fostering
124 opportunities for the public, especially communities with limited access to
125 economic opportunity and those with the highest needs, to be involved in
126 associated decision-making.
127
- 128 ED-102 The focus for significant economic growth ~~((will))~~ shall remain within the Urban
129 Growth Area, concentrated in cities and in a network of regionally designated
130 growth centers. ~~((while within))~~ In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands,
131 ~~((the focus will))~~ economic development shall be focused on sustaining and
132 enhancing prosperous and successful rural and resource-based businesses, as
133 well as encouraging new businesses that support and are compatible with the
134 rural economic clusters.
135
- 136 ED-103 King County policies, programs, and strategies shall recognize the importance
137 of~~((,))~~ and ~~((place special emphasis))~~ focus on~~((,))~~ growing new businesses, such
138 as start-up companies and small local businesses, ~~((as well as retaining))~~ and
139 expanding ~~((homegrown firms in basic))~~ existing businesses in industries that
140 ~~((bring income into the county and increase the standard of living of the County's~~
141 ~~residents))~~ create jobs that pay family wages and share the County's values of
142 racial equity, environmental sustainability, and workers' rights.
143
- 144 ED-103a King County policies, programs, and strategies shall recognize the role and
145 importance of small and locally owned businesses in community stability and
146 creating opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color;
147 immigrants; refugees; the LGBTQIA+ community; women; and other historically
148 underrepresented groups.
149
- 150 ED-104 King County policies, programs, and strategies shall recognize the importance of
151 a diversified economic base to provide a continuum of skill training opportunities
152 to meet the skill level needs of industry and shall support middle-wage jobs.
153 King County should direct resources in ways that reduce inequities and build

154 economic resiliency for those communities most negatively impacted by asset
155 poverty.

157 **ED-105** King County ~~((recognizes))~~ shall protect the natural environment as a key
158 economic ((value that must be protected)) asset and should support businesses
159 that can be developed in environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient ways.

161 **ED-106** King County shall protect and prevent displacement of cultural resources, and
162 promote expanded cultural opportunities for its residents and visitors ~~((in order))~~
163 to enhance the region's quality of life and economic vitality.

165 King County's role in economic development is implemented at several levels. At all levels, King County seeks
166 to coordinate, partner, and engage with private and public organizations to pursue ~~((mutually beneficial~~
167 ~~outcomes))~~ shared goals.

169 **ED-107** ~~((At the multicounty level,))~~ King County should partner with other counties,
170 regional entities and the state~~((, as appropriate,))~~ to devise and implement
171 economic development policies, programs, and strategies to ~~((provide for))~~
172 achieve sustainable, inclusive, and equitable growth throughout the Puget Sound
173 region.

175 **ED-108** At the countywide level, King County should partner with other jurisdictions,
176 economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, the Port of
177 Seattle, and others~~((, as appropriate,))~~, to develop and implement policies,
178 programs, and strategies that set the general framework for economic
179 development within the county.

181 **ED-109** Within the unincorporated areas, King County should partner and engage with
182 local businesses, the Agriculture and Rural Forest Commissions, community
183 service areas, adjacent cities, other organizations, and residents~~((, as~~
184 ~~appropriate,))~~, to develop and implement policies, programs, and strategies that
185 promote compatible, inclusive, and equitable local economic development.

187 ~~((H.))~~ **Business Development**

188 ~~((King County has long supported a growing and diversified economy, one that provides business development~~
189 ~~opportunities throughout the county.))~~ To support business development, King County's policies, plans, and
190 programs should support a ~~((positive and healthy))~~ business-friendly climate that ~~((enables all local firms to stay~~
191 ~~globally competitive, quality oriented, technologically advanced, and able to pay good wages))~~ is conducive to
192 the domestic and global complete environment.

193

194 Homegrown businesses are those that started in the region. ~~((Local and national research over the last 25 years
195 has concluded that h))~~ Homegrown, small to medium-size businesses create the majority of new jobs in a local
196 economy. Industries and firms that export their products and services outside King County bring income into
197 the county ~~((and are considered basic, in economic terms. Jobs in basic industry))~~ and generally pay better than
198 ~~((non-basic))~~ jobs ~~that are dependent on the local economy.~~ ~~((and))~~ These exporting sectors can help support the
199 ~~((non-basic or secondary))~~ local part of the county's economy. ~~((As of 2012, 37% of the jobs in King County are
200 basic and support the 63% non-basic jobs, such as retail and personal services. Roughly one of every four jobs in
201 the Puget Sound region is dependent on international trade.))~~

202

203 The county's leading export sectors are:

- 204 • Information ~~((S))~~services, ~~((with 16.4% of all export jobs. Software Publishing is the principal factor in this
205 sector, accounting for over 50% of the sector's basic jobs and 9.3% of total basic employment))~~ led by
206 software development.
- 207 • Manufacturing, ~~((with 14% of all basic employment,))~~ led by aerospace~~((, with 9% of total basic jobs)).~~
- 208 • Business ~~((S))~~services, such as banking, insurance, accounting, legal, architectural, engineering, research and
209 development, and computer services~~((, with 13.8% of export jobs)).~~

210

211 King County has also identified the creative sector as a critical segment of the regional economy that requires
212 additional support and renewed focus. King County's local creative economy includes the film, music, arts and
213 culture, festival, and events industries, videogaming, fashion and more. These industries are predominantly
214 driven by small businesses, entrepreneurs, and gig workers. Supporting creative sector development that is
215 compatible with surrounding land uses contributes to the region's regional reputation, drives tourism, and creates
216 desirable environment for business development.

217

218 King County's targeted industry support also includes those identified in the Puget Sound Regional Council's
219 Regional Economic Strategy, the Local Food Initiative, and 30-Year Forest Plan.

220

221 **Working Collaboratively in the Region**

222 King County partners with several organizations to grow and sustain regional economic vitality and global
223 competitiveness, such as the Puget Sound Regional Council's Central Puget Sound Economic Development
224 District Board (serving King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties) ((adopted a "Regional Economic Strategy
225 for the Central Puget Sound Region" in 2005, updated it in 2012, and then adopted an updated version entitled
226 "Amazing Place: Growing Jobs and Opportunity in the Central Puget Sound Region" in 2017. Amazing Place
227 was developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council to sustain economic vitality and global competitiveness.));
228 Greater Seattle Partners; King County Associate Development Organization; Workforce Development Council;
229 and other subregional economic development organizations and local jurisdictions.

((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)) TBD

230

231 ((In order to accomplish this, Amazing Place identifies 14 industrial clusters that, based on regional economic
232 analysis, offer the best opportunities for business growth and job creation in the Central Puget Sound region for
233 the next several years.

234

235 Clusters are concentrations of industries that export goods and services that drive job creation and import wealth
236 into the region. An industry cluster differs from the classic definition of an industry sector because it represents
237 the entire horizontal and vertical value-added linkages from suppliers to end producers, including support
238 services, specialized infrastructure, regional universities' research and development, and other resources.

239 Clusters are supported by the economic foundations such as workforce training, infrastructure, quality education,
240 a stable and progressive business climate, and more. The clusters are Aerospace, Architecture and Engineering,
241 Business Services, Clean Technology, Food and Beverage, Information and Communication Technology, Life
242 Sciences and Global Health, Maritime, Materials Manufacturing, Military and Defense, Recreational Gear,
243 Tourism, Transportation and Logistics, and Wood Products. Amazing Place identifies specific strategies and
244 actions to help support the growth of each cluster.

245

246 The County is also working with several other regional business development efforts such as the Trade
247 Development Alliance, Workforce Councils, Chambers of Commerce, and other partners to create opportunities
248 for new business development, help retain and expand existing companies, and recruit new firms into the
249 county.))

250

251 **ED-201** King County shall partner with federal, state, and local governments, economic
252 development organizations, schools, educational and research institutions
253 ~~((and)),~~ the private sector, and other organizations to foster ~~((an))~~ innovative and
254 ~~((entrepreneurial environment and support programs and strategies that~~
255 ~~promote))~~ sustainable business development and job creation~~((Programs that~~
256 ~~provide technical and financial assistance to businesses include, but are not~~
257 ~~limited to:~~

- 258 a. ~~Financial, marketing, expansion, and general operations assistance for~~
259 ~~small businesses to help them become competitive in the private sector;~~
260 b. ~~Technological, efficiency, and managerial assessments to help~~
261 ~~manufacturers reduce costs and use smaller footprints for existing or~~
262 ~~expanded production; and~~
263 c. ~~Assessment and/or remediation of contaminated property (Brownfields)~~
264 ~~in order to continue or expand operations to help individual small~~
265 ~~businesses or jurisdictions impacted by Brownfields)).~~

266

267 **ED-202** King County shall ~~((emphasize continued))~~ prioritize support for the aerospace,
268 green energy, creative economy, and information technology industrial clusters;
269 agriculture and forestry clusters; ~~((as well as industrial clusters offering))~~ and

270 emerging sectors that offer the best opportunities for business development, job
271 creation, and economic growth ~~((including those identified in the Puget Sound~~
272 ~~Regional Council's Regional Economic Strategy, the Local Food Initiative and the~~
273 ~~King County Rural Economic Strategies Plan))~~.

274
275 **ED-203** King County shall support and participate in programs and strategies that help
276 create, retain, expand, and attract businesses that export their products and
277 services. Exports bring income into the county that increases the standard of
278 living of residents.

279 **ED-204** King County shall encourage redevelopment of and reinvestment in industrial
280 and manufacturing properties by collaborating with other jurisdictions, and the
281 private sector to remove, revise, or streamline regulatory or other redevelopment
282 barriers without compromising environmental standards or quality. This
283 includes assessment and/or remediation of contaminated properties.
284

285
286 ~~((ED-205 King County shall support programs and strategies to promote and market~~
287 ~~Foreign Direct Investment opportunities in the county.))~~

288
289 **ED-206** King County shall promote and help position small and mid-size businesses to
290 gain greater participation in the supply chains of large companies and the
291 military located in the region.

292
293 **ED-207** King County shall provide opportunities for small businesses to compete for and
294 obtain contracts on ~~((e))~~ County-funded construction, consulting, and goods and
295 services projects. King County shall also collaborate with other jurisdictions to
296 promote public-contracting opportunities for small businesses and to develop
297 and maintain common standards, a common application, and a common
298 directory for small contractors and suppliers seeking contracts on
299 publicly-funded projects.

300
301 **ED-208** King County shall assist businesses, property owners, and other jurisdictions in
302 preserving and enhancing historic properties, including historic business
303 districts, through incentives and economic development measures. County
304 programs and incentives for land and resource preservation and economic
305 development shall support and be coordinated with preservation of historic
306 properties.

307
308 **ED-209** King County shall foster the development and use of public/private partnerships
309 to implement economic development projects and programs. At a minimum,
310 these projects ~~((must))~~ shall demonstrate that they:

311 a. Cannot be accomplished solely by either sector;

- 312 b. Have an experienced and proven private partner(s);
- 313 c. Do not unduly enrich the private partner(s);
- 314 d. Provide tangible and measurable public benefits in terms of tax and
- 315 other revenue, construction and permanent jobs, livable wages with
- 316 benefits and a wage-progression strategy, and public amenities; and
- 317 e. ~~((Will use the King County Jobs Initiative, or other entities with similar~~
- 318 ~~programs, as their first source of referral for training and employing~~
- 319 ~~low-income, low-skill residents in entry-level and semi-skilled jobs))~~
- 320 Share decision-making power with and spread benefits to community
- 321 groups.
- 322

ED-210

King County should support programs and strategies to expand international trade, including those that:

- 324
- 325 a. Promote, market, and position the county for increased export((,)) and
- 326 import, and foreign investment opportunities;
- 327 b. Promote the health and viability of the region's export and import
- 328 gateways through active collaboration with the Northwest Seaport
- 329 Alliance and the Port of Seattle;
- 330 c. Provide technical assistance, training, and opportunities for local firms
- 331 wishing to export; ~~((and))~~
- 332 d. Partner with regional trade groups to promote assistance, opportunities
- 333 and partnerships to connect current and potential exporters with
- 334 international markets; and
- 335 e. Contribute to a more circular economy that reduces demand for
- 336 materials; keeps materials in use as long as possible; regenerates
- 337 natural systems by reusing waste products, materials, or byproducts of
- 338 manufacturing, supporting export of recyclable materials; or otherwise
- 339 improves processes to be more efficient.
- 340

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:

- 344 a. Complying with the ~~((State of Washington))~~ Growth Management Act
- 345 ~~((Buildable Lands))~~ Review and Evaluation Program – Revised Code of
- 346 Washington 36.70A.215 – and, in cooperation with the cities,
- 347 inventorying and monitoring the use of industrial, commercial, and
- 348 residential lands every five years;
- 349 b. Partnering with other jurisdictions and the private sector, to advocate for
- 350 development and maintenance of a regional Geographic Information
- 351 System ~~((to track the supply of land));~~

- 352 c. Actively applying for federal, state, and other resources to help defray
- 353 the costs of assessment, remediation, and redevelopment of private
- 354 and/or public Brownfields;
- 355 ~~((d.))~~ c. Selling ~~((e))~~ County-owned surplus industrial and commercial lands for
- 356 development by the private sector;
- 357 ~~((e.))~~ d. Promoting the redevelopment and infill of industrial and commercial
- 358 areas and exploring the feasibility of using incentives to achieve this
- 359 goal; and
- 360 ~~((f.))~~ e. Preventing the encroachment of non-industrial uses on
- 361 industrially-zoned land and the rezoning of industrial land to other uses.
- 362

363 ED-212 King County shall encourage and support community~~((-))~~-based and community~~((~~
364 ~~))~~-led efforts to ~~((support))~~ develop and retain existing small and local businesses
365 and resilient communities. These efforts may include:

- 366 a. Priority hire programs that create middle-wage employment in
- 367 historically underserved and historically underrepresented communities;
- 368 b. Ensuring public investment decisions protect culturally significant
- 369 economic assets and community anchors; and
- 370 c. Engaging communities directly affected by economic development
- 371 activities in planning, decision-making, and implementation.
- 372

373 ED-213 King County shall coordinate with a broad range of partners, organizations,
374 businesses, and public sector agencies to support the development of business
375 innovation districts and ~~((related))~~ other community stabilization initiatives ~~((#))~~
376 to help prevent the displacement of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color;
377 immigrants; refugees; LGBTQIA+ people; and lower income communities~~((, with~~
378 an emphasis on food innovation districts, in particular)).
379

380 ~~((III.))~~ Workforce Development

381 King County provides programs and participates in partnerships to address the new and ongoing regional
382 workforce opportunities and challenges ~~((of the Puget Sound region and within the county))~~. The current
383 economic climate has created more opportunity, and yet there is an ~~((ever greater))~~ increasing divide between
384 those who are benefitting from a strong economy and those who are not. For this reason, King County has an
385 even greater need to ensure ~~((access by))~~ all residents have access to information about local workforce
386 development programs and opportunities, especially for those residents ~~((of the County))~~ who are not benefitting
387 equitably from the strong economy.

388
389 While many low-income people in isolated communities may have difficulties gaining access to quality
390 education, training, and support services to ~~((help them))~~ secure living wage jobs, many displaced workers also

391 need access to re-training opportunities to obtain employment. Meeting these challenges successfully ((will))
392 requires the ((e))County to continue and to strengthen strategies and working relationships across sectors and
393 ((between)) among business, government, labor, communities, advocacy organizations, education and training
394 institutions, and human service providers.

395
396 Jobs that pay wages sufficient to support families are vital to ((the)) a high quality of life. However, training,
397 education, and skill levels((, and abilities)) vary from person to person. As such, it is important for King County
398 to support accessible job training programs and ensure that all residents have equal access to job opportunities
399 ((for all residents)) at a range of entry levels so that all people have the opportunity to be self-reliant.

400
401 King County's Green Jobs Strategy emphasizes connecting frontline communities to living wage employment
402 opportunities to build a skilled and diverse workforce across the career spectrum. The County utilizes its
403 resource network to promote and meaningfully connect local workers to living wage positions by developing
404 high-quality workforce partnerships to diversify and add climate-informed skills building into existing sectors
405 such as construction, transportation, manufacturing, and professional services/technology, while preparing for
406 the clean energy future. The Strategy emphasizes integrating workforce development into County climate and
407 clean energy initiatives, while collaborating with regional partners to grow green jobs through sectors essential to
408 clean energy deployment. The Strategy outlines the recipe for high-road workforce partnerships based on
409 building trusted relationships with job seekers, connecting to partners providing skills training and industry-
410 recognized credentials, and clear employment on-ramps developed with employers and labor partners.

- 411
412 **ED-301** **King County should support workforce development programs that are**
413 **integrated with the ((e))County’s overall economic strategies, including but not**
414 **limited to:**
- 415 a. **Apprenticeship opportunities on ((e))County public works projects to**
416 **ensure a continual pipeline of skilled, local construction trades workers**
417 **and to encourage family-wage job opportunities((-);**
 - 418 b. **~~((Development and growth of clean technology “green” jobs linked to the~~**
419 **~~preservation and sustainability of the natural environment, including~~**
420 **~~jobs in pollution prevention, Brownfields cleanup, energy efficiency,~~**
421 **~~renewable energy industries, natural resource management, and other~~**
422 **~~technologies that address climate change.))~~ Identified partnerships
423 prioritizing providing frontline communities (including middle skill
424 workers and youth) accessible pathways and skills building toward
425 positions providing a family sustaining wage within identified local high
426 growth sectors while supporting reduced energy use and reduced
427 greenhouse gas emissions including manufacturing, construction,
428 transportation, and professional services; and**

429 c. Training ~~((in)) prioritizing in-demand skills ((job clusters) that apply to~~
430 ~~and are in demand))~~ across ~~((multiple)) identified high-growth industry~~
431 ~~((clusters)) sectors.~~

432
433 **ED-302** King County should support the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King
434 County ~~((, authorized by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of~~
435 ~~2014, and composed of high-level representatives from business, local~~
436 ~~government, labor, education and training institutions, advocacy organizations,~~
437 ~~and human service providers. The purpose of the Workforce Development~~
438 ~~Council is))~~ to coordinate and improve employment, training, literacy, and
439 vocational rehabilitation programs to meet the needs of workers and employers.
440 King County ~~((will)) should~~ work with the Workforce Development Council to
441 emphasize the needs in and highlight opportunities for communities that have
442 the highest unemployment rates in the region, including the potential for
443 development of training opportunities in these areas.

444
445 **ED-303** King County policies, programs, strategies, and partnerships shall recognize the
446 importance of worker training and retraining, especially for ~~((low-income and~~
447 ~~low-skilled residents,))~~ workers in low-wage and low-barrier industries and
448 communities with the highest unemployment rates, to provide the skilled workers
449 needed by local businesses and industry. King County shall support and partner
450 with other jurisdictions, educational institutions and industry to promote
451 programs that align with community needs, such as:
452 a. Programs that retrain dislocated workers for jobs in growing industries;
453 b. Training for jobs in growing industries that require post-technical or
454 post-secondary training and credentials and provide a career pathway to
455 self-sufficiency;
456 c. Programs that facilitate employer involvement in hiring workers with
457 limited experience and skills and provide successful strategies for skills
458 training, job placement, and worker retention;
459 d. Programs that reduce recidivism by helping residents exiting the
460 criminal ~~((justice)) legal~~ system gain access to training and employment
461 services;
462 e. Alignment of ~~((homeless))~~ housing and employment systems to
463 ~~((assure)) ensure~~ people who are experiencing homelessness have
464 access to both housing and employment opportunities;
465 f. Food-related, creative economy, and green technology workforce
466 development activities and opportunities;
467 g. School-to-work programs and effective alternatives for out-of-school
468 youth to provide a clear pathway to self-sufficiency through career
469 options and applied learning opportunities;

- 470 h. Summer youth employment programs for ~~((at-risk))~~ historically
- 471 underserved youth;
- 472 i. Access to alternative modes of transportation by providing
- 473 transportation information, ~~((financial assistance programs))~~ income-
- 474 based discount programs such as ORCA LIFT, and services to
- 475 jobseekers and workers; ~~((and))~~
- 476 j. Access to childcare by increasing the availability and affordability of
- 477 quality childcare for low-income families; and
- 478 k. Initiatives aimed at facilitating skills training and on-ramps to living wage
- 479 employment for frontline communities connected to identified high
- 480 growth industry sectors as outlined in King County’s Green Jobs
- 481 Strategy.

482

483 ~~((ED-304~~ King County shall continue to increase equity in jobs and career opportunities

484 ~~for youth through programs such as the Education Engagement Strategy~~

485 ~~launched by Public Health in 2013, and others. These efforts may include:~~

- 486 ~~a. Partnering with private businesses, community organizations and~~
- 487 ~~educational institutions to provide job shadowing, internship and~~
- 488 ~~summer job opportunities for King County youth; and~~
- 489 ~~b. Partnering with Maritime and Manufacturing industry businesses, and~~
- 490 ~~other business sectors, to engage high school students in vocational~~
- 491 ~~programs that offer training for living wage industry jobs, and working~~
- 492 ~~with these businesses to engage schools in promoting regional~~
- 493 ~~opportunities for apprenticeships and internships for high school~~
- 494 ~~students.))~~

495

496 ED-305 King County shall help promote and develop opportunities for ~~((limited-English~~

497 ~~proficiency populations))~~ communities that speak a language(s) other than

498 English, including:

- 499 a. Partnering and investing in community organizations that represent

500 ~~((limited-English proficiency populations))~~ linguistically diverse

501 populations;

- 502 b. Improving translation and interpretation services;
- 503 c. Partnering with private business to promote the hiring of ~~((limited~~

504 ~~English proficiency populations))~~ people that speak a language(s) other

505 than English; and

- 506 d. Partnering with regional educational institutions to develop methods for

507 recertification for limited English proficiency professionals with

508 credentials from other countries, and partnering with community

509 organizations to promote and increase access to recertification

510 programs.

511
512 **ED-306** King County shall work with regional workforce development organizations and
513 regional educational institutions, especially community colleges, to promote
514 greater alignment between educational programs and workforce needs.

515
516 ~~((H-159))~~ **ED-307** King County should support programs and projects that provide apprenticeship
517 and employment training in the building trades through affordable housing
518 development. King County should explore ways to partner with non((-))profit
519 housing developers in offering pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and
520 employment training opportunities.

521

522 ~~((IV.))~~ **Infrastructure Development**

523 Adequate and well-maintained public infrastructure is crucial to a strong economy and to attract new industry
524 and development. Basic public services that maintain a high quality of life in an area support employment
525 growth and increased productivity, and influence business location decisions.

526

527 **ED-401** ~~((King County recognizes that adequate infrastructure is essential to support
528 existing economic activity and to attract new industry and development. The
529 county therefore)) King County shall support((s)) and partner((s)) on programs
530 and strategies to maintain existing infrastructure and construct new
531 infrastructure and facilities (including, but not limited to, transportation, utilities,
532 schools, information, communications, ((including)) and an adequate supply of
533 housing) necessary to accommodate current and future economic demand, in
534 locations and at a size and scale that is consistent with other policies in the
535 Comprehensive Plan.~~

536

537 **ED-402** King County ~~((will))~~ shall support programs and partnerships to facilitate the
538 efficient movement of freight to promote global competitiveness for business
539 and industry.

540

541 **ED-403** King County shall partner, where feasible, with jurisdictions and other
542 ~~((stakeholders))~~ organizations to develop ~~((subarea))~~ locally-specific economic
543 development strategies to promote development and redevelopment in areas that
544 can accommodate growth.

545

546 **ED-404** ~~((Through local subarea planning and partnerships with other agencies and
547 organizations,))~~ King County should use zoning, incentives, partnerships, or
548 other measures to capitalize on the economic benefit of infrastructure projects in

549 locations and at a size and scale that is consistent with other policies in the
550 Comprehensive Plan.

551
552 **ED-405** King County should support programs and partnerships to facilitate the
553 development of adequate technology infrastructure, to meet growing
554 technological demand and to ensure high quality infrastructure for the regional
555 economy.
556

557 ~~((V.))~~ **Sustainable Development in the Private Sector**

558 ~~((It is the goal of))~~ King County ~~((to work toward becoming))~~ seeks to become a model sustainable community
559 where ~~((both))~~ the public and private sectors ~~((seek to))~~ balance urban growth with natural resource protection
560 while addressing climate change. Sustainable development ~~((seeks))~~ aims to achieve this goal by addressing the
561 environmental impacts of the built environment in which people live and work. Sustainable development is
562 implemented through planning, design and construction methods, including green building and ~~((L))~~low
563 ~~((H))~~impact ~~((D))~~development that promote environmental quality, economic vitality and healthy communities.
564
565 ~~((King County also works to increase the sustainability awareness of its residents. The county offers a Localize
566 Sustainability tool, which help residents track and develop strategies for increasing their own sustainability
567 profile. Transportation is also key element of sustainability.))~~ Public transportation ~~((will))~~ plays an important
568 role in protecting the environment by reducing emissions and supporting more compact land use patterns. King
569 County seeks to foster innovative design and development techniques in the private sector that reduce the
570 negative impacts of site development and building construction while maintaining ~~((affordability and economic
571 development))~~ a favorable business climate.

572
573 **ED-501** King County should encourage, support and promote the application of
574 sustainable development practices in all private sector development within the
575 county. ~~((This may be accomplished through working with residential and
576 commercial developers to use Low Impact Development principles and practices,
577 including minimized impervious surface areas, protect ground and surface water
578 within a watershed, ensure that habitat protection needs are incorporated into
579 development proposals to the extent possible, incorporate greater use of green
580 building materials, eliminate, to the extent possible, the use of materials that
581 pose health hazards, and utilize systems that conserve or reuse resources,
582 including those that use energy more efficiently. When King County provides
583 technical assistance and incentives for the use of sustainable development
584 practices, it shall be at no cost to any private sector development. King County
585 shall collaborate with the private sector on potential future regulatory tools.))~~
586

587 ED-501a King County shall ~~((strive to))~~ promote green building and smart building
588 practices throughout private, public, and residential uses and shall support
589 programs that foster this type of development through collaboration with
590 jurisdictions and other sectors.

591
592 ~~((ED-502 ————— In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County shall provide
593 assistance through development of customized stewardship plans for individual
594 properties, to help property owners understand their properties' characteristics
595 and the potential impacts of their actions, and to make sustainable land
596 management choices that protect natural resources.))~~

598 ED-503 King County shall identify and evaluate potential changes to land use
599 development regulations and building codes, in collaboration with the private
600 sector, to support and promote sustainable development.

601
602 ~~((ED-504 ————— King County should participate in the development and use of national standards
603 for measuring sustainability at the community scale and the breadth and
604 effectiveness of county policies and practices that improve community-scale
605 sustainability.))~~

607 ~~VI.)~~ The Rural Economy

608 King County values its entire Rural Area and the Natural Resources Lands and recognizes the traditional
609 economic activities that support rural communities and a rural lifestyle. A healthy and sustainable rural
610 economy is necessary to ensure rural residents can continue to both live and work throughout the Rural Area
611 and Natural Resource Lands. The farm, livestock, and forestry operations, the many entrepreneurial
612 home-based businesses, the Rural Towns, Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, and the Cities in the Rural
613 Area all provide rural residents with goods, services, and employment.

614
615 Within unincorporated rural King County, economic activities include, but are not limited to, farming, livestock
616 raising, equestrian uses, forestry, resource value-added businesses, and home-based businesses. The Rural
617 Neighborhood Commercial Center ~~((s are designed to))~~ land use designation provides for a limited array of goods
618 and services to local rural residents on a small scale. ~~((The))~~ Rural Towns provide a wider range of goods,
619 services, and jobs for rural residents, including retail, restaurants, and services. ~~((The designated))~~ Natural
620 Resource Lands support the long-term commercial aspects of agriculture and forestry and potential resource
621 value ~~((d))~~-added products.

622
623 The County also recognizes that the land areas, economies, and natural beauty of the Rural Area and Natural
624 Resource Land designations benefit all county residents. The agriculture sector provides a ~~((safe))~~ high-quality
625 and reliable local food source ~~((—keeping costs low and quality high—))~~ to restaurants ~~((and households, the~~

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626 majority of which are in urban areas, and regionally to farmers markets and specialty stores)) institutions,
627 farmers markets, and direct to consumers. The Rural ((King County)) Area and Natural Resource Lands
628 provide((s)) many diverse recreation and tourism opportunities, including scenic vistas; trails for hiking,
629 bicycling, off-road, and equestrian use; ((harvest festivals;)) open space and wildlife habitat; and working farms
630 and forest lands, all within a short distance from ((the)) urban centers.

631

632 A vibrant and sustainable rural economy depends on several factors, including, but not limited to, preserving and
633 enhancing the businesses within traditional rural economic clusters, ensuring that new commercial enterprises
634 are of a size and scale that is consistent with and retains the rural character of the surrounding area, and changes
635 in regulations to reflect and respond to the differing needs and emerging trends of rural economic activity while
636 protecting the natural environment.

637

638 ((In 2004, the King County Comprehensive Plan was amended to include a policy that directed the county to
639 develop and implement a rural economic development strategy. To comply with this policy, the county
640 developed an annual Rural Economic Strategies Report in 2005 and began implementing the identified strategies
641 and actions in 2006. Annual reporting occurred through 2008. Ordinance 17485, which adopted the 2012
642 Comprehensive Plan, called for an update to the Rural Economic Strategies to build upon the work done
643 previously. In response to this, a Rural Economic Strategies Plan was adopted in 2014 via Ordinance 17956.

644

645 The mission of the Rural Economic Strategies Plan is to advance the long-term economic viability of the Rural
646 Area and Natural Resource Lands, with an emphasis on farming, forestry, and other rural businesses consistent
647 with the unique character of rural King County. The mission is accomplished by initiating and implementing
648 specific strategies and actions to support and enhance rural economic viability. Rural businesses generally fall
649 into six rural economic clusters and each cluster is supported by specific strategies and actions to strengthen
650 and/or enhance it. The clusters are: Agriculture, Forestry, Equestrian, Home Based Businesses (i.e., those home
651 occupations that are allowed on lands designated Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Area), Recreation and
652 Tourism, Commercial and Industrial Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, Rural Towns, and Cities in the
653 Rural Area. Consistent with CP 539, found in Chapter 11, Community Service Area Subarea Planning, no
654 expansion of industrial land use or zoning is allowed within the Rural Town of Fall City.

655

656 The specific strategies and actions are intended to be flexible in order to respond to evolving rural business needs
657 and changes within any of the economic clusters. Periodically, the county evaluates the actions accomplished to
658 date, introduces new actions to be initiated, and discusses proposed actions for the following year. This ensures
659 the process stays flexible and is current with evolving trends in the rural economy. It is anticipated that this
660 procedure will become part of the Annual Work Plans developed for each of the Community Service Areas.))

661

662 The rural economic policies are designed to establish and maintain a long-term commitment to a sustainable and
663 vibrant rural economy. They support ((implementation of the Rural Economic Strategies Plan;)) continued
664 evaluation of ((e))County codes to support the evolving agriculture, forestry, and other rural economic clusters((;

665 and support for), as well as programs and strategies that foster a diversified rural economy, compatible with
666 existing rural character, while maintaining the natural environment.

667

668 **ED-601** King County is committed to a sustainable and vibrant rural economy that allows
669 rural residents to live and work throughout the Rural Area and Natural Resource
670 Lands. County policy, regulations, and programs should be reviewed and
671 developed in partnership with rural businesses, the Agriculture and Rural Forest
672 Commissions, ~~((the Community Service Area))~~ community groups, and others to
673 support the preservation and enhancement of traditional rural economic
674 activities and lifestyles, while supporting evolving compatible commercial uses
675 and job opportunities.

676

677 **ED-602** King County should identify and implement ~~((the Rural Economic Strategies Plan
678 to guide future))~~ rural economic development ~~((and will modify and add))~~
679 strategies ~~((as needed to))~~ that reflect the evolving nature of the rural economy,
680 while protecting the traditional rural economic clusters.

681 a. King County recognizes the value of the agriculture and forestry clusters
682 for both their economic contribution and for their natural, educational,
683 and recreational benefits to the county as a whole. The ~~((e))~~County
684 ~~((will))~~ shall work with the Agriculture Commission, Rural Forest
685 Commission, and other related organizations on strategies and
686 programs to strengthen and enhance the economic viability of these
687 clusters and the evolving value-added industry that helps sustain the
688 county's legacy of raising crops and livestock and managing and
689 harvesting forestlands.

690 b. King County recognizes the value of home-based business, recreation
691 and tourism, and commercial and industrial clusters for their ability to
692 provide job opportunities in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands,
693 and help sustain the rural economic base. The ~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall
694 continue to work with chambers of commerce and other organizations
695 that support these rural businesses to help ensure the continued
696 viability and economic health of new and existing businesses in these
697 clusters.

698 c. King County recognizes the importance of the equestrian cluster for its
699 diversity of business and recreation related operations which combine to
700 provide jobs and income opportunities within the rural economy. The
701 ~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to work with equestrian related
702 organizations on business and recreation aspects of the equestrian
703 cluster and with organizations that represent the various trail user
704 groups to help ensure the continued viability and economic health of
705 equestrian and related recreation businesses.

- 706 d. As a means and in support of protecting rural character and Natural
707 Resource Lands, King County recognizes the value of the partnership
708 with Cities in the Rural Area to act as local urban centers for
709 employment and centers of commerce that provides goods and services
710 for the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The ~~((e))~~County ~~((will))~~
711 shall work with the cities and other organizations to support economic
712 development for Cities in the Rural Area, at a size and scale consistent
713 with the Growth Management Act.
- 714 e. King County is committed to ensuring that all economic development,
715 including the provision of infrastructure, within the Rural Area and
716 Natural Resource Lands shall be compatible with the surrounding rural
717 character, be of an appropriate size and scale, and protect the natural
718 environment.
- 719 f. King County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to support and partner on programs
720 and incentives to ensure the economic vitality of rural historic resources
721 to help maintain the character of the Rural Area and Natural Resource
722 Lands.
- 723 g. King County ~~((will))~~ shall explore opportunities to support agricultural
724 tourism and value-added program(s) related to the production of food,
725 flowers and specialty beverages (including beer, distilled beverages, and
726 wine) in the county. Partnership venues should be educational and
727 include information on the diversity of products available in the county
728 and the importance of buying local, should seek to unify regional
729 tourism efforts, and should encourage development of new markets for
730 agricultural products and value-added goods.
- 731 h. King County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to review existing and proposed
732 regulations to ensure they are relevant and effective in accommodating
733 the differing needs and emerging trends of the compatible businesses
734 that comprise the rural economy.
- 735 i. King County should continue to identify the infrastructure needs of the
736 rural economic clusters, including transportation, drainage, and
737 information technology needs, and provide support for these needs,
738 including identification of other funding sources.
- 739 j. King County should continue to identify and encourage businesses to
740 take advantage of incentives and technical assistance programs that
741 promote economic viability of existing and new businesses in the Rural
742 Area and Natural Resources Lands, particularly in the Agricultural and
743 Forest Production Districts.

744
745 ~~((ED-603) King County should partner with other Puget Sound counties and businesses to~~
746 ~~analyze the need and possible sites for regional agricultural (such as beef and~~
747 ~~poultry) and forest product processing. King County recognizes the importance~~

748 ~~of food and forest processing for the regional economy and should partner with~~
749 ~~regional communities, governments and residents to ensure that the challenges~~
750 ~~and opportunities within this industry are analyzed and addressed as needed.))~~

751

752 The ability to bring rural, agricultural, forestry, and value-added products into the urban area and the ability of
753 urban residents to utilize the Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands for education, open space, scenic vistas,
754 and a diversity of out((-)door recreation options encourages the urban/rural interdependence and linkage, thus
755 enhancing the county's economic base.

756

757 **ED-604** King County ((will)) shall continue to partner with organizations that support
758 programs and strategies that strengthen the interdependence and linkage
759 between the rural, resource, and urban economies(~~(, such as the Regional Food~~
760 ~~Policy Council and Puget Sound Fresh)).~~

761

762 ~~((ED-605) King County recognizes the value of open and green space in promoting social~~
763 ~~and economic health and wellness throughout the county. The county will~~
764 ~~continue to invest in public lands and partner with organizations that support~~
765 ~~and strengthen the linkages between rural, resource and urban communities' use~~
766 ~~and maintenance of these open spaces.))~~

767

768 **ED-606** King County ((will)) shall encourage economic analysis and economic
769 development of the local food system as called for in the Local Food Initiative.

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CHAPTER 11

COMMUNITY SERVICE AREA SUBAREA PLANNING

Prior to adoption of the Growth Management Act in 1990, 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, there have only been minor updates to community plans that were processed through updates to the Comprehensive Plan.)) to implement the Comprehensive Plan. Under the Growth Management Act, community planning became optional, and the County generally stopped updating its community plans.

After nearly two decades of aging plans and significant growth)) In 2014, in response to significant growth and aging plans, 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)). Since then, three community service area subarea plans have been adopted. Additional subarea plans are

scheduled to be completed in the coming years.

8

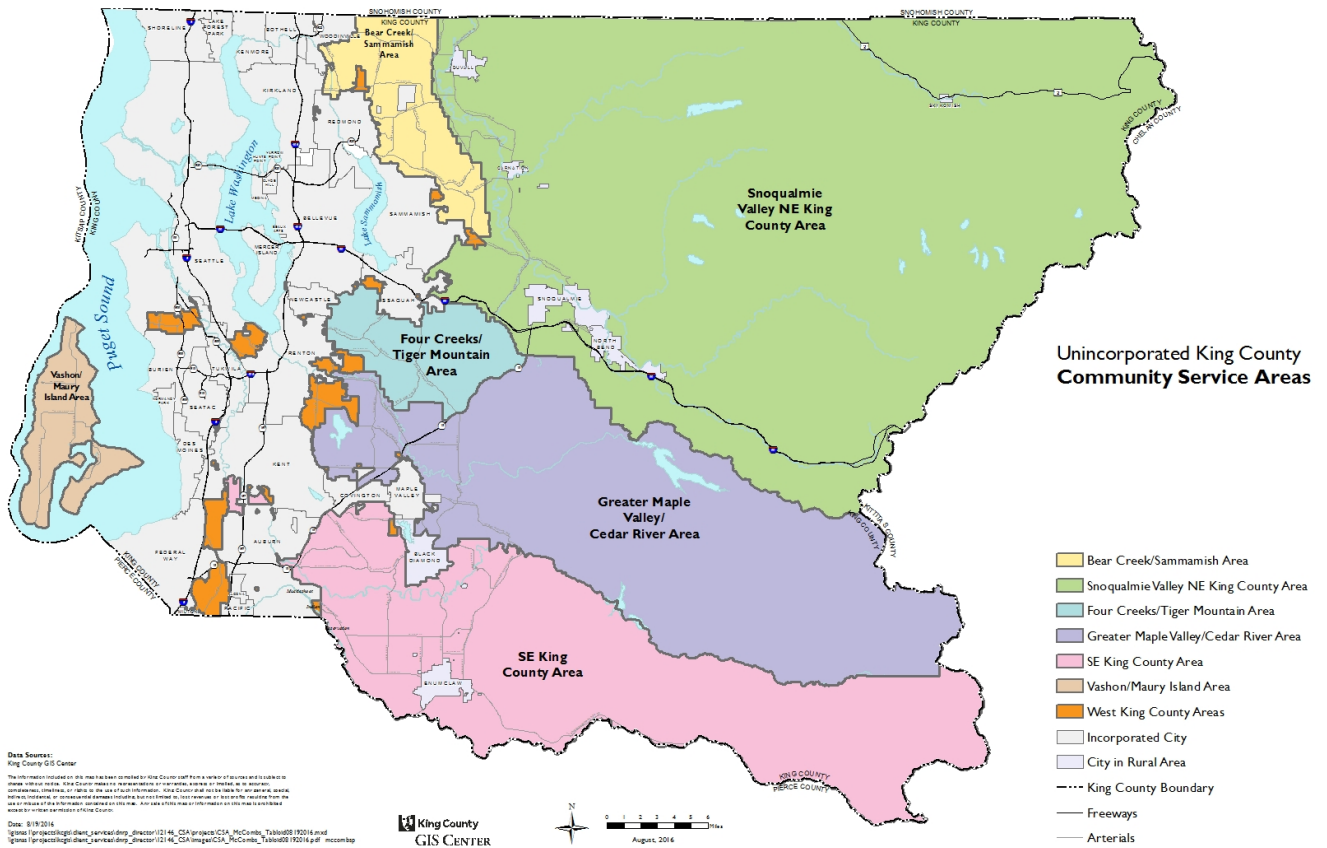
9

10 **((A.)) Planning Framework and Geography**

11 ((Beginning with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan t))The geographical boundaries of the County’s seven
 12 Community Service Areas ((will be)) is used as the framework for creation and amendment of subarea plans
 13 ((created and amended from that point forward)). Subarea plans will be developed for the six rural Community
 14 Service Areas, and for the five remaining large urban unincorporated ((p))Potential ((a))Annexation ((a))Areas.
 15 The focus of subarea plans will be on locally-specific issues in these subarea geographies.

16
 17 ((There are a number of key benefits to defining subarea planning boundaries to be coterminous with the
 18 Community Service Area boundaries. This structure organizes the County’s unincorporated planning area into
 19 fewer and more manageable territories so that updates of the plans can occur within a shorter time horizon.
 20 Using the Community Service Area boundaries also aligns land use planning with other county services and
 21 programs thereby increasing consistency between planning and public service delivery. Finally, since the last
 22 round of subarea planning in 1994 there have been numerous major annexations and incorporations which mean
 23 some subareas are now largely within the jurisdiction of cities and thus the County now has just a regional,
 24 rather than local, planning role in those areas.))

25
 26 **Figure: Community Service Areas Map**



28
 29

((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)) TBD

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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 new geographic structure.

Community Service Area	<i>Includes parts of the following former Community Planning Areas</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
SE 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 (<i>unincorp. urban</i>)	Portions of 10 Community Planning Areas

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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 will))~~ these geographies ensure 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 play a particularly key role during subarea plan 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 ((e))Color((,)); ~~((low income))~~ residents with low incomes((,)); and ~~((populations with limited English proficiency will be informed and))~~ people speaking a language(s) other than English are offered equitable and culturally-appropriate opportunities to ~~((participate in its))~~ work with the County throughout the planning process.

((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)) TBD

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

63 *Narrative moved from Chapter 1 Regional Growth Management Planning, with edits shown*

64

65 **CP-100**

**King County shall continue to implement a Community Service Area subarea
planning program. This program shall include((s)) the following components for
the development and implementation of each subarea plan:**

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- a. **A subarea plan ((shall be)) developed and adopted consistent with the schedule established in the Comprehensive Plan and King County Code Title 20 for each of the six rural Community Service Areas and five large urban Potential Annexation Areas ((consistent with the scheduled established in the Comprehensive Plan and King County Code Title 20. Each subarea plan shall be)), streamlined to be focused on locally-specific policies that address long-range community needs((-), and including consideration of land use tools to help plan for and accommodate housing needs for all income levels;**
- b. **A consideration of the financial costs and public benefits of the proposed subarea plan prior to adoption to ensure that implementation can be appropriately prioritized;**
- c. ~~((The County shall adopt and update on an ongoing basis, a))~~ **A list of services, programs, facilities, and capital improvements, updated on an ongoing basis, that are identified by the community for each geography, known as a community needs list, to implement the vision and policies in the subarea plan and other County plans and to build on the strengths and assets of the community((-);**
- ~~((e-))~~ **d. ((The County should dedicate)) Dedicated resources toward implementation of the subarea plans and community needs lists in coordination with each community so the highest priorities are addressed where the needs are greatest((-);**
- ~~((d-))~~ **e. Implementation of each subarea plan and community needs list ((shall be)) monitored on an ongoing basis via established performance metrics((-);**
- ~~((e-))~~ **f. Community engagement for development, review, amendment, adoption, and implementation of each subarea plan ((shall use)) using the Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice’s equity toolkit and centering engagement with historically underrepresented groups((-); and**

((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)) TBD

97 **((f.)) g.** The King County Council shall have an established role in the
 98 Community Service Area subarea planning process, including in the
 99 development, review, amendment, adoption, and monitoring the
 100 implementation of each subarea plan and community needs list.
 101

102 **((B.)) Planning Schedule**

103 Below is the schedule for subarea planning using the Community Service Area geography~~((--R))~~ for reviewing all
 104 six rural Community Service Area subareas and five large urban Potential Annexation Areas ~~((over the next~~
 105 ~~decade at both the broad, policy level and at the local, community level with detailed planning will facilitate a~~
 106 ~~more equitable planning process. The plan sequencing was determined by subarea plans already underway, the~~
 107 ~~ability to partner with other jurisdictions, anticipated community needs within a Community Service Area, and~~
 108 ~~striving for a countywide geographic balance in alternating years.)) The anticipated duration of each subarea~~
 109 planning process will be three years, which includes time for community engagement, plan development, and
 110 Council review and adoption.
 111

112 **Schedule of Community Service Area (CSA) Subarea Plans**

Planning	Transmittal	Adoption	Geography	Other Planning
2021-2023 ¹	December 2023	December 2024	Snoqualmie Valley/NE King CSA	((Eight)) 10-Year Update
((2023-2025)) 2024-2026	June ((2025)) 2026	June ((2026)) 2027	Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River CSA	
((2024-2026)) 2025-2027	June ((2026)) 2027	June ((2027)) 2028	Fairwood Potential Annexation Area (PAA)	
				Potential Midpoint Comprehensive Plan Update
((2025-2027)) 2028-2030	June ((2027)) 2030	June ((2028)) 2031	Bear Creek/Sammamish CSA	
((2026-2028)) 2029-2031	June ((2028)) 2031	June ((2029)) 2032	Southeast King County CSA	((Potential Midpoint Update))
				10-year Comprehensive Plan Update
((2027-2029)) 2033-2035	June ((2029)) 2035	June ((2030)) 2036	Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain CSA	
((2028-2030)) 2034-2036	June ((2030)) 2036	June ((2034)) 2037	East Renton PAA	
((2029-2034)) 2035-2037	June ((2034)) 2037	June ((2032)) 2038	Federal Way PAA	((Eight Year Update))

((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)) TBD

				<u>Potential Midpoint Comprehensive Plan Update</u>
TBD ²		TBD	Vashon-Maury Island CSA	
TBD ²		TBD	Skyway-West Hill PAA	
TBD ²		TBD	North Highline PAA	

113 Note: Planning for each geography is anticipated to take two years, beginning in July of the first year and ending
 114 in June two years later. Council adoption anticipated to occur in June of the following year.

115 1. The Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County subarea planning process began later in 2021 than
 116 anticipated. Therefore, the schedule was adjusted to provide necessary time for community engagement and
 117 plan development.

118 2. The Vashon-Maury Island, Skyway-West Hill, and North Highline subarea plans have been adopted and will
 119 be updated following completion of the other Community Service Area Subarea Plans. The timelines for these
 120 updates will be determined in future updates to the King County Comprehensive Plan.

121

122 For ~~((each of))~~ the Community Service Area subarea planning processes specified below, the subarea plans and
 123 their scopes of work shall also include:

124

<u>((Study in Motion 14351)) Legislative Direction</u>	<u>Community Service Area (CSA)</u>
Snoqualmie Pass Subarea Plan: 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.	Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County CSA
((Cedar Hills/Maple Valley Subarea Plan: 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	Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain CSA

((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)) TBD

<u>((Study in Motion 14351)) Legislative Direction</u>	Community Service Area (CSA)
proposal is appropriate for this area; and outreach with the local community in its development. ¹	
<p>Snoqualmie Interchange:</p> <p>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 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.</p>	Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County CSA

125

126 The schedule above ensures that subarea plan goals and objectives are up-to-date and relevant based on current
 127 and future needs. Within this larger structure, if a property owner has an interest in a land use change outside of
 128 this planning cycle, they are able to use the existing land use processes. Property owners can submit for a Site
 129 Specific Land Use Amendment or Zone Reclassification, per King County Code 20.18.050 and Chapter 20.20,
 130 respectively. ~~((If a significant land use issue arises in a Community Service Area outside of the planning cycle,~~
 131 ~~the cycle may be adjusted.))~~

132

133 In consideration of the restructure of the subarea planning program adopted in 2018 and 2020, the County will
 134 evaluate initiating a performance audit of the program once the restructure has been implemented, by adding a
 135 requirement to the King County Auditor’s work plan during the 2023-2024 biennium. Additionally, following
 136 the completion of the first subarea planning cycle, the subarea planning schedule for developing and adopting
 137 updates to the subarea plans moving forward will be reviewed as part of the ~~((2032 eight))~~ 2034 10-year
 138 Comprehensive Plan update. This review will include evaluation of whether the subarea plan update schedule
 139 and process can be condensed from its current planning cycle.

140

¹ Motion 14351

141 **~~((C.))~~ Background**

142 Between 1973 and 1994 King County prepared community plans for 12 ~~((subareas))~~ areas of unincorporated
143 King County. The first generation of community plans, substantially completed by 1984, were used to
144 implement the ~~((e))~~ County's 1964 Comprehensive Plan, and consisted of detailed land use policies, area zoning,
145 and lists of capital projects (primarily roads and parks) for each planning area. The second generation of
146 community plans, from 1985 to 1994, implemented many concepts of the 1985 King County Comprehensive
147 Plan (for example low-density zoning for Rural Areas, Natural Resource Lands and environmentally sensitive
148 areas, higher urban residential densities, and development guidelines for major urban activity centers such as
149 Kenmore) that were carried over to the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan.

150
151 Under King County's pre-Growth Management Act planning system, if a community plan conflicted with the
152 comprehensive plan, the community plan governed. Under the Growth Management Act, the comprehensive
153 plan prevails over "subarea" plans (Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.080~~((2))~~). The 1994 King County
154 Comprehensive Plan spelled out the relationship between the comprehensive plan and community plans and
155 directed the ~~((e))~~ County to review community plans and repeal or revise them to eliminate conflicts. The
156 ~~((e))~~ County ~~((has))~~ reviewed the community plans adopted between 1973 and 1994 and determined that, while
157 most community plans' policies are redundant (or, in a few cases, in conflict with the 1994 Comprehensive Plan),
158 some are area-specific or issue-specific and should be readopted as part of the ~~((e))~~ Comprehensive ~~((p))~~ Plan.

159
160 Although the majority of the community plans are no longer in effect as separately adopted plans, in many cases
161 the published plan documents contain valuable historical information about King County's communities and
162 other information that provides background for the policies listed below and for the portions of the local
163 pre-Growth Management Act area zoning that remain in effect. The only separately adopted community plan
164 from these previous planning efforts currently in effect is the Fall City Subarea Plan.

165
166 The following sections of this chapter will be updated, as appropriate, to reflect the new Community Service
167 Area subarea plans as they are adopted. The subarea plans that have been adopted under the new subarea
168 planning framework include: the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan, the Skyway-
169 West Hill Community Service Area Subarea Plan, and the North Highline Community Service Area Subarea
170 Plan.

171
172 **~~((F.))~~ Bear Creek / Sammamish Area**

173 The Bear Creek/Sammamish Community Service Area consists of portions of the following former Community
174 Planning Areas: Bear Creek, Northshore and East Sammamish. Large sections of this area have been annexed
175 into the cities of Bothell and Redmond and have incorporated into the cities of Kenmore, Sammamish and
176 Woodinville. The Urban Planned Developments east of the City of Redmond were controlled through
177 development agreements; however, those agreements were expiring and, in 2020, King County established land

178 use and zoning for these areas. King County will not permit additional similar urban-scale development outside
179 the Urban Growth Area. The policies listed below pertain to areas within the Community Service Area that are
180 still within unincorporated King County.

181

182 In 2014, the estimated population in the Bear Creek/Sammamish CSA was 44,000. Of this total, 9,000 people
183 were estimated to live in the Redmond Ridge Urban Planned Development and 34,900 people were estimated to
184 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
185 were in the Redmond Ridge Urban Planned Development and 12,300 were in the CSA rural portion.

186

187 **Background**

188

189 **Bear Creek.** The Bear Creek Community Plan became effective in February 1989, and directed most forecast
190 growth into a concentrated area near the City of Redmond Watershed, first referred to as the "Novelty Hill
191 Master Planned Developments." The rest of the Bear Creek Plateau was designated for a mixture of suburban
192 and rural residential development. The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan redesignated most of the
193 planning area as Rural Area. In 1995, some of the Bear Creek Community Plan's policies relating to the Novelty
194 Hill Master Planned Developments (MPDs) were amended by Ordinance 11954. Also, the 1994 Comprehensive
195 Plan refers to MPDs as Urban Planned Developments.

196

197 After the 1994 Comprehensive Plan's urban designation of the Urban Planned Developments sites was appealed
198 and remanded to the county, the sites in question were redesignated for Fully Contained Communities as
199 defined in the Growth Management Act, as well as Urban Planned Developments (~~((See policy U-178)))~~). The
200 readopted policies for the most part address Novelty Hill and some area-specific transportation and trail issues.

201

202 **East Sammamish.** The East Sammamish Community Plan was adopted in December 1992. The East
203 Sammamish Community Plan Update became effective in June 1993. Most of the planning area was designated
204 for urban development, but important Rural Areas included Happy Valley, Grand Ridge and the eastern edge of
205 the Sammamish Plateau. For the most part, the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan reaffirmed the land use
206 designations of the East Sammamish Community Plan Update. The major changes from the community plan
207 occasioned by the 1994 Comprehensive Plan were replacement of the "urban reserve" approach to growth
208 phasing with the service and finance strategy outlined in the 1994 Comprehensive Plan and the designation of a
209 portion of Grand Ridge for urban growth.

210

211 **Northshore.** The first "Northshore Communities Development Plan" began in 1972-1973 and was adopted in
212 August 1977. Almost immediately the Northshore Community Plan Revision Committee was established, and
213 the "Revised Northshore Community Plan" was adopted in 1981.

214

215 The latest Northshore Community Plan Update began in July 1988 and was adopted in February 1993. During
216 1993, the newly incorporated City of Woodinville assumed jurisdiction within its territory. Portions of the
217 planning area have been annexed by Bothell, Kirkland and Redmond. Kenmore, a significant unincorporated
218 activity center, became a city in August 1998.

219

220 **Bear Creek Policies**

221

222 **CP-101 To provide a range of housing opportunities and accommodate a fair share of**
223 **growth in Bear Creek, the Novelty Hill subarea should be designated an urban**
224 **planned development (UPD) and fully contained community (FCC). This**
225 **designation will be implemented by urban planned development. (BC-3)**

226

227 **CP-102 Urban planned development will be permitted in the Novelty Hill subarea only**
228 **when the following planning policies are met:**

- 229 a. To protect existing wetlands, streams and wildlife habitat, urban planned
230 development shall be consistent with the intent of King County
231 ordinances, King County Comprehensive Plan policies, and sensitive
232 areas regulations. The design of the proposed development shall
233 protect and preserve existing wetlands, streams and wildlife habitat by
234 several methods including (but not limited to) minimizing alterations to
235 the natural drainage features, maintaining water quality, preserving
236 storage capacity, providing undisturbed unique/outstanding wetlands
237 and undisturbed or enhanced buffers, restricting the number of stream
238 crossings, and minimizing erosion and sedimentation. To achieve the
239 intent of this policy it may be necessary to exceed the requirements of
240 the King County wetland guidelines.
- 241 b. A master drainage plan for the Novelty Hill subarea shall be approved by
242 King County.
- 243 c. New development adjacent to a unique/outstanding or significant
244 wetland should preserve or enhance the wetland and provide an
245 undisturbed buffer around the wetland adequate to protect its natural
246 functions. Encroachments into significant wetlands may be allowed
247 when no feasible alternative exists and enhancements are provided to
248 replace the lost wetland functions; and
- 249 d. Groundwater recharge areas should be identified and protected to
250 ensure that groundwater resources are protected from potential
251 pollution.
- 252 e. To ensure that the existing road system in both King County and
253 Redmond is not adversely affected, on-site and off-site traffic impacts
254 shall be mitigated consistent with the Integrated Transportation Program
255 (K.C.C. chapter 14.65).

- 256 f. A project environmental impact statement (EIS) shall be required for all
257 property proposed for urban planned development within the Urban
258 Planned Development area. The project EIS shall address the full range
259 of public services necessary to serve urban development on Novelty Hill.
260 The EIS shall include the cost of these services, the financial
261 responsibility of the developer(s) and affected jurisdictions, and the
262 method of phasing development to coincide with availability of these
263 public services.
- 264 g. Since the remainder of residential land in Bear Creek will either be
265 recognized as existing one-acre neighborhoods or designated as Rural
266 Areas, all improvements to public facilities, including but not limited to
267 road construction and sewers, shall be financed by the Urban Planned
268 Development developers provided the impacts are the result of UPD
269 developments or according to a fair-share formula agreed to by affected
270 parties.
- 271 h. A full range of housing densities, types and prices including housing for
272 low-, moderate-, and medium-income groups shall be included in the
273 Urban Planned Development. The mix of single-family and multifamily
274 housing in the Urban Planned Developments shall approximate the
275 existing county housing stock mix.
- 276 i. Urban planned development shall maintain and keep open for public use
277 identified major equestrian and hiking trails.
- 278 j. Urban planned development shall provide active recreation facilities that
279 adequately serve the needs of future residents and employees.
- 280 k. Urban planned development shall provide a minimum of 25% open space
281 in addition to the preservation of all surveyed wetlands.
- 282 l. The Novelty Hill urban planned development area shall contain an urban
283 activity center, which includes a commercial center to provide for the
284 everyday shopping needs of the planned Urban Planned Development
285 population.
- 286 m. The activity center shall also contain a business park of sufficient size to
287 provide a diversity of employment opportunities and a balance of jobs
288 and households for the Urban Planned Development area.
- 289 n. In order to preserve opportunities for a variety of employment types in
290 the business park areas, retail development in freestanding buildings
291 should be excluded. Up to 10% of gross floor area in business park
292 buildings may be planned for retail uses, such as restaurants and
293 business services, to serve business park employees.
- 294 o. Development conditions for the shopping and business park areas
295 should encourage high quality development and site design.
296

- 297 The area will revert to rural if UPD development is denied or not pursued. If the
298 UPD area reverts to rural, the zoning shall be RA-5. (BC-4)
299
- 300 **CP-103** Sewer facilities necessary to serve urban planned development on Novelty Hill
301 are planned, designed and constructed to serve only such development and are
302 prohibited from serving nearby surrounding low-density urban and Rural Areas.
303 Proposals to extend sewer service or expand urban development outside the
304 Novelty Hill subarea are not appropriate and are inconsistent with the purpose of
305 the King County Comprehensive Plan. (BC-5)
306
- 307 **CP-104** The Novelty Hill urban planned development or fully contained community shall
308 contain a commercial area of sufficient size to serve the future residents and
309 employees. (BC-17)
310
- 311 **CP-105** The natural drainage systems of Bear, Evans, and Patterson Creeks should be
312 restored, maintained, and enhanced to protect water quality, preserve existing
313 aquatic habitat, reduce public costs, and prevent environmental degradation.
314 Public improvements and private developments should not alter natural drainage
315 systems without mitigating measures which eliminate increased risk of flooding
316 and erosion, negative impacts on water quality, and loss on aquatic or riparian
317 habitat. (BC-32)
318
- 319 **CP-106** An undisturbed corridor wide enough to maintain the natural biological and
320 hydrological functions of streams should be preserved in all new development in
321 the Bear Creek Planning Area. (BC-34)
322
- 323 **CP-107** Bear, Evans, and Patterson Creeks and their tributaries should be protected from
324 grazing animal access in order to: 1) reduce water quality degradation from
325 animal wastes, 2) reduce bank collapse due to trampling, and 3) allow shading
326 vegetation to reestablish along stream banks. (BC-35)
327
- 328 **CP-108** Streams channeled in the Bear, Evans, and Patterson Creek drainages should not
329 be placed in culverts unless absolutely necessary for property access. To
330 reduce disruption to streams and their banks, bridges should be used for stream
331 crossings, and crossings should serve several properties. When culverts are
332 required, oversized culverts with gravel bottoms that maintain the channels'
333 width and grade should be used. (BC-38)
334
- 335 **CP-109** New development should rehabilitate degraded stream channels and banks in the
336 Bear, Evans, and Patterson Creek drainages to prevent further erosion and water

337 quality problems. Where conditions permit, the banks and channels should be
338 restored to a natural state. (BC-39)

339
340 **CP-110** Unique or significant wildlife should be identified and preserved. Development
341 plans should identify significant wildlife habitat and should locate buildings,
342 roads, and other features on less sensitive portions of the site. These
343 considerations may result in a reduction in density from that otherwise allowed
344 by zoning. (BC-40)

345
346 **CP-111** The Bear and Evans Creeks' watersheds have been designated as critical areas
347 for protection of the aquatic resources and human health. The following surface
348 water management activities should be promoted.
349 a. Appropriate and reasoned changes in land use policies and regulations
350 may be evaluated during the preparation of the Bear/Evans Creeks Basin
351 Plan.
352 b. Ensure adequate field inspection of land development activities.
353 c. Implement a public information program to promote water resources and
354 stream channel protection.
355 d. The Bear and Evans Creeks Basin Plan shall develop recommendations
356 for water quality monitoring and recommended methods for citizen input
357 and evaluation to assess the success of the county's policies and
358 regulations pertaining to this planning area. (BC-41)

359
360 **CP-112** Mitigation of traffic impacts to the City of Redmond arterial system will be
361 accomplished through the interlocal agreement process. The Avondale arterial
362 corridor study recommendations shall be used as a basis for traffic mitigation
363 requirements for both city and county development affecting the corridor.
364 a. Mitigation shall preserve the operational integrity of the corridor and
365 maintain existing local access. The primary arterial corridor between the
366 Novelty Hill urban area and SR-520 should be located and designed to
367 encourage transit and ride-sharing alternatives to single-occupant
368 vehicle travel.
369 b. Transportation planning of new facilities and management of the
370 transportation system should be coordinated with current and forecast
371 needs of the East Sammamish and Northshore planning areas, adjacent
372 areas of Snohomish County, and with the cities of Redmond and
373 Kirkland, and should be a cooperative effort of the affected jurisdictions.
374 Phasing of Bear Creek and Redmond development should be strongly
375 linked to the provision of adequate transportation facilities and travel
376 demand management programs. (BC-45A)

377

378 CP-113 Establishment of new rights-of-way and acquisition of additional right-of-way in
379 existing corridors should emphasize protection of natural systems and adequate
380 buffering of existing and potential residential development. (BC-47)

381

382 CP-114 Road improvements in Cottage Lake, Ring Hill, Ames Lake, Union Hill, and the
383 Rural Areas should incorporate design features such as grass-lined swales to
384 minimize surface water disruption and to protect and enhance water quality.
385 (BC-49)

386

387 CP-115 196th Avenue Northeast ("Red Brick Road") between Union Hill Road and
388 Redmond-Fall City Road (SR-202) is a historic road and should be preserved by
389 restoring its brick surface, limiting vehicular loads and speeds, and prohibiting
390 access to commercially-zoned properties to the west. Access to these properties
391 should be provided by other existing roads and by a new north-south road
392 connecting Union Hill Road and 185th/187th Avenues Northeast. (BC-50)

393

394 CP-116 Park-and-ride and park-and-pool lots should be developed in Redmond, Cottage
395 Lake, Ring Hill, Ames Lake, and Union Hill to provide focal points for transit and
396 ride sharing. Park-and-pool lots should be located in Rural Areas along major
397 commuting corridors such as SR-202, Redmond-Fall City Road, Novelty Hill
398 Road, and Woodinville-Duvall Road. (BC-52)

399

400 CP-117 The Northwest Gas Pipeline and Puget Sound Power Line should be established
401 as regional trails in Bear Creek to tie in with other planning areas and to connect
402 with the King County Tolt Pipeline Trail and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. (BC-61)

403

404 CP-118 When the development of property occurs in Bear Creek, adequate rights-of-way
405 should be provided for trail use. Trails should connect to existing and proposed
406 schools, parks, riding stables, and recreation areas. (BC-62)

407

408 **East Sammamish Policies**

409 CP-119 For all new development, increased standards for retention/detention, water
410 quality facilities, and monitoring shall be considered, adopted and implemented
411 as appropriate within the areas identified in surface water management basin
412 planning and reconnaissance study areas. (NE-1)

413

414 CP-120 As new roads are built and existing roads widened, special consideration shall
415 be taken to create or retain the aesthetic character of the area through the use of
416 vegetated buffers that utilize native vegetation. (NE-3)

417

- 418 **CP-121** Control mechanisms equal to or more effective than those adopted by Ordinance
419 9365 limiting or removing phosphorus and other non-point source pollutants
420 from water bodies should be established and implemented as special
421 requirements in area-specific basins plans to provide added protection to
422 streams, lakes, wetlands. The Lake Sammamish Water Quality Management
423 Project Report and, upon their adoption, the Issaquah Creek and East Lake
424 Sammamish Basin and Non-point Source Control Plan, the Pine Lake
425 Management Plan and the Beaver Lake Management Plan recommendations
426 should be implemented to protect water bodies from non-point source pollution.
427 (NE-7)
428
- 429 **CP-122** Development shall protect wildlife through site design and landscaping. New
430 development within or adjacent to the wildlife habitat network should incorporate
431 design techniques that protect and enhance wildlife habitat values. (NE-10)
432
- 433 **CP-123** All golf course proposals shall be carefully evaluated for their impacts on surface
434 and groundwater quality, sensitive areas, and fish and wildlife resources and
435 habitat. (NE-11)
436
- 437 **CP-124** Water used for irrigating golf courses should come from nonpotable water
438 sources wherever possible. Use of natural surface water sources, such as
439 streams, should be avoided due to impacts on fish and other wildlife habitat. A
440 water conservation plan shall be submitted with golf course applications which
441 should address measures such as the use of drought-tolerant plant species.
442 (NE-12)
443
- 444 **CP-125** The Patterson Creek Basin currently provides highly-productive aquatic habitat.
445 Urban development within this basin should be conditioned to protect this
446 resource by minimizing site disturbance, impervious surfaces and disturbances
447 of wetlands and streams. (No Community Plan Policy Number)
448
- 449 **CP-126** The Northwest Pipeline office and maintenance shop is an existing use and is
450 recognized by this plan as providing a needed service to the area. This 6.5 acre
451 site may redevelop for pipeline utility and/or school bus base uses exclusive of
452 major maintenance functions that are compatible with the surrounding rural
453 development and agricultural uses. Redesignation of additional properties in the
454 immediate vicinity of Northwest Pipeline for manufacturing park uses or other
455 urban uses shall not be permitted. (CI-13)
456
- 457 **CP-127** New developments should be designed and constructed with an internal road
458 system which includes a Neighborhood Collector linking with existing or planned
459 adjacent developments, creating a complete Neighborhood Collector circulation

460 system and such linkage should be designed to ensure safety of local streets.
461 Through traffic on local access streets should be discouraged. (T-9)

462
463 **CP-128** Metropolitan King County Government should establish park-and-ride facilities in
464 the East Sammamish Community Planning area. Park-and-ride facilities should
465 be built along 228th Avenue and/or adjacent to I-90 and SR-202. The
466 park-and-ride lots should be sited adjacent to and connect with existing or
467 proposed community or neighborhood centers or within the employment center
468 located around the intersection of E. Lake Sammamish Parkway and SE 56th
469 Street. Establishment of a site near, but to the north of, I-90 should be high
470 priority response to current and anticipated I-90 access problems. (T-13)

471
472 **CP-129** Consistent with the King County Open Space Plan, the county shall encourage
473 establishment of an open space system in East Sammamish and give priority to
474 protecting recreational, cultural and natural and sensitive areas such as
475 shorelines, aquifer recharge areas, wildlife habitat, historic properties,
476 archaeological sites, scenic vistas and community separators or greenbelts. The
477 county may require lot clustering within or adjacent to open space areas;
478 linkages between open spaces and may provide density bonuses or incentives to
479 developers who preserve significant open space or establish trails beyond
480 usually applied mitigation. (P-11)

481
482 **CP-130** Urban separators should be established to provide visual relief from continuous
483 development, provide important linkages for wildlife habitat, and maintain a
484 visual separation between distinct communities. (P-17)

485
486 **CP-131** There are areas within the urban separators that are especially suitable for trail
487 connections for recreational use by present and anticipated population. King
488 County should develop a trail and/or parks system utilizing the preserved open
489 space within the urban separators. (P-18)

490
491 **CP-132** When the development of properties occurs in the East Sammamish planning
492 area, public access or easements should be required to complete the
493 development of a local trail system for those areas where existing trails have
494 historically been used by the public, or where the King County Open Space Plan
495 identifies proposed trail alignment for regional and local trails. The Parks
496 Division shall review the application during the development review process.
497 (P-23)

498
499 **Northshore Policies**

500

- 501 **CP-133** The north and east slopes of Norway Hill have an established neighborhood
502 character and limited future development potential. They are, therefore,
503 designated low density urban, 1 home per acre. King County recognizes that
504 extensive steep slopes and erosive soils at the top of Norway Hill (above the
505 300-foot elevation mark) warrant lower residential densities. (E-10)
506
- 507 **CP-134** The undeveloped area to the south of Metro's Brickyard Park and Ride lot should
508 retain its office-only designation in recognition of its proximity to a major
509 transportation corridor and the need for increased employment opportunity in
510 proximity to planned high-density residential areas. (E-13)
511
- 512 **CP-135** King County, Snohomish County, the City of Bothell, and the City of Woodinville
513 should work on specific areas of mutual concern, such as the Swamp Creek and
514 Daniels Creek drainage basins, the SR-527 transportation corridor, the proposed
515 regional facilities of the University of Washington, and the future expansion of
516 the City of Bothell. (E-25)
517
- 518 **CP-136** Significant vegetation is a diminishing resource in the Northshore community.
519 Significant vegetation contributes significantly to environmental quality,
520 neighborhood character, and the quality of life in Northshore. All new residential
521 development shall retain significant existing vegetation. Native vegetation
522 should be utilized wherever possible. (R-17)
523
- 524 **CP-137** New development must provide pedestrian connections to off-site facilities such
525 as existing trails, walkways, community facilities and services, transit, schools
526 and surrounding residential neighborhoods. Pedestrian links should be provided
527 internally in all new residential development. Bicycle and equestrian links should
528 be provided where possible. (R-19)
529
- 530 **CP-138** King County recognizes the importance of existing mobile home parks in
531 providing affordable housing options. Mobile home parks outside of the
532 Woodinville and Kenmore commercial core areas are designated for mobile home
533 park uses, and shall be zoned appropriately.
- 534 a. King County shall continue to examine the feasibility of funding and
535 developing a replacement mobile home park in north King County for
536 displaced mobile homes on county-owned or privately owned sites.
- 537 b. King County should develop interlocal agreements with the cities of
538 Bothell, Redmond, Kirkland, Woodinville and Kenmore for joint
539 development of replacement parks to accommodate mobile home
540 owners if they are displaced from mobile home parks within cities.
541 (R-21)

542

543 **CP-139** Roadway improvements addressing the transportation needs in the Sammamish
544 Valley from the South Woodinville bypass to Northeast 124th Street should
545 carefully preserve the rural character of the valley as indicated by this and other
546 adopted land use plans. Incorporating roadway design characteristics, such as
547 tree windbreaks and shoulders instead of curb and gutter, will enhance this rural
548 atmosphere. Access from adjacent properties to the proposed Willows Road
549 extension shall be discouraged. Where access is necessary from adjacent
550 properties, access shall be consolidated. (T-11)

551

552 **CP-140** Transportation projects in Northshore should incorporate bicycle friendly design,
553 utilizing a variety of design techniques appropriate to the particular project and
554 right-of-way characteristics, including, but not limited to, bicycle lanes, wide
555 outside travel lanes, paved shoulders, bicycle sensitive signal detectors, and
556 appropriate signing. Existing bicycle facilities should be preserved or enhanced
557 when general road improvements are made. Secure parking for bicycles should
558 be provided at activity centers throughout Northshore. (T-33)

559

560 **CP-141** Pedestrian and bicycle linkages are encouraged and should be planned. There
561 should also be a link for equestrian uses from Hollywood Hill and NE 171st Street
562 to the Sammamish River trail in the vicinity of the South Woodinville CBD
563 bypass. (W-14)

564

565 **CP-142** Protection of natural vegetation coverage at levels sufficient to moderate surface
566 water runoff and erosion and to protect the integrity of stream channels should
567 be required through special zoning requirements, critical drainage basin
568 requirements, or countywide ordinance. When revegetation is required,
569 appropriate native vegetation should be used. (NR-4)

570

571 **CP-143** Unique geologic conditions in Northshore have resulted in hillsides that have a
572 high risk of large scale erosion. Increased on-site retention/detention
573 requirements in areas drainage over steep and erosive slopes should be adopted
574 and implemented as special zoning requirements. (NR-9)

575

576 **CP-144** A community-wide trail system for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists
577 should be developed. This trail system should connect regional trails with local
578 trails and walkways. (P-6)

579

580 **CP-145** When the development of properties occurs in the Northshore Planning Area,
581 public access or easements should be required to complete the development of a
582 local trail system. Adequate right-of-way should be provided for trail use. To

583 ensure that the provision of trail corridor right-of-way does not result in a
584 reduction in the number of permitted building lots, the area within the trail
585 right-of-way, not otherwise credited as part of a road right-of-way dedication,
586 should also be credited toward the lot area of any proposed development. Trails
587 should connect to existing and proposed schools, parks, riding stables,
588 recreation areas and neighborhoods. (P-9)

589
590 **CP-146** King County should work closely with other jurisdictions and public agencies to
591 seek appropriate trail links between elements of the open space system
592 including, but not limited to the Burke-Gilman trail, Sammamish River trail, and
593 the Tolt Pipeline Trail. (P-10)

594
595 **CP-147** Existing public access points to the Sammamish River should be maintained and
596 additional access points acquired and developed to ensure the use of this river
597 as trail corridor and fishing area. (P-11)

598

599 ~~((H.))~~ Four Creeks / Tiger Mountain Area

600 **Background**

601

602 The Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain Community Service Area consists of portions of the following former
603 Community Planning Areas: Newcastle, Tahoma Raven Heights, East Sammamish and Snoqualmie. A large
604 portion of the area incorporated as the City of Newcastle and annexed in to the City of Issaquah. The Klahanie
605 Annexation expanded the City of Sammamish in 2016.

606

607 In 2014, the estimated population in the Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain CSA was approximately 13,000. In 2010,
608 there were 4,870 housing units in the CSA.

609

610 The Newcastle Community Plan commenced in 1978 and was adopted in May 1983. The final adopted plan
611 designated three sites for Master Planned Developments (MPDs), but stipulated that only two MPDs could
612 occur without an update of the community plan. One MPD was approved by the county in the late 1980s.
613 Bellevue annexed Factoria and Newport Hills in 1993 and the City of Newcastle was incorporated in 1994, so
614 the noncity portion of the planning area's population fell 13 percent between 1990 and 1994 even though the
615 whole planning area was forecasted to grow almost 18 percent between 1994 and 2010. The planning area also
616 included some areas designated Rural Area by either the 1985 or 1994 King County Comprehensive Plans.

617

618 **Newcastle Policies**

619

620 **CP-201** King County supports the nomination of the Odd Fellows Cemetery and
621 counterbalance right-of-way to the National and State Registers of Historic
622 Places. (N-33)

623

624 **CP-202** Limit grazing animal access to May Creek and its tributaries in order to 1) reduce
625 water quality degradation from animal wastes, 2) reduce bank collapse due to
626 animals' hooves, and 3) allow shading vegetation to reestablish along stream
627 banks. (N-41)

628

629 **CP-203** May Creek is acknowledged as a regional asset and should be protected. Thus,
630 King County shall not increase zoning density on lands that drain into May Creek
631 (i.e. the May Valley Basin) without first determining and implementing stormwater
632 runoff mitigation necessary to control flooding and siltation in May Creek.

633

634 ~~((H.))~~ **Greater Maple Valley / Cedar River Area**

635

636 The Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Community Service Area encompasses portions of the following former
637 Community Planning Areas: Soos Creek, Tahoma Raven Heights, Snoqualmie and East King County.

638

639 In 2014, the estimated population in the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River CSA was approximately 17,000. In
640 2010, there were 6,700 housing units in the CSA.

641

642 **Background**

643

644 The first Soos Creek Plateau Communities Plan (SCCP) commenced during the fall of 1975, and was adopted in
645 November 1979. The process was controversial, partly because Soos Creek served as a laboratory for several
646 emerging planning concepts, including a Rural Area land use designation implemented with zoning limiting
647 residential density to one home per five acres.

648

649 The Soos Creek Community Plan Update commenced in March 1988 and was adopted in December 1991. In
650 1995 the City of Kent initiated annexation of a very large area between it and Lake Meridian, intended to
651 encompass most of its Potential Annexation Area (PAA) within the planning area. The cities of Maple Valley
652 and Covington have commenced operating and assumed jurisdiction within their territories. The Panther Lake
653 annexation to the City of Kent occurred in 2010.

654

655 The Tahoma/Raven Heights Communities Plan (T/RH) commenced in August 1979 and was adopted in
656 October 1984. T/RH continued to apply the Growth Reserve and Rural Area designations and zoning that
657 emerged during the Soos Creek planning process. The planning area is mostly unincorporated Rural Area or
658 Forest Production District. In the years prior to the Growth Management Act (GMA) the City of Black
659 Diamond completed one large annexation. A final Urban Growth Area for Black Diamond was adopted as part
660 of amendments following the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan.

661

662 The planning area was affected by the incorporation of the City of Maple Valley in 1997. The city includes most
663 of the Urban Growth Area in the planning area.

664

665 In response to data and recommendations emerging while the Soos Creek Basin Plan was being prepared,
666 interim five acre zoning was applied to portions of the Jenkins and Covington Creek watersheds in July 1989.
667 An update to the plan covering about one-fifth of the planning area was initiated in March 1991, and adopted in
668 December 1991. The area zoning was changed in some cases, but this action was based on the 1985 King
669 County Comprehensive Plan and applicable basin plan policies, and did not result in any changes to the 1984
670 plan's policies.

671

672 **Soos Creek Policies**

673 **CP-301** **The continued viability and health of the Soos Creek planning area's stream**
674 **systems and the fisheries resources dependent upon them should be assured**
675 **through zoning, special zoning conditions and development regulations. The**
676 **intent of this policy is to control densities along stream corridors identified by**
677 **the Soos Creek Basin Plan. This policy will be implemented through the Area**
678 **Zoning by placing rural and urban densities within 1/4-mile of significant stream**
679 **systems identified as Types 1, 2, and 3 waters according to the Sensitive Areas**
680 **Ordinance. (NR-1)**

681

682 **CP-302** **Lot coverage limitations for building shall be applied in all stream corridors in**
683 **urban designated areas of the Soos Creek basin and classified R-1, urban stream**
684 **protection special district overlay. Total impervious surface should not exceed**
685 **8%, and total clearing of forested vegetation should not exceed 30%.**
686 **Reforestation to achieve sites that are 70% forested should be required. (NR-1A)**

687

688 **CP-303** **New development should rehabilitate degraded wetlands and stream channels**
689 **and banks in the Soos Creek planning area's drainage's to prevent further**
690 **erosion and water quality problems. These areas include, but are not limited to,**
691 **May Creek, Garrison Creek, Molasses Creek and Olsen Creek. Where conditions**
692 **permit, the banks and channels should be restored to a natural state. Where it**

693 has been determined that additional standards may be appropriate to control
694 volume, these should be required for new development. (NR-3)

695
696 **CP-304** Within the Soos Creek basin, bare ground associated with clearing, grading,
697 utility installation, building construction, and other development activity should
698 be covered or revegetated between October 1 and March 31 each year.
699 Earth-moving and land-clearing activity should not occur during this period
700 within the Soos Creek basin except for regular maintenance of public facilities
701 and public agency response to emergencies that threaten the public health,
702 safety and welfare. Landscaping of single-family residences, existing permitted
703 commercial forestry and mining activities and development sites with approved
704 and constructed drainage facilities that infiltrate 100 percent of stormwater runoff
705 should be exempt from these restrictions. (NR-8)

706

707 **CP-305** For new subdivisions in the Soos Creek basin Rural Area, a minimum of 20% of
708 the property should be retained as a separate tract of undisturbed indigenous
709 vegetation. (NR-9)

710

711 **CP-306** All development within 660 feet of the top of the Cedar River Valley and the Green
712 River Valley walls, particularly along the bluffs south and west of the Lea Hill
713 plateau and within the Lake Heights area, should be conditioned to avoid adverse
714 impacts on the environment and risks to life and property. (NR-14)

715

716 **CP-307** The Soos Creek Community Plan recognizes the importance of existing mobile
717 home parks in providing affordable housing options. Mobile home parks in the
718 urban areas of Soos Creek are designated for mobile home park uses, and
719 should be zoned appropriately. King County should continue to examine the
720 feasibility of funding and developing a replacement mobile home park in south
721 King County for displaced mobile homes on county-owned or privately-owned
722 sites. King County should develop intergovernmental agreements with the cities
723 of Renton, Kent and Auburn for joint development of replacement parks to
724 accommodate mobile home owners if they are displaced from mobile home parks
725 within cities. (R-23)

726

727 **CP-308** Significant vegetation is a diminishing resource in the Soos Creek community.
728 Significant vegetation contributes significantly to environmental quality,
729 neighborhood character, and the quality of life in Soos Creek. All new residential
730 development shall retain significant existing vegetation. Native vegetation
731 should be utilized wherever possible. (R-33)

732

- 733 **CP-309** Multifamily zoned land should not be converted to institutional and
734 commercial/office uses within the Soos Creek Planning Area. (C-5)
735
- 736 **CP-310** Equestrian crossings of arterials should be permitted only where they do not
737 greatly disrupt traffic. Where possible, these crossings should be combined with
738 pedestrian and bicycle crossings. There should be no at grade equestrian
739 crossings of SR-516, except at Lake Meridian. (T-29)
740
- 741 **CP-311** Crest Airpark is an important local facility and should continue operation at
742 current levels of use. (F-15)
743
- 744 **CP-312** Because of noise and public safety concerns, low-density, single-family
745 development should be the primary land use allowed within Crest Airpark's north
746 flight path within 1/2-mile of the airport runway. (F-16)
747
- 748 **CP-313** All new subdivisions within 1/4-mile of Crest Airpark should include a covenant.
749 The covenant should state that the property owner and/or resident recognize the
750 existence of Crest Airpark, its value to the community, and the noise and public
751 safety aspects of living in proximity to the airpark. (F-17)
752
- 753 **CP-314** The operation of Pacific Raceway is expected to continue indefinitely. The area
754 authorized for racetrack use shall be confined to maximize protection of Soosette
755 Creek and its riparian area. Any future consideration of permits for its operation
756 should be consistent with the spirit and intent of the 1991 rules and conditions
757 which regulate operation of the facility. (F-18)
758
- 759 **CP-315** King County should give high priority to expanding the Big Soos Creek trail by
760 linking the City of Covington to the south and Fairwood Center to the north to the
761 existing trail system. (P-15)
762
- 763 **CP-316** King County should give high priority to linking the Green River and Cedar River
764 corridors. (P-16)
765
- 766 **CP-317** King County should coordinate with the City of Seattle, WSDOT, and other
767 jurisdictions to link major elements of the open space system including the
768 Cedar River, Lake Desire, Big Soos Creek, SR-18 and the Green River trail
769 systems. (P-18a)
770
- 771 **Tahoma/Raven Heights Policies**
- 772 **CP-318** Resource activities should be encouraged in areas where such activities are not
773 inconsistent with a rural atmosphere. In order to ensure continued development

774 of natural resources prior to the development of the land for other purposes,
775 extractive industries should be allowed to locate in areas known to have deposits
776 of minerals. Premature urban/ suburban development should not be approved
777 which forecloses the opportunity to use the resources. (T/RH-28)

778
779 **CP-319** The demand from surrounding land uses and densities should not exceed the
780 capacity of the area's groundwater resources nor otherwise cause deterioration
781 of its quality. (T/RH-45)

782
783 **CP-320** Existing businesses which qualify as legal uses located at Highway 169 and
784 Cedar Grove Road should be given the same land use map designation as
785 surrounding Rural Area or Natural Resource Land properties, but recognized as
786 Rural Businesses with neighborhood-scale business zoning. Any such
787 development should not be expanded beyond the limits of the existing zoning of
788 the specific parcel on which it is currently located, and if the use is abandoned
789 the zoning should be redesignated to a Rural Area zone consistent with that
790 applied to surrounding properties.

791
792 **CP-321** King County supports annexation of the lands within the City of Black Diamond's
793 Urban Growth Area subject to the requirements of the Black Diamond Urban
794 Growth Area Agreement as adopted by Ordinance 12534. If the agreement is
795 terminated, the affected lands under King County jurisdiction shall be treated as
796 follows:

- 797 a. Land within the designated Urban Growth Area shall be redesignated to
798 Rural and reclassified to the rural zoning in place prior to the effective
799 date of Ordinance 12534. This zoning shall continue for a period of at
800 least five years from the date of reclassification.
- 801 b. The areas identified in the agreement as county open space shall be
802 maintained at the rural zoning in place prior to the effective date of
803 Ordinance 12534. This zoning shall continue for a period of at least five
804 years after the date of termination of the agreement.

805
806 **CP-322** King County supports expansion of the network of regional trails and
807 conservation of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas
808 through community efforts such as the Rock Creek Valley Conservation Plan and
809 the Friends of Rock Creek.

810

811 **CP-323** King County supports efforts to protect and enhance open space and ensure
812 long-term habitat health and passive recreation opportunities in the Middle Green
813 River through community efforts such as the Middle Green River Coalition.
814

815 ~~((IV.))~~ **Southeast King County Area**

816 **Background**

817
818 The SE King County Community Service Area consists of the former Enumclaw Community Planning Area and
819 portions of the former Tahoma Raven Heights, East King County and Soos Creek Community Planning Areas.
820 The City of Enumclaw is located within this CSA and the City of Black Diamond is surrounded by it on three
821 sides. The majority of this CSA is Rural Area and forested resource lands.
822

823 In 2014, the estimated population in the SE King County CSA was approximately 29,000. Of this total, 300
824 people were estimated to live in the Lower Green River area and 28,000 people were estimated to live in the
825 main CSA area. In 2010, there were a total of 11,020 housing units in the CSA. Of this total, 102 were in the
826 Lower Green River area and 10,918 were in the main CSA area.
827

828 The Enumclaw Community Plan and Area Zoning were commenced in 1986-87 and adopted in June 1990. The
829 community plan refined boundaries between the Enumclaw Plateau's Agricultural Production District and
830 abutting Rural Areas and Forest Production District, and designated the Urban Growth Area agreed to by King
831 County and the City of Enumclaw. The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan reaffirmed the Enumclaw
832 Community Plan's land use designations.
833

834 **Enumclaw Policies**

835 **CP-401** All development within 660 feet of the top of the Green River valley walls should
836 be conditioned to avoid adverse impacts on the environment and risks to life and
837 property. (EN-12)
838

839 **CP-402** King County should work with landowners on either side of SR-410 east of the
840 City of Enumclaw to protect the scenic qualities of this highway corridor. (EN-22)
841

842 **CP-403** King County should work with Washington State Parks and Recreation
843 Commission and landowners on either side of the Green River Gorge to protect
844 the scenic qualities of the Green River Gorge conservation area. (EN-23)
845

846 Enumclaw's expansion area, like that of other Cities in the Rural Area, is shown on the King County
847 Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map.
848

- 849 **CP-404** King County should work with the City of Enumclaw to establish an agreement
850 guiding future annexations, including but not limited to the following elements:
851 a. Commitment from the city to extend and maintain public services to the
852 area, including police, fire, transportation, sewer, water, storm water
853 management and general government services.
854 b. Commitment from the city to provide a variety of residential development
855 at an overall density for unconstrained land of at least four to eight units
856 per acre.
857 c. Commitment from the city that the extension of public services to meet
858 the needs of future residents will maintain service levels to existing city
859 residents.
860 d. Commitment that the city will continue environmental protection for
861 sensitive areas, (including but not limited to flood plains, steep slopes,
862 wetlands, seismic and landslide hazard areas) at or above King County
863 standards.
864 e. Commitment from the city to use measures to buffer or protect abutting
865 forest or agriculture resource lands.
866 f. Commitment that the city will provide protection of historic sites and
867 areas equal to the county's Historic Preservation Ordinance.
868 g. Commitment by King County to consult with the city on public
869 improvement standards, such as local road standards, drainage control
870 requirements and transportation standards that will apply to
871 development in expansion areas.
872 h. Commitment by King County to notify the city of development proposals
873 in the expansion area and to consult with the city to condition
874 development approvals to mitigate adverse impacts on city services and
875 to implement city plans, policies and standards.
876 i. Commitment by King County to notify the city of development proposals
877 in an impact area, which includes all lands within a one-mile radius of
878 the expansion area, and to consult with the city where applicable to
879 condition development approvals to mitigate adverse impacts on city
880 services.
881 j. Agreement on which jurisdiction will have responsibility for parks,
882 roads, storm water or other public facilities after annexation. (EN-40)
883
- 884 **CP-405** Access to state park lands should be designed to minimize adverse traffic
885 impacts on the Southeast Green Valley Road. (EN-56)
- 886 **CP-406** Any expansion of aircraft runway or hangar capacity in the Enumclaw planning
887 area should be concentrated on or near the existing Enumclaw airport. Existing
888

889 legally approved landing strips associated with low-density residential
890 developments, such as Evergreen Sky Ranch, shall not be expanded. (EN-60)

891
892 **CP-407** Redevelopment of the Enumclaw landfill site should be subject to studies to
893 assure public health and safety. If these studies determine that there is no threat
894 to public health and safety the site's Rural Area designation may be changed to
895 accommodate a public use such as a park or other facility without an amendment
896 to the King County Comprehensive Plan. (EN-71)

898 **~~((V.))~~ Snoqualmie Valley / Northeast King County Area**

899 The Snoqualmie Valley/NE King County Community Service Area includes the Snoqualmie Community
900 Planning Area as well as portions of the East Sammamish, Tahoma Raven Heights and East King County
901 Community Planning Areas. It surrounds the Cities of Snoqualmie, North Bend, Carnation, Duvall and
902 Skykomish and their Potential Annexation Areas. These cities are within Urban Growth Boundaries while the
903 vast majority of the CSA is Rural Area, Natural Resource Lands and unincorporated areas. Fall City is a Rural
904 Town within this CSA.

905
906 In 2014, the estimated population in the Snoqualmie Valley/NE King County CSA was approximately 26,000.
907 In 2010, there were 11,050 housing units in the CSA. East Sammamish policies are included in ~~((Section I.))~~ the
908 Bear Creek/Sammamish Area ~~((it))~~ section of this chapter.

910 **Background**

911
912 The Snoqualmie Valley Community Plan was initiated in April 1984, and adopted in August 1989. The process
913 resulted in designation of the Snoqualmie Ridge Urban Growth Area for the City of Snoqualmie. The area was
914 annexed by the City of Snoqualmie, and development is proceeding under an interlocal agreement as directed by
915 the community plan. The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan largely reaffirmed the Rural Area and
916 Natural Resource Lands land use map designations of the community plan. Additionally, in this area, the Fall
917 City Town Plan was updated in 2012 through a planning process that involved members of the Fall City
918 community.

919
920 **Snoqualmie Policies**

921 **CP-501** King County, in cooperation with the Valley cities, and state and federal
922 agencies, should conduct a study of baseline conditions and cumulative impacts
923 of development on the Snoqualmie River's water quality, and identify methods of
924 equitably controlling these impacts. (SQP-1 through SQP-6)

925

926 **CP-502** Wildlife populations in the Snoqualmie Valley planning area are recognized as a
927 regionally important resource and an important characteristic of the area's rural
928 character. Special studies should be undertaken, in cooperation with the
929 Washington State Department of Wildlife, to identify wildlife populations at risk
930 due to the land uses allowed by the King County Comprehensive Plan and to
931 develop mitigation measures to protect the continued viability of the area's
932 wildlife populations. Should these studies indicate unmitigatable impact
933 affecting wildlife populations due to the land uses allowed by the plan, a
934 comprehensive plan amendment study will be undertaken to provide for the
935 continued existence of this valuable resource. (SQP-17)
936

937 **CP-503** Properties in erosion-prone drainage basins are subject to special development
938 conditions applied to protect the safety and property of county residents through
939 reducing or eliminating the occurrence of gully formation and sever erosion.
940 These conditions may include:
941 a. A drainage control plan;
942 b. Installation of drainage control features prior to any land clearing,
943 vegetation removal, site grading, road construction, or utility installation;
944 and
945 c. Runoff control requirements. (SQP-21)
946

947 **CP-504** King County will oppose annexations to Snoqualmie Valley cities that currently
948 contain designated floodplain lands until interlocal agreements have been
949 enacted to advance the policies and standards set forth in the comprehensive
950 plan. (SQP-27)
951

952 **CP-505** The Shoreline Environment designations of the King County Shoreline
953 Management Program should be consistent with comprehensive plan land use
954 map designations and zoning. King County should initiate the shoreline
955 redesignation process consistent with K.C.C. 25.32.130. (SQP-32)
956

957 **CP-506** Until expansion areas are annexed, zoning for the expansion areas shall be urban
958 reserve at five acre densities with the exception of the existing
959 commercial/industrial area in the SE North Bend Way expansion area, and the
960 existing industrial area in the Snoqualmie expansion area. (SQP-57)
961

962 Community plan policies SQP 58 to 61 referred to "expansion areas one and two," reflecting the Snoqualmie
963 Community Plan's attempt to phase growth of the valley cities. These phasing approaches were embodied in the
964 interlocal agreement the county signed with the City of Snoqualmie; they may be reflected in the cities'
965 comprehensive plans. The King County Comprehensive Plan simplifies the designations into one expansion area
966 for each city.

967

968 **CP-507** King County will support development within the Snoqualmie Valley cities of
969 Duvall, Carnation, Snoqualmie and North Bend and annexation and development
970 of lands within their expansion areas, when each city demonstrates that its
971 wastewater and storm water treatment systems for the existing and proposed
972 city jurisdiction will not degrade the water quality of the Snoqualmie River and its
973 tributaries. (SQP-58)

974

975 **CP-508** King County will not support Snoqualmie Valley cities' annexations into
976 expansion areas until each city has adopted mechanisms to reduce flood and
977 channel migration hazards within its jurisdiction. (SQP-59)

978

979 **CP-509** King County shall initiate an amendment to the King County Comprehensive Plan
980 if the cumulative impact of development of the cities' expansion areas will reduce
981 the quality of the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries below the current "A and
982 AA" standards. (SQP-61)

983

984 **CP-510** King County shall support annexation of the expansion area only when Carnation
985 implements a long-term, nonstructural program to reduce flood damages on
986 floodplains land within its jurisdiction. (SQP-68)

987

988 **CP-511** Achieving a long-term solution to flood damages within the City of Snoqualmie is
989 one of King County's highest priorities for this planning area. (SQP-70)

990

991 **CP-512** King County intends to assist the City of Snoqualmie to develop a long-term
992 solution and an implementation program which will reduce the risk from flooding
993 and channel migration in the city. (SQP-73)

994

995 **CP-513** If the long-term solution to reducing the risk from flooding in the City of
996 Snoqualmie is determined to have basin-wide impacts, these impacts shall be
997 reviewed by the King County River and Floodplain Management Program or its
998 equivalent to identify any additional mitigations that may be required. If the
999 long-term solution to reducing the risk from flooding is demonstrated to not have
1000 basin-wide impacts, it should be implemented as soon as possible and would not
1001 require a second, basin-wide, review of impacts and mitigations. (SQP-74)

1002

1003 **CP-514** King County urges a public/private resource commitment to implement a
1004 long-term solution to flooding in the City of Snoqualmie. (SQP-75)

1005

1006 Policies SQP 76 through 78 have been and continue to be implemented through an interlocal agreement. Most
1007 of the annexations referenced have taken place and are reflected in the expansion area boundaries for the City of
1008 Snoqualmie adopted in the King County Comprehensive Plan's Land Use Map.

1009

1010 **CP-515** **Until a long-term solution to preventing flood damages in the City of Snoqualmie**
1011 **is agreed to by King County and the City of Snoqualmie, King County will**
1012 **support annexations in expansion areas when consistent with all appropriate**
1013 **policies herein and when higher residential densities can be achieved, municipal**
1014 **services can be provided, and river water quality will not be degraded. (SQP-77)**

1015

1016 **CP-516** **Annexations of lands within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of**
1017 **Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall not occur until completion of detailed**
1018 **planning, preparation and review of project-level Environmental Impact**
1019 **Statement(s), and a determination of required mitigations and amenities. The**
1020 **range of land uses to be allowed and the mitigations and amenities to be required**
1021 **shall be embodied in a binding Development Agreement between the City of**
1022 **Snoqualmie and the owners of proposed annexation lands.**

1023

1024 **CP-517** **The project-level Environmental Impact Statement(s) for lands within the Phase 1**
1025 **and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall**
1026 **address aquifer recharge issues, and potential impacts to the water quality and**
1027 **quantity of Lake Alice, private wells in the Lake Alice and Snoqualmie Hills**
1028 **neighborhoods, and all streams that flow off-site.**

1029

1030 **CP-518** **Based on the findings of the Environmental Impact Statement(s), the**
1031 **Development Agreement between the City of Snoqualmie and the owners of**
1032 **proposed annexation lands in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of**
1033 **Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall establish a program for long-term**
1034 **monitoring of the water quality and quantity of Lake Alice and the private wells in**
1035 **the Lake Alice and Snoqualmie Hills neighborhoods, and of all streams flowing**
1036 **off-site.**

1037

1038 **CP-519** **The Development Agreement shall also outline the remedies necessary if the**
1039 **monitoring program leads to findings that development activities on the**
1040 **annexation lands are the cause for adverse impacts to the water quality and/or**
1041 **quantity of Lake Alice and the private wells in the Lake Alice and Snoqualmie**
1042 **Hills neighborhoods, and of streams flowing off-site. The owners of the**
1043 **annexation lands shall be responsible for the monitoring program and correction**
1044 **of any impacts determined to have been caused by their development activities.**

1045 Remedies may include connection to the public water system, or construction of
1046 alternative wells.

1047
1048 **CP-520** The project-level Environmental Impact Statement(s) for lands within the Phase 1
1049 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall
1050 address traffic safety issues, with a focus on safety concerns for rural
1051 homeowners dependent upon the southern stretch of the Snoqualmie Parkway
1052 for access to their homes. A range of alternatives to improve safety at the
1053 intersection of the Snoqualmie Parkway and SE 96th Street, including
1054 signalization, road widening and turn lanes shall be explored.

1055
1056 **CP-521** Annexations of lands within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of
1057 Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall be subject to updated Comprehensive
1058 Water and Sanitary Sewer Plans to determine the full range of improvements
1059 landowners within the annexation will be required to provide.

1060
1061 **CP-522** A Drainage Master Plan shall be required for any new development of lands
1062 within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban
1063 Growth Area. Stormwater facility design shall adhere to the standards in the
1064 most recent update of the King County Design Manual, or of the Snoqualmie
1065 Storm Drainage Plan, whichever is the most stringent.

1066
1067 **CP-523** There shall be no road connections between the Phase 1 addition to the City of
1068 Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area and 356th SE in the Snoqualmie Hills Planning
1069 Area, unless future analysis determines a restricted emergency access is
1070 necessary for safety purposes.

1071
1072 **CP-524** There shall be no road connections between the Phase 2 addition to the City of
1073 Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area and Lake Alice Road, unless future analysis
1074 determines a restricted emergency access for Lake Alice residents is necessary
1075 for safety purposes.

1076
1077 **CP-525** To protect the rural character of the neighborhoods surrounding the Phase 1 and
1078 Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area, the Phase 1
1079 and Phase 2 areas shall include buffers to all rural lands along their perimeter.
1080 The size and structure of each buffer area shall be determined based on the
1081 characteristics of the land and existing vegetation, and its ability to perform the
1082 following functions: visual screening; noise reduction; and minimization of blow
1083 down. Buffers may include constructed berms and new plantings if deemed
1084 necessary and appropriate to perform the required functions.

1085

1086 **CP-526** King County supports the continued industrial use of Weyerhaeuser's
1087 Snoqualmie Mill site and its annexation to the City of Snoqualmie. (SQP-79)
1088

1089 **CP-527** King County will support annexations of land in North Bend's expansion area
1090 when higher residential densities can be achieved, municipal services can be
1091 provided, and river water quality will not be degraded. (SQP-81)
1092

1093 **CP-528** Commercial and light industrial land uses are appropriate along SE North Bend
1094 Way subject to special development conditions to mitigate impacts. (SQP-82)
1095

1096 A map is included in Appendix A to Ordinance 12824 (p-suffix conversion ordinance) showing the application
1097 of p-suffix conditions to commercial and industrial properties on SE North Bend Way.
1098

1099 **CP-529** Commercial and industrial zoned land (including potential-commercial or
1100 potential-industrial zoned land) within the City of North Bend's Urban Growth
1101 Area (UGA) are planned for nonretail, resource-based and highway-oriented
1102 uses. These uses shall be served by public sewers.
1103

1104 **CP-530** The area between Tanner and the Edgewick Interchange, south of SE 140th and
1105 north of I-90, is appropriate for nonretail commercial and light industrial land
1106 uses. Commercial and light industrial uses shall be limited to uses that do not
1107 impact ground water and are related to resource-based shipping, distributing and
1108 trucking-related industrial development. (SQP-84)
1109

1110 **CP-531** Land uses adjacent to the Edgewick Interchange shall be limited to
1111 highway-oriented commercial uses that do not impact ground water, and serve
1112 the traveling public. (SQP-85)
1113

1114 **CP-532** The area north of the Edgewick Interchange is appropriate for resource-based,
1115 shipping, distributing and trucking related industrial uses that do not impact
1116 ground water. (SQP-86)
1117

1118 The Fall City policies in this section were revised through a subarea planning process involving members of the
1119 Fall City community in 1998 and 1999. Through this planning process, the Citizens Advisory Committee
1120 identified the following elements that local residents value about their town:

- 1121 • It is surrounded by agricultural and forest lands that are entirely rural;
- 1122 • It has a pattern of development that has evolved over more than a century, which includes historic
1123 buildings and landmarks, an open spacing of streets and buildings, and locally owned businesses in a
1124 small-scale downtown;

- 1125 • It is located in a unique geographic area formed by the confluence of two important salmon-bearing
1126 rivers, the Raging River and the Snoqualmie River, in an agricultural valley containing a number of
1127 other salmonid streams that are also important to the ecology of King County;
- 1128 • It includes compatible home occupations and small-scale animal husbandry in harmony with residential
1129 neighborhoods;
- 1130 • It provides rural-level street improvement (e.g., no traffic lights, no sidewalks outside the business
1131 district, and no street lights except as needed for public safety);
- 1132 • It offers scenic vistas, open space, and rural and resource uses surrounding Fall City; and
- 1133 • It has a small rural town identity.

1134

1135 **CP-533** **Fall City is an unincorporated rural town which shall have overall residential**
1136 **densities of one to four dwelling units per acre.**

1137

1138 **CP-534** **All property within the downtown Fall City business district is zoned Community**
1139 **Business (CB) and is included within a designated Special District Overlay (SDO).**
1140 **Development within the SDO is permitted using an on-site septic system**
1141 **approved by the Seattle-King County Health Department. Development is also**
1142 **permitted using either an alternative wastewater disposal system approved by**
1143 **the Seattle-King County Health Department (such as a community drainfield) or a**
1144 **self-contained sewage conveyance and treatment system approved by the**
1145 **Department of Ecology, provided that:**

- 1146 a. **The selected system shall be designed and constructed to serve only**
1147 **properties located within the designated SDO;**
- 1148 b. **The business and commercial property owners in the SDO are**
1149 **responsible for the operation and maintenance of the selected system;**
- 1150 c. **The County's role should be to provide technical assistance in the**
1151 **development and implementation of the selected system;**
- 1152 d. **If the selected system fails, and to prevent a potential health hazard,**
1153 **requires connection to the King County regional wastewater system, any**
1154 **such sewer conveyance shall be tight-lined and shall under no**
1155 **circumstance be used to provide sewage disposal service to residential**
1156 **properties in Fall City, except as provided by policy R-508; and**
- 1157 e. **No costs to implement the selected system or to connect to the County's**
1158 **regional wastewater system shall be borne by properties outside the**
1159 **SDO. Funding from grants, loans and other outside sources may be**
1160 **used to help fund the system, and the County may assist in the pursuit**
1161 **of this additional funding.**

1162

- 1163 **CP-535** The zoning for Fall City adopted in the 1999 Fall City Subarea Plan reflects the
1164 community's strong commitment to its rural character, recognizes existing uses,
1165 provides for limited future commercial development, and respects natural
1166 features. Additionally, it recognizes the current and long-term foreseeable rural
1167 level of utilities and other public services for the area. The land use implications
1168 of a major change in the water supply or a public health requirement for
1169 community-wide wastewater collection and treatment may be evaluated in a new
1170 community-based planning process; however this does not mean that zoning will
1171 change to allow more intense development beyond that adopted in the 1999 Fall
1172 City Subarea Plan. The rural character of Fall City should be preserved.
1173
- 1174 **CP-536** Within the residential area of Fall City, compatible home occupations and
1175 small-scale agricultural pursuits or similar rural land uses can continue.
1176
- 1177 **CP-537** King County should work with the State of Washington and the Fall City
1178 community to continue to make transportation improvements in Fall City that will
1179 favor safe and pleasant pedestrian and other nonmotorized links between
1180 downtown businesses, the residential areas, and nearby King County Parks, and
1181 safe walkways to schools, rather than rapid through traffic.
1182
- 1183 **CP-538** King County should expand the soft surface pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle
1184 trail opportunities serving the Fall City area. Trail route options serving the
1185 community shall be reviewed to include a route along the left bank levee
1186 easement directly adjacent to the Raging River, historically used by the public as
1187 a pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trail. This historically used trail generally
1188 follows the "wildlife corridor" along the bank of the Raging River from 328th Way
1189 SE approximately NE to the Preston Fall City Road. The selected trail system for
1190 the Fall City area shall be identified in the King County Parks and Recreation trail
1191 system plan.
1192
- 1193 **CP-539** Zoning for the existing industrial and office areas adopted in the 1999 Fall City
1194 Subarea Plan should be maintained but not expanded.
1195
- 1196 **CP-540** Land uses at freeway interchanges without existing commercial or industrial
1197 development, and outside rural neighborhoods and Cities in the Rural Area, are
1198 designated rural residential to support development in rural neighborhoods and
1199 Cities in the Rural Area, and to preserve the scenic nature of the corridor.
1200 (SQP-98)
1201
- 1202 **CP-541** New development at the Exit 22 Interchange shall not expand beyond the area
1203 designated in this plan and shall not adversely impact surrounding rural

1204 residential areas. All uses should be planned and sited to use long-term onsite
1205 waste disposal systems. (SQP-99)
1206

1207 **CP-542** The existing two acres of land currently zoned for commercial use at Preston
1208 (Exit 22) is recognized, but no additional land for commercial uses is designated.
1209 (SQP-100)
1210

1211 **CP-543** The presence of the Snoqualmie Tribe in the planning area has important historic
1212 and cultural significance for the Puget Sound region. The following places,
1213 recognized by the tribe as historically, culturally and archeologically important,
1214 should be considered for inclusion in the King County historic sites survey, and
1215 designation to local and/or national register of historic places. The tribe
1216 recognizes the following areas as culturally significant:

- 1217 a. Snoqualmie Falls;
- 1218 b. The banks of the Snoqualmie River between the falls and the three forks
1219 confluence area;
- 1220 c. Fall City Indian Cemetery;
- 1221 d. Banks at the confluence of Snoqualmie and Raging Rivers;
- 1222 e. Banks at the confluence of Snoqualmie and Tolt Rivers;
- 1223 f. Fall City Park (site of John Sanawa's Council House and the first white
1224 school);
- 1225 g. Mt. Si; and
- 1226 h. Granite outcropping used as a quarry between North Bend and the City
1227 of Snoqualmie on SR-202. (SQP-122)

1228

1229 **CP-544** King County recognizes the spiritual, historic, cultural and recreational value of
1230 the Snoqualmie Falls. Any development adjacent to Snoqualmie Falls shall be
1231 designed and sited to protect these values. (SQP-123)
1232

1233 **CP-545** Because of the spiritual significance of the area at the base of the falls to the
1234 various tribes in the Puget Sound region, this area of the falls should remain free
1235 of development and open for public access. (SQP-124)
1236

1237 **CP-546** The community of Preston is a significant cultural and historic reminder of the
1238 planning area's roots in the logging industry. The existing land use designation
1239 shall be maintained, and new development should respect the existing character
1240 of the community. (SQP-125)
1241
1242

- 1243 **CP-547** The industrial area adjacent to the Rural Neighborhood of Preston shall be
1244 recognized with appropriate zoning for industrial uses. This area is designated
1245 for industrial uses to recognize existing industrial use and vested applications
1246 for new industrial development.
1247
1248 The boundaries of this industrial area are permanent. No expansion of the
1249 designated industrial area will be permitted, and any effort to expand its
1250 boundaries is recognized as contrary to the Growth Management Act, including
1251 the 1997 amendments.
1252
1253 Any industrial development or redevelopment in the designated industrial area
1254 (excluding reconstruction in the event of accidental damage or destruction, or
1255 tenant improvements entirely within the building structures) shall be conditioned
1256 and scaled to maintain and protect the rural character of the area as defined in
1257 RCW 36.70A.030(14) and to protect sensitive natural features.
1258
1259 New industrial development or redevelopment (excluding structures and site
1260 improvements that existed or are vested by applications as of May 24, 1996, or
1261 tenant improvements entirely within building structures), on lots not subject to
1262 restrictions and conditions consistent with those reflected in Recording No.
1263 9708190805 must be dependent upon being in the Rural Area and must be
1264 compatible with the functional and visual character of rural uses in the immediate
1265 vicinity and must not encourage or facilitate conversion or redesignation of
1266 nearby Rural and Rural Neighborhood lands to commercial, industrial or urban
1267 uses.
1268
1269 The boundaries of this industrial area shall be those properties within the
1270 Preston Industrial Water System, as set by King County Ordinance 5948, with the
1271 exception of parcel #2924079054.
1272
1273 **CP-548** King County supports efforts of the community of Preston to achieve recognition
1274 of its historical and cultural significance. Its historic character should be
1275 maintained through designation as an historic area. (SQP-126)
1276
1277 **CP-549** The King County Historic Sites Survey should be updated to include additional
1278 sites identified by the Preston Heritage Committee. (SQP-127)
1279
1280 **CP-550** The development of a regional railroad museum in the Snoqualmie area is
1281 encouraged to promote understanding of the regional significance of railroads in
1282 the settlement and development pattern of Washington State. (SQP-128)
1283

- 1284 CP-551 King County shall put high priority on the acquisition and development of a
1285 regional trail system linking the Snoqualmie Valley planning area to other parts
1286 of the county. (SQP-143)
1287
- 1288 CP-552 King County supports designation of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River
1289 under either the national or state Wild and Scenic River program. (SQP-151)
1290
- 1291 CP-553 King County supports evaluation of the North Fork of the Snoqualmie River and
1292 the main stem of the Tolt River under either the national or state Wild and Scenic
1293 River program. (SQP-152)
1294
- 1295 CP-554 King County shall assist the City of North Bend, when requested, to develop a
1296 long-term solution and an implementation program which will reduce the risk
1297 from flooding and channel migration in the city.
1298

1299 ~~(VI.)~~ Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area

1300 Plan History

1301

1302 In 2016, the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan was initiated as King County’s first
1303 plan developed under its reconfigured subarea planning program. The recent history of prior Vashon-Maury
1304 Island community plans is as follows:

1305

1306 • **1986 Vashon Community Plan.** This Island-wide plan was adopted in 1986,² but was then rescinded
1307 over a decade later, in 1998,³ due to the passage of the Washington State Growth Management Act in
1308 the early 1990s. At that time, some key policies from the 1986 plan that were consistent with the
1309 Growth Management Act were incorporated into the King County Comprehensive Plan. These
1310 policies remained in this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan through 2016 but, with the adoption of the
1311 2017 Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan, they have since been removed from
1312 the chapter.

1313

1314 • **1996 Vashon Town Plan.**⁴ This plan focused on a smaller geography, the Rural Town, and was
1315 developed consistent with the Growth Management Act. The 1996 Town Plan remained active
1316 through 2017 but, with the adoption of the 2017 subarea plan, it has since been repealed.

1317

² Ordinance 7837

³ Ordinance 13273

⁴ Ordinance 12395

1318 The Island-wide 2017 Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan updates these prior policies
1319 and consolidates them into a single document that aims to retain community priorities while eliminating
1320 outdated and/or accomplished items. Policies and actions that are carried forward are re-assessed and re-
1321 prioritized for implementation. The 2017 subarea plan (bound as a separate document) is adopted as an element
1322 of the King County Comprehensive Plan.

1323

1324 **Vision & Guiding Principles**

1325

1326 Vashon-Maury Island Vision

1327

1328 The Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan envisions a healthy, rural environment and
1329 reflects the following values identified by the community during plan development:

1330

- 1331 • Independence and self-sufficiency
- 1332 • Natural environment
- 1333 • Equity and diversity
- 1334 • Island history
- 1335 • Creativity and self-expression
- 1336 • Sustainable local employment
- 1337 • Community collaboration

1338

1339

1340 These values are exhibited and sustained through ten guiding principles:

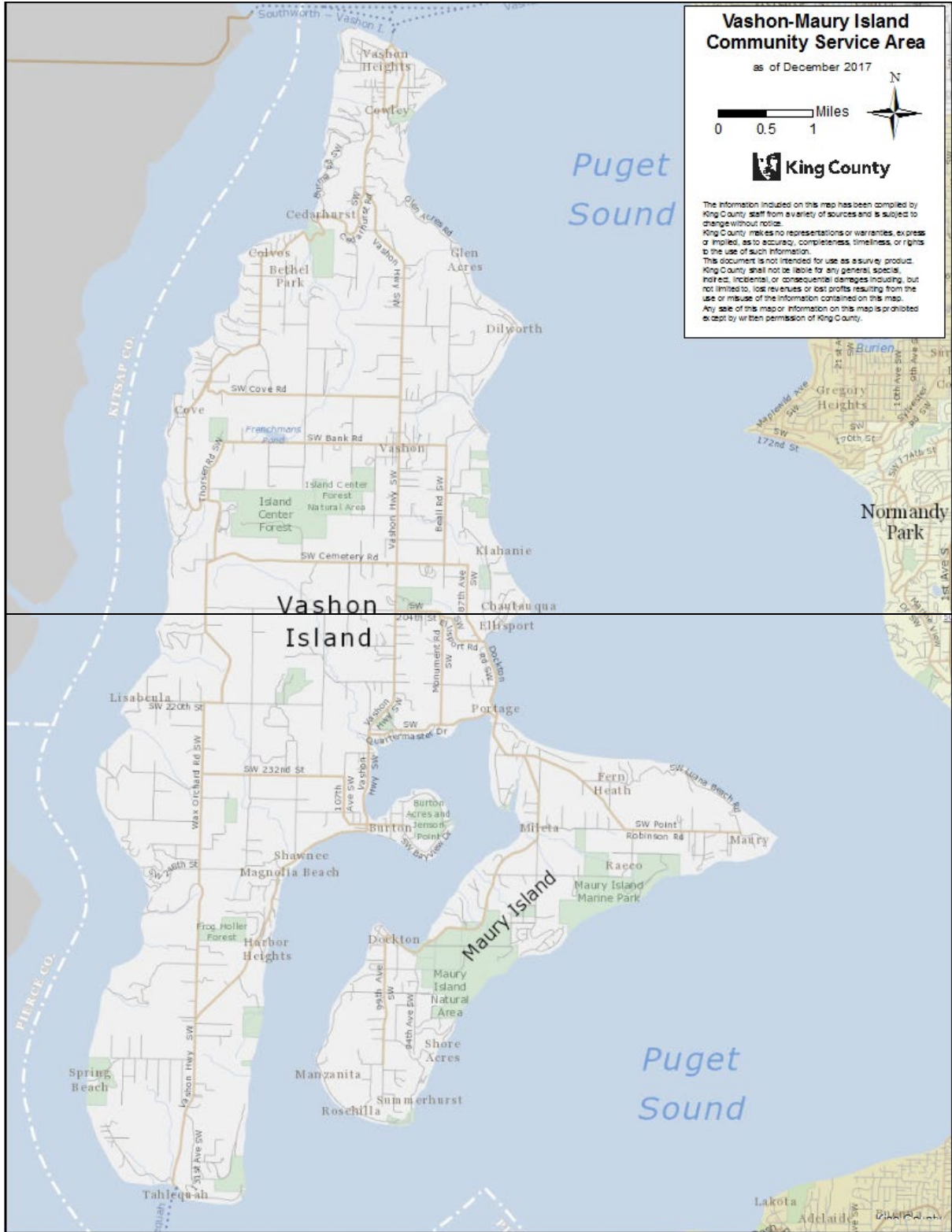
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- 1342 • Maintain the rural character of Vashon-Maury Island
- 1343 • Encourage and protect the diversity of neighborhoods and affordable housing choices for all
- 1344 • Guide limited growth on Vashon-Maury Island and ensure development does not over-extend basic
1345 services, public safety, and infrastructure
- 1346 • Plan the Rural Town of Vashon as the mixed use and vibrant center of the community
- 1347 • Preserve and protect native habitats, groundwater, shorelines, open space and sensitive areas for present
1348 and future generations
- 1349 • Protect agricultural lands and support Island farmers and growers
- 1350 • Provide a balanced and integrated multimodal transportation system that reflects environmental,

((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)) TBD

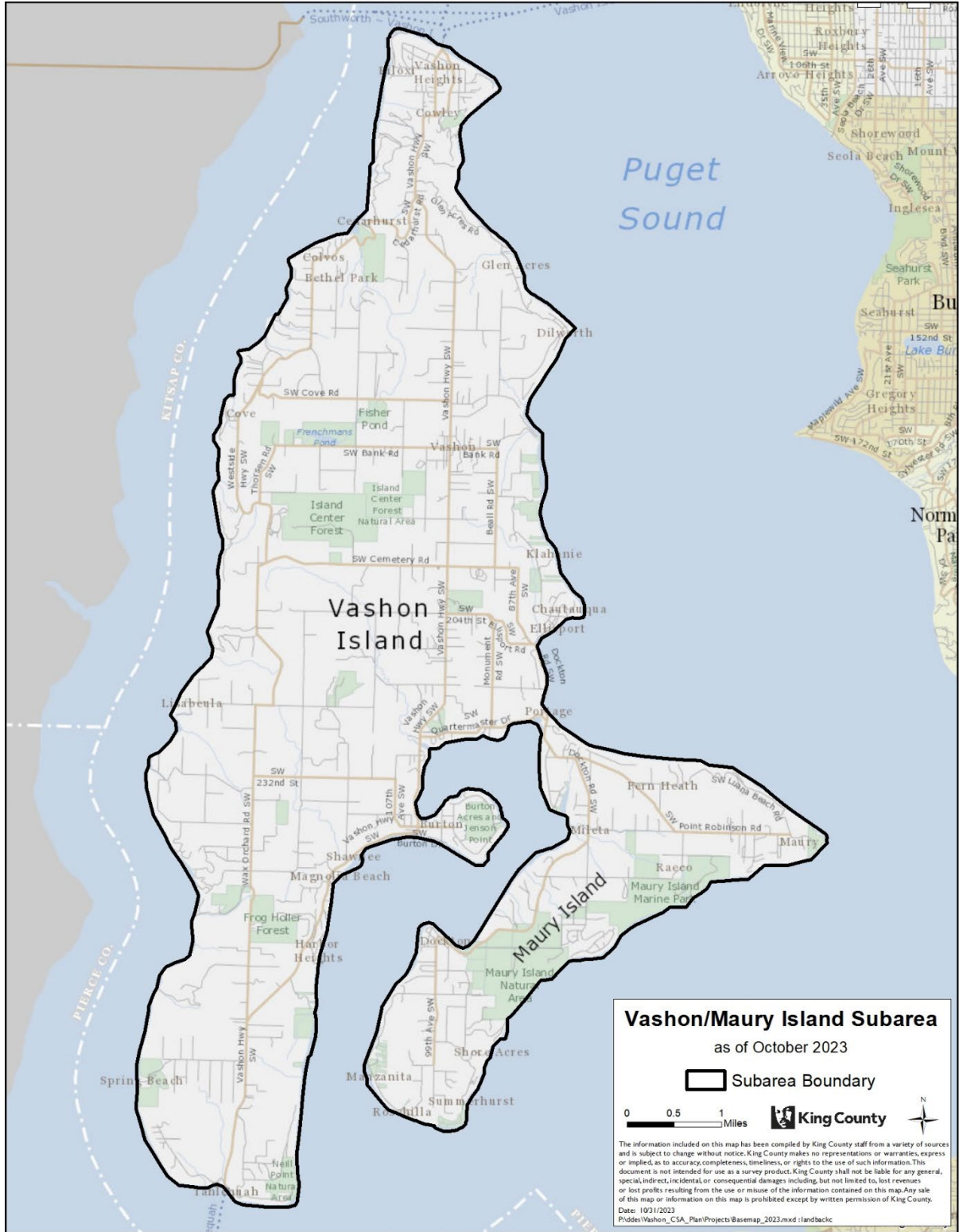
- 1351 economic, and social considerations
- 1352 • Preserve historic, archeological, and cultural resources
- 1353 • Promote an environment where all people can be physically active, eat nutritious food, and live in safe
- 1354 and healthy places
- 1355 • Support and foster a diverse, dynamic, and sustainable rural economy
- 1356

**((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)) TBD**



1357

((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)) TBD



1358

1359

1360 ~~((VII.))~~ **West King County Area**

1361
1362 As noted on the Community Service Areas map at the beginning of this chapter, the West King County Area is
1363 comprised of approximately five separate major unincorporated areas within the Urban Growth Area
1364 ~~((B))~~boundary; these are all Potential Annexation Areas for several cities, including Federal Way, Seattle, and
1365 Renton. In addition, there are over *one hundred* other smaller areas that are affiliated with or adjacent to Kent,
1366 Auburn, Issaquah, Sammamish, Redmond, Kenmore, and others.

1367
1368 King County’s approach is that all of these areas annex into the affiliated cities or, for those areas not affiliated,
1369 the most logical adjacent city. As subarea planning occurs, adjacent cities will be encouraged to participate.
1370 Policies guiding these areas are found both in Chapter 2~~((:))~~, Urban Communities ~~((in the Potential Annexation~~
1371 ~~Area section))~~, as well as in other annexation policies found in chapters throughout the Comprehensive Plan. For
1372 the areas at the edge of the ~~((+))~~Urban ~~((g))~~Growth ~~((boundary))~~Areas, policies in other parts of this chapter may
1373 be relevant since the historical Community Plans often included these edge communities. This is further
1374 described below.

1375
1376 **Background**

1377 The estimated population in this CSA in 2014 was approximately 113,000. The West King County CSA
1378 consists of separate unincorporated areas that were once part of larger areas with their own community
1379 plans. Today’s fragmented pattern of unincorporated urban areas is the result of incorporations and
1380 piecemeal annexations since the community planning process began in the mid-1980s.

1381
1382 ~~((A.))~~ **East Federal Way Potential Annexation Area**

1383 Work on the Federal Way Community Plan and/or amendments occurred from 1972 to 1975, 1977 to 1980, and
1384 1984 to 1986. Federal Way was part of the first generation of community plans in the county that were adopted
1385 separately from their implementing area zoning. After these experiences, the county decided to adopt both
1386 together to avoid going through essentially the same decisions twice for each community. The City of Federal
1387 Way incorporated in 1990, removing most of the planning area from the county’s jurisdiction. None of the
1388 Federal Way Community Plan or its amendments are readopted.

1389
1390 ~~((B.))~~ **Fairwood and East Renton Potential Annexation Areas**

1391 Fairwood and East Renton are adjacent to the City of Renton and are within the city’s potential annexation area.
1392 Over the past decade, small portions (typically at the subdivision scale) have annexed to the city in a piecemeal
1393 fashion. The Fairwood area has approximately 23,000 residents. The Fairwood area was completely within the
1394 historical Soos Creek Planning Area, which is now part of both the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River and the

1395 West King County Community Service Areas. This means that the general annexation policies in the
1396 comprehensive plan, as well as the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River area policies are relevant to this area.

1397

1398 The East Renton area has approximately 6,500 residents. The East Renton area was completely part of the
1399 historical Newcastle Planning Area, which is now part of both the Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain and West King
1400 County Community Service areas. This means that the general annexation policies in the comprehensive plan, as
1401 well as the Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain area policies are relevant to this area.

1402

1403 **((€)) North Highline Potential Annexation Area((s))**

1404 **Plan History**

1405 The history of prior plans for the North Highline subarea is as follows:

1406

1407 • **1976 SeaTac Communities Plan.** The adoption of the SeaTac Communities Plan pre-dated adoption of
1408 the Growth Management Act.

1409 • **1977 Highline Community Plan and 1981 Area Zoning.** In 1977, King County adopted the Highline
1410 Community Plan,⁵ which covered a large area of then-unincorporated King County that today includes
1411 the Cities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, and SeaTac in addition to the currently
1412 unincorporated North Highline neighborhoods of White Center and Glendale. The plan was
1413 supplemented in 1981 by an Area Zoning Plan,⁶ which implemented zoning consistent with the land
1414 use policies of the Highline Community Plan.

1415 • **1994 White Center Community Action Plan and Area Zoning.** In 1994, King County augmented the
1416 Highline Community Plan with the adoption of the White Center Community Action Plan and Area
1417 Zoning (Action Plan),⁷ a community planning document that implemented new zoning for White
1418 Center, in addition to establishing goals in the areas of health and human services, economic and
1419 community development, and environmental protection. The Action Plan was designed as a six- to ten-
1420 year plan for the area and incorporated as part of the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan.⁸

1421 In December 2022, the County adopted the North Highline Community Service Area Subarea Plan, which
1422 replaces the policies in the 1994 White Center Community Action Plan. The 2022 subarea plan (bound as a
1423 separate document) is adopted as an element of the King County Comprehensive Plan.

1424

1425 **Vision and Guiding Principles**

1426

⁵ Ordinance 3530

⁶ Ordinance 5453

⁷ Ordinance 11568

⁸ 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.

1427 North Highline Vision

1428

1429 Residing on the traditional land of the Duwamish people, North Highline celebrates its ethnic diversity,
1430 intergenerational roots, and our ongoing inclusivity of diverse families and individuals, especially those most
1431 isolated and vulnerable. We call out race and place-based inequities and are committed to dismantling systems of
1432 power, privilege, and racial injustice. With mutual support and respect, we value and live out our brilliance and
1433 power through community-led initiatives, creating thoughtful development without displacing longtime residents
1434 and small business owners, forming and owning the policies that impact us, and building our individual and
1435 collective wealth, health, and well-being.

1436

1437 Guiding Principles

1438

1439 The following guiding principles support the community vision and were used by the County to inform and
1440 direct the development of the Subarea Plan. The guiding principles were developed based on several years of
1441 dialogue and work with the community on the Subarea Plan, drawing from other community-led or focused
1442 efforts in North Highline. They express the community’s sentiments around a range of community issues
1443 discussed during the planning process.

1444 a. We are proud of our community and continue to share our collective history with others and to invest
1445 in this place, our home for current residents and their future generations.

1446 b. We support community investments and programs that reduce the risks and mitigate the impacts, of
1447 residential, economic, and cultural displacement.

1448 c. We live in thoughtfully designed housing and commercial spaces where inter-generational households
1449 and legacy businesses can stay and where affordability and ownership are realized.

1450 d. We support a thriving and equitable economy, with racially and ethnically diverse, community-minded
1451 small business owners, entrepreneurs, and employers.

1452 e. We support residents, especially children, youths, and young adults, with services and resources they
1453 and their families need to succeed.

1454 f. We promote the development of community-desired amenities to improve aesthetics, enrich the
1455 community’s diverse physical and cultural assets, and support gathering together as a community.

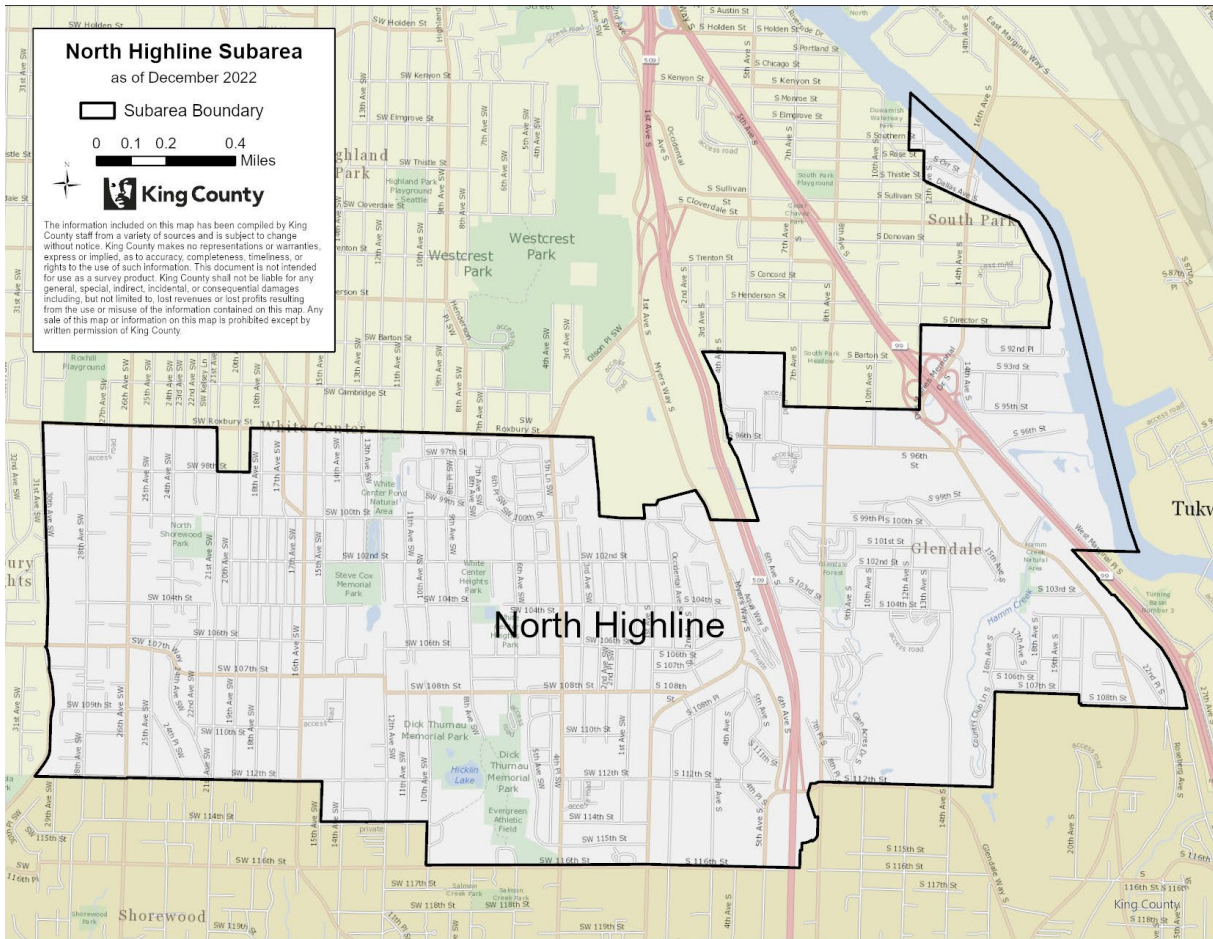
1456 g. We support regulations and investments that result in a safe, secure, and healthy community and
1457 compatible development.

1458 h. We support residents growing their work interests, skills, and wages.

1459 i. We enjoy neighborhoods with accessible and safe streets, roads, and alleyways, with well-connected
1460 hiking and biking trails.

1461 j. We can access jobs and amenities in the region and in our community without relying on automobiles.

**((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)) TBD**



1462

1463

1464 **((D-)) Skyway-West Hill Potential Annexation Area**

1465 **Plan History**

1466

1467 The history of prior plans for the subarea is as follows:

1468

- 1469 • **1994 West Hill Community Plan.** The West Hill Community Plan was adopted by King County in
1470 1993. While prepared in conformance with the Growth Management Act it predated the adoption of
1471 the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1472 • **Community-led Skyway-West Hill Action Plan.** In 2014 and 2015, the County provided technical
1473 assistance to a community-led effort to update some elements of the Community Plan. This
1474 community-led effort resulted in the development of the Skyway-West Hill Action Plan, or SWAP.
1475 The SWAP was proposed as an addendum to the existing Community Plan as part of the 2016
1476 Comprehensive Plan update, but the County ultimately did not adopt the SWAP. Instead, the County,
1477 reinitiated its Subarea Planning Program, and committed to work with the community to complete a
1478 Community Service Area Subarea Plan.

- 1479 • **Skyway-West Hill Land Use Strategy, Phase 1 of the Skyway West Hill Subarea Plan.** As part of the
1480 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, the County adopted a Land Use Strategy, Phase 1 of the Skyway-
1481 West Hill Subarea Plan, that outlined the potential policy and implementation steps for land use
1482 development in Skyway-West Hill. The Land Use Strategy called for the County to continue working
1483 with the community to develop the Skyway-West Hill Community Service Area Subarea Plan.
1484

1485 In December 2022, the County adopted the Skyway-West Hill Community Service Area Subarea Plan, which
1486 replaces the West Hill Community Plan and the Land Use Strategy. The 2022 subarea plan (bound as a separate
1487 document) is adopted as an element of the King County Comprehensive Plan.
1488

1489 **Vision & Guiding Principles**

1490
1491 Skyway-West Hill Vision
1492

1493 Skyway-West Hill will grow into a vibrant, walkable neighborhood where housing is affordable and local,
1494 community-based businesses are thriving. Skyway-West Hill will be an ethnically diverse and civically engaged
1495 community where the collective voice, wisdom, and expertise of its residents and business owners are vital in
1496 ongoing civic decision-making.
1497

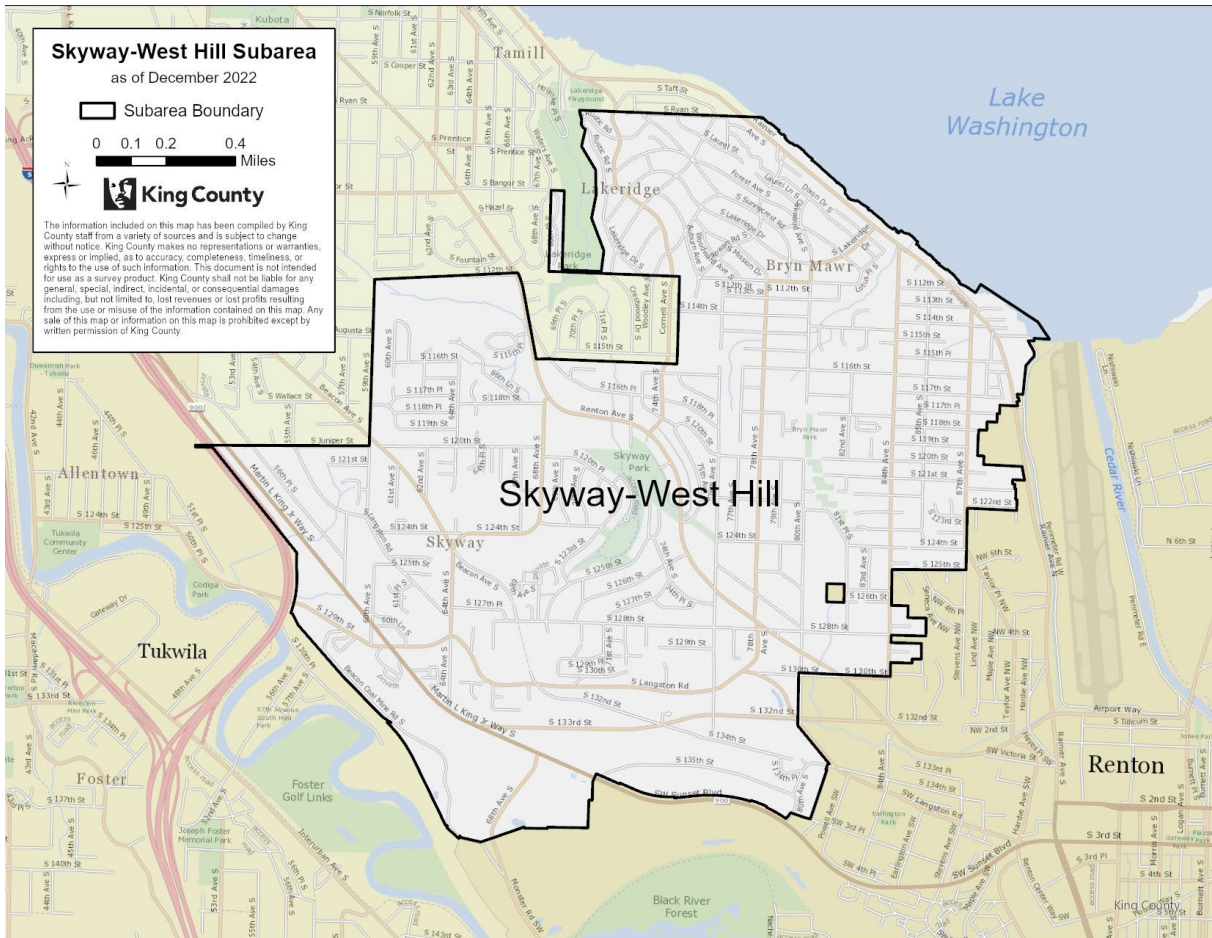
1498 Guiding Principles
1499

1500 The following guiding principles support the community vision and were used by the County to inform and
1501 direct the development of the Subarea Plan. The guiding principles were developed based on several years of
1502 dialogue and work with the community on the Subarea Plan, drawing from prior community planning efforts,
1503 such as the Skyway-West Hill Action Plan, and other community conversations. They express the community's
1504 sentiments around a range of community issues discussed during the planning process.

- 1505 a. Support community health by providing opportunities to access fresh foods, as well as routes and trails
1506 for walking and bicycling.
- 1507 b. Create healthy connected neighborhoods where residents have safe and adequate means to connect with
1508 their neighbors, schools, community services and programs, and local businesses.
- 1509 c. Encourage equitable development by promoting access to a variety of housing choices, incentivizing the
1510 creation of public amenities, addressing displacement, encouraging economic opportunity, and
1511 cultivating neighborhood character.
- 1512 d. Create sustainable, vibrant, and walkable business districts that provide opportunities for local
1513 businesses to succeed and jobs for area residents.
- 1514 e. Protect existing and create new affordable housing that focuses on preventing displacement and
1515 providing options and opportunities for Skyway-West Hill residents to remain in their community.

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- 1516 f. Ensure the community grows in a well-planned and sustainable way and that it has the resources
- 1517 necessary for all its residents to thrive and enjoy a high quality of life.
- 1518 g. Ensure Skyway-West Hill’s youth are thriving and engaged in local decision-making so they can
- 1519 advocate for and receive the services and resources they and their families need to succeed.
- 1520 h. Promote the development of community-desired amenities and enrich the community’s diverse physical
- 1521 and cultural assets.
- 1522 i. Inform all policies, regulations, and County actions affecting Skyway-West Hill with the principles of
- 1523 equity and social justice.
- 1524 j. Protect and enhance the existing character of the community’s residential neighborhoods and enhance
- 1525 connections between these areas and business districts.



1526
1527



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CHAPTER 12 IMPLEMENTATION, AMENDMENTS, AND EVALUATION

The Comprehensive Plan policies, development regulations, and countywide policy framework have been adopted to achieve the County's and region's growth management objectives. This chapter describes the tools, processes, and procedures used to implement, review, and amend the Comprehensive Plan.

The chapter explains the relationship between planning and zoning, lists ~~((the))~~ incentives programs, identifies actions that will be undertaken between ~~((eight))~~ 10-year updates to implement or refine provisions within the Comprehensive Plan, and outlines and distinguishes between annual updates, midpoint updates, and ~~((eight))~~ 10-year updates.

9

~~((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.

- ~~I-101~~ ~~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. Encourage creativity and diversity in meeting county goals and policies;~~
 - ~~k. Be coordinated with cities, special purpose districts and other public agencies to promote compatible development standards throughout King County;~~
 - ~~l. Be responsive, understandable and accessible to the public;~~
 - ~~m. Provide effective public notice and reasonable opportunities for the public (especially those directly affected) to be heard and to influence decisions;~~
 - ~~n. 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 (and then the restriction should be no broader than necessary);~~
 - ~~o. Treat all members of the public equitably. Base regulatory decisions wholly on the applicable criteria and code requirements, including application of the county's Equity and Social Justice goals;~~

48 p. ~~Make development requirements readily accessible to the public through~~
49 ~~up-to-date codes, technical assistance materials and other relevant~~
50 ~~documents; and~~

51 q. ~~Provide for relief from existing regulations when they would deprive a~~
52 ~~property of uses allowed to similar properties with the same zoning or~~
53 ~~environmental or other constraints, and when such relief would neither~~
54 ~~endanger public health and safety nor conflict with adopted use policies.~~
55 ~~This policy is not intended for relief from rules governing the~~
56 ~~subdividing of land.~~

57
58 Siting public and private uses in communities can at times lead to concerns and objections from neighbors
59 resulting from the real or perceived impacts of proposed uses. There is also a risk that objections to these
60 “locally unwanted land uses” (LULUs) can lead to some uses becoming overly concentrated in some
61 communities, particularly in historically disadvantaged areas. In response, governments should evaluate the
62 potential equity and social justice implications, including the beneficial and/or adverse impacts, of policies and
63 regulations involving such uses.

64
65 **~~I-101a~~ ~~Equity and social justice principles will be used by King County as an important~~**
66 **~~consideration in developing zoning and development regulations governing~~**
67 **~~public and private uses, in siting public facilities, and in evaluating land use~~**
68 **~~decisions. Results from the Equity Impact Review Tool will be used where~~**
69 **~~appropriate.~~**

70
71 King County wishes to create an equitable relationship with all its residents who own or control potential
72 development or redevelopment of property with critical or significant resource areas. King County provides
73 options that offer property specific technical assistance and tailored applications of critical areas regulations
74 through Rural Stewardship, Forest Stewardship, and Farm Management Plans. By participating in these
75 programs, property owners may qualify for state tax programs that will reduce the assessed value of their
76 property. However, it is the property owner's choice to participate in these programs.

77
78 **~~I-102~~ ~~King County property owners are entitled to have their property assessed at the~~**
79 **~~true and fair value of real property for taxation purposes so that those portions of~~**
80 **~~the property that are not developed or redeveloped due to physical or~~**
81 **~~environmental constraints shall be assessed to reflect the presence of such~~**
82 **~~constraints. Property appraisals shall be consistent with the King County~~**
83 **~~Comprehensive Plan, development regulations, zoning, and any other~~**
84 **~~governmental policies or practices in effect at the time of appraisal that affect the~~**
85 **~~use of property, as well as physical and environmental influences as required by~~**
86 **~~RCW 84.40.030.))~~**

87

88 ~~((H.))~~ **Comprehensive Plan Amendments**

89 In the process of implementing the Comprehensive Plan, there may be a need for amendments to address
90 emerging land use and regulatory issues. The County has established the Comprehensive Plan update process to
91 enable individual residents, businesses, community groups, cities, ~~((e))~~County departments, and others to
92 propose changes to ~~((existing))~~ Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations. This process
93 provides for continuous and systematic review of Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations in
94 response to changing conditions and circumstances that could affect growth and development throughout King
95 County.

96
97 The Comprehensive Plan update process includes ~~((the annual update, the midpoint update, and the eight year
98 update))~~ annual, midpoint, and 10-year updates. The annual update generally is limited to those amendments
99 that propose technical changes and adoption of ~~((CSA))~~ Community Service Area subarea plans. The ~~((eight))~~
100 10-year update is designed to address amendments that propose substantive changes. The midpoint update is an
101 optional process that allows for consideration of a smaller range of substantive changes, but only if initiated by
102 motion. This update schedule provides the measure of certainty and predictability necessary to allow for new
103 land use initiatives to work. By allowing annual and midpoint updates, the process provides sufficient flexibility
104 to account for technical adjustments or changed circumstances. The process requires early and continuous
105 public involvement and necessitates meaningful public ~~((dialogue))~~ engagement.

106
107 King County has established a docket process to facilitate public involvement and participation in the
108 Comprehensive Plan update process in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.470. Parties
109 interested in proposing changes to ~~((existing))~~ Comprehensive Plan policies, development regulations, land use
110 designations, zoning, or other components of the Comprehensive Plan can ~~((obtain and complete))~~ submit a
111 docket ~~((form))~~ request outlining the proposed amendment. ~~((Docket forms are available via the King County
112 website.))~~

113
114 ~~((I-201 ————— The update process shall provide continuing review and evaluation of
115 Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations.))~~

116
117 **I-202** Through the update process, ~~((King County))~~ **Comprehensive Plan policies and**
118 ~~((supporting))~~ **implementing development regulations shall be subject to**
119 **continuing review, evaluation, and amendment according to the annual,**
120 **midpoint, and ~~((eight))~~ 10-year update schedule in accordance with Revised Code**
121 **of Washington 36.70A.130 ~~((1) and (2))~~ and the King County Code.**
122

- 123 **I-202a** **Except as provided in I-202b, ((P))proposed amendments to the King County**
124 **Comprehensive Plan, including the Land Use Map, shall be considered by the**
125 **King County Council only once each calendar year in accordance with the State**
126 **Growth Management Act and so that the cumulative effect of the proposals can**
127 **be determined.**
128
- 129 **I-202b** **After appropriate public participation, amendments may be considered more than**
130 **once each calendar year as follows:**
- 131 **a. For initial adoption of a subarea plan;**
 - 132 **b. Adoption or amendment of a shoreline master program;**
 - 133 **c. Amendment of the capital facilities element of a comprehensive plan that**
134 **is part of the adoption or amendment of the County budget;**
 - 135 **d. To resolve an appeal of a comprehensive plan filed with the Growth**
136 **Management Hearings Board or with the court; or**
 - 137 **e. If an emergency exists, if:**
 - 138 **1. Based on the King County Council finding that the amendment**
139 **is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,**
140 **health, or safety or for the support of County government and its**
141 **existing public institutions; and**
 - 142 **2. Public notice and an opportunity for public comment precede**
143 **the adoption of the amendments.**
- 144
- 145 **I-203** **Except as otherwise provided in this policy, the annual update shall not consider**
146 **proposed amendments to the ((King County)) Comprehensive Plan that require**
147 **substantive changes to Comprehensive Plan policies ((and development**
148 **regulations)) or that alter the Urban Growth Area ((B))boundary. Substantive**
149 **amendments may be considered in the annual update only to consider the**
150 **following:**
- 151 **a. Changes required by existing Comprehensive Plan policies;**
 - 152 **b. Changes to technical appendices and any amendments required**
153 **thereby;**
 - 154 **c. Adoption of Community Service Area subarea plans;**
 - 155 **d. Comprehensive updates of subarea plans initiated by motion;**
 - 156 **e. Changes required by amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies**
157 **or state or federal law;**
 - 158 **f. Amendments resulting from the comprehensive plan implementation**
159 **progress report required by Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.130;**
 - 160 **g. Land use map or shoreline master program map amendments resulting**
161 **from a site-specific application or an area zoning and land use zoning**
162 **study, provided that the amendments do not require substantive change**
163 **to policy language or alter the Urban Growth Area boundary, except to**
164 **correct mapping errors;**

- 165 h. Amendments to add or remove lands from the Agricultural Production
- 166 District under policy R-656a and/or R-656b for King County safety,
- 167 preservation, and/or fish passage road projects that are in the adopted
- 168 six-year Capital Improvement Program;
- 169 ~~i. (A) Four-to-One proposals ((that changes the Urban Growth Area~~
- 170 ~~Boundary));~~
- 171 ~~((b. An amendment regarding the provision of wastewater services to a Rural~~
- 172 ~~Town. Such amendments shall be limited to policy amendments and~~
- 173 ~~adjustments to the boundaries of the Rural Town as needed to~~
- 174 ~~implement a preferred option identified in a Rural Town wastewater~~
- 175 ~~treatment study;~~
- 176 ~~e-)) j. Amendments necessary for the conservation, protection, and recovery~~
- 177 ~~of threatened and endangered species; or~~
- 178 ~~((d. Adoption of Community Service Area subarea plans;~~
- 179 ~~e-)) k. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan ((w))Work ((p))Plan to change~~
- 180 ~~deadlines((; or~~
- 181 ~~f. Amendments to update the Comprehensive Plan schedule to respond to~~
- 182 ~~adopted ordinances to improve alignment with the Growth Management~~
- 183 ~~Act, multicounty and countywide planning activities)).~~

184 **I-204** The ~~((eight))~~ 10-year update shall consider proposed amendments that could be
185 considered in the annual update ~~((and also those outside the scope of the annual~~
186 ~~update)),~~ proposed amendments relating to substantive changes to
187 Comprehensive Plan policies ~~((and development regulations,))~~ and proposals to
188 alter the Urban Growth Area ~~((B))~~ boundary in accordance with applicable
189 provisions of Countywide Planning Policies.

192 **I-204a** The midpoint update is an optional process that allows for consideration of a
193 smaller range of substantive policy changes and amendments to the Urban
194 Growth Area boundary at the ~~((four))~~ five-year point of the ~~((eight))~~ 10-year update
195 schedule. Midpoint updates are only authorized by a motion that establishes the
196 scope of work. ~~((A smaller range of substantive changes to policies and~~
197 ~~amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary may be considered as part of~~
198 ~~the midpoint update.))~~ Workplan action items may be added or amended if related
199 to a topic identified in the scope of work.

200

201 I-205 ~~((In accordance with RCW 36.70A.140 and the State Environmental Policy Act, as~~
202 ~~applicable,)) King County shall use equitable engagement strategies to ensure~~
203 ~~public participation in the update process for Comprehensive Plan policies and~~
204 ~~development regulations, particularly from populations historically~~
205 ~~underrepresented or excluded from planning processes. King County shall~~
206 ~~disseminate information regarding public involvement in the Comprehensive~~
207 ~~Plan update process, including, but not limited to, the following: description of~~
208 ~~procedures and schedules for proposing amendments to Comprehensive Plan~~
209 ~~policies and development regulations; guidelines for participating in the docket~~
210 ~~process; public meetings to obtain comments from the public or other agencies;~~
211 ~~provision of public review documents; and dissemination of information relating~~
212 ~~to the Comprehensive Plan update process on the Internet or through other~~
213 ~~methods.~~

214
215 ~~((The following policies guide the preparation of amendments and their review by King County.))~~

216
217 I-207 ~~((Proposed amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan, including the~~
218 ~~Land Use Map, shall be considered by the King County Council only once each~~
219 ~~calendar year in accordance with the State Growth Management Act and so that~~
220 ~~the cumulative effect of the proposals can be determined.)) All proposed~~
221 ~~Comprehensive Plan policy amendments ~~((should)) shall~~ include the following~~
222 ~~analysis:~~

- 223 a. ~~Rationale and effect: a detailed statement of ((what is proposed to be~~
224 ~~changed and why;~~
- 225 b. ~~Effect: a statement detailing the anticipated outcome of the change on~~
226 ~~the geographic area affected, populations affected, and environment;~~
- 227 c. ~~Compliance: a statement confirming compliance with the:~~
 - 228 1. ~~Growth Management Act, including statutory references where~~
229 ~~applicable; and~~
 - 230 2. ~~Countywide Planning Policies, including policy references where~~
231 ~~applicable;~~
 - 232 3. ~~King County Strategic Plan, including policy, objective or strategy~~
233 ~~references where applicable; and~~
- 234 d. ~~Public Review: an indication that the proposed policy amendment was~~
235 ~~included in the executive's public review draft or a statement of the~~
236 ~~public review process used to solicit comments on the proposal));~~
 - 237 1. ~~Whether the proposed change is a new policy or substantive~~
238 ~~policy change, is clarification of existing intent, or is technical~~
239 ~~with no policy change intended;~~
 - 240 2. ~~The rationale for the proposed change;~~
 - 241 3. ~~The anticipated outcome of the proposed change, including~~
242 ~~effects on the geographic area(s) and populations affected; and~~

- 243 4. Consistency of the proposed change with any other related
- 244 plans and policies, including specific plan names and policy
- 245 references, where applicable; and
- 246 b. Implementation: a description of the anticipated implementation of the
- 247 proposed change, including:
- 248 1. Whether implementation of the proposed change is regulatory,
- 249 programmatic, or a capital project, or a combination;
- 250 2. If the change is regulatory, a description of the development
- 251 regulations transmitted with the Comprehensive Plan update
- 252 that implement the proposed change, in conformance with
- 253 Policy I-208;
- 254 3. If the change is programmatic or a capital project, whether it
- 255 needs additional resources to implement the proposed change;
- 256 and
- 257 4. If the change is programmatic or a capital project, the
- 258 anticipated timing for implementation.

259

260 **I-208** Proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan policies (~~((should))~~ shall be

261 accompanied by any changes to development regulations, (~~((as well as~~

262 ~~modifications to capital improvement programs, subarea, neighborhood, and~~

263 ~~functional plans required for implementation so that regulations will be~~

264 ~~consistent with the Comprehensive Plan))~~ when necessary to implement the

265 policy change.

266

267 **I-209** Adopted Comprehensive Plan policy changes shall be integrated into future

268 regularly scheduled updates to the Capital Improvement Program, subarea plans,

269 and functional plans, when necessary to implement the change.

271 ~~((III.))~~ **Review and Evaluation**

272 King County uses performance measurement to evaluate Comprehensive Plan implementation to ensure Growth

273 Management Act and County goals are being met, improve transparency and accountability with the public,

274 increase use of data to support decision-making, and identify where improvements can be made.

275

276 In 2017, King County created the framework for performance measurement of the Comprehensive Plan with the

277 intent to use long-term indicators to provide insight into whether the goals of the Comprehensive Plan are being

278 achieved or if revisions are needed. The framework is structured around how well the County is meeting the

279 aspirations of the Guiding Principles policies in the Plan, as consistent with the planning goals of the Growth

280 Management Act. The performance measures are primarily analyzed at a countywide scale, with additional

281 geographic detail for relevant Growth Management Act geographies (incorporated cities, unincorporated urban

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282 area, the Rural Area, and Natural Resource Lands), as appropriate and practicable given the dataset used.
283 Wherever possible, disparate equity and social impacts are also analyzed. Many of the Comprehensive Plan
284 performance measures overlap with the Determinants of Equity indicators used for internal equity performance
285 monitoring. Performance measure reports are issued in advance of 10-year Comprehensive Plan updates to
286 inform the scope of work for the update.

287
288 Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.130 also requires King County to provide the state a report detailing the
289 progress achieved in implementing the Comprehensive Plan ("implementation progress report") five years after
290 adoption of a 10-year update. The report must include information about:

- 291 • Implementation of previously adopted changes to the housing element of the Plan, and any effect those
292 changes have had on housing affordability and availability within the jurisdiction;
- 293 • Permit processing timelines;
- 294 • Progress toward implementing any actions required to achieve reductions to meet greenhouse gas and
295 vehicle miles traveled requirements in the Growth Management Act; and
- 296 • Identification of any outstanding actions needed to implement the previous 10-year update, such as
297 specifically identified regulations, zoning, and/or land use changes or other legislative or administrative
298 actions. In such cases, the County must adopt a work plan to take any necessary implementing actions
299 identified in the report and complete all work necessary for implementation within two years of
300 submission of the report.

301
302 King County also reports annually on permit processing times.

303
304 Additionally, ((-))in accordance with the Growth Management Act, King County and ((#s)) cities will work
305 together to employ an established review and evaluation program, as provided by the King County Countywide
306 Planning Policies. The purpose of the program will be to determine whether the ((e))County and ((#s)) cities (1)
307 have sufficient capacity for targeted growth and housing needs and (2) are achieving urban densities within urban
308 growth areas by comparing growth and development assumptions, targets, housing needs, and objectives
309 contained in the Countywide Planning Policies and the ((e))County and city comprehensive plans with actual
310 ((growth and)) patterns of development in the county and cities. Additional monitoring, review, and reporting
311 occurs under Policy H-100 to (1) ensure alignment with Countywide Planning Policies Housing Chapter goals
312 and policies and (2) progress towards meeting countywide and jurisdictional housing growth targets, housing
313 needs, and eliminating disparities in access to housing and neighborhood choice.

314
315 **((Buildable Lands Program**
316 Section)) Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.215 ((of the Growth Management Act, commonly called
317 Buildable Lands,)) requires six western Washington counties (including King County) and ((the#)) the cities in
318 those counties to evaluate their capacity to accommodate forecasted growth of housing units and jobs within the
319 current Urban Growth Area. ((The purpose of the program is to determine whether the county and its cities are
320 achieving urban densities within urban growth areas by comparing growth and development assumptions,

321 ~~targets, and objectives contained in the Countywide Planning Policies and the county and city comprehensive~~
322 ~~plans with actual growth and development in the county and cities.))~~ Objectives relating to this review and
323 evaluation include:

- 324 • Determining whether a county and ~~((its))~~ the cities in that county are achieving urban densities within
325 urban growth areas by comparing growth and development assumptions, targets, and objectives contained
326 in the Countywide Planning Policies and the county and city comprehensive plans with actual growth and
327 development in the county and cities;
- 328 • Determining whether there is sufficient suitable land to accommodate applicable countywide population
329 projections, including evaluation of impacts of approved actions to amend the Urban Growth Area;
- 330 • Determining the actual density of housing constructed within the Urban Growth Area since the adoption
331 of, or since the most recent evaluation of, the Comprehensive Plan;
- 332 • Determining the actual amount of land developed for commercial and industrial uses within the Urban
333 Growth Area since the adoption of, or since the most recent evaluation of, the Comprehensive Plan;
- 334 • Reviewing commercial, industrial, and housing needs by type and density range to determine the amount
335 of land needed for commercial, industrial, and housing for the remaining portion of the 20-year planning
336 period used in the ~~((2012 adopted))~~ Comprehensive Plan; and
- 337 • ~~((Adopting and implementing))~~ Identifying measures intended to promote consistency between estimates
338 of available land capacity, measures of actual development by type, and goals and objectives of city and
339 county comprehensive plan policies, development regulations, and Countywide Planning Policies. Such
340 measures include, but are not limited to, possible amendments to Countywide Planning Policies as
341 determined necessary by the county and the cities.

342
343 ~~((In collaboration with its cities, King County prepared Buildable Lands Reports in 2002, 2007 and 2014, to~~
344 ~~implement this portion of the Growth Management Act.~~

Conclusions of 2014 King County Buildable Lands Report

347 ~~The *King County Buildable Lands Report—2014* reported on development densities and capacity as required by the~~
348 ~~Growth Management Act. The report concluded that King County does have sufficient capacity to~~
349 ~~accommodate forecasted housing unit and job growth through 2031 and beyond. Under existing Comprehensive~~
350 ~~Plans and zoning, the county's Urban Growth Area has a generous surplus of planned capacity: more than~~
351 ~~double the housing target through 2031 and 160% of the jobs target. Almost all of this development capacity is~~
352 ~~contained within the county's 39 cities. Unincorporated King County within the Urban Growth Area has~~
353 ~~sufficient capacity for its residential target, but technically has a slight shortfall of capacity for job growth.~~

354
355 ~~Under the Growth Management Act, *VISION 2040* and the Countywide Planning Policies, cities are designated~~
356 ~~and intended to accommodate almost all employment growth. Prior to planning under the Growth~~

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357 Management Act, unincorporated King County absorbed a large share of the county’s residential and job
358 growth. Since beginning to plan under the Growth Management Act, the county’s growth has shifted almost
359 entirely into the cities. However, a commensurate share of urban unincorporated growth targets did not shift into
360 cities. Annexations transferred more capacity than target into the annexing cities, leaving residual
361 unincorporated targets that are out of balance with actual capacity. Bearing in mind that the Urban Growth
362 Area as a whole does have sufficient capacity for commercial and industrial growth, the small shortfall in urban
363 unincorporated King County is a technical issue that will be addressed as further annexations occur. No action
364 need be taken now, as urban unincorporated areas undergo transition into cities.

365
366 *Narrative relocated from above with edits*

367 ((In partnership with the King County Growth Report, the King County Buildable Lands Report and
368 supplementary monitoring of the)) To develop the Urban Growth Capacity Report and King County
369 Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures, the County and ((its)) the cities ((will)) partner to review
370 information relating to and including, but not limited to, the following:

- 371 • Urban densities;
- 372 • Remaining land capacity;
- 373 • Growth and development assumptions, targets, and objectives;
- 374 • Residential, commercial, and industrial development;
- 375 • Transportation;
- 376 • Affordable housing need and supply;
- 377 • Economic development; and
- 378 • Environmental quality.

379
380 **I-301**

King County shall:

- 381 **a. _____ Monitor ((and benchmark)), measure, assess, and report on the progress**
382 **of the ((Countywide Planning Policies and King County)) Comprehensive**
383 **Plan toward achieving ((their)) its objectives, inclusive of those relating**
384 **to growth targets, the environment, development patterns, housing**
385 **needs, the economy, transportation, ((and)) the provision of public**
386 **services, and health and social equity outcomes of residents((:)); and**
387 **b. _____ Use results of such monitoring, measurement, assessment, and**
388 **reporting to ((encourage)) identify implementation actions and inform**
389 **policy revisions, as appropriate, to achieve the planning objectives**
390 **found within the Growth Management Act, Countywide Planning**
391 **Policies, and ((King County)) Comprehensive Plan.**

392
393

394

395

IV.) Land Use Designations and Zoning Classifications ((and Codes))

396

397

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)).

398

399

400

401

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, I - this is the range of existing zoning in place when the Comprehensive Plan was adopted
Urban Planned Development (upd))	((R-1, R-4, R-6, R-8, R-12, R-18, R-24, R-48, NB, CB, RB, O, I))
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((s)) for Cities in Rural Area (rx)	UR ((The following two zones were in place in the North Bend Urban Growth Area when the comprehensive plan was adopted in 1994: I, RB))
Rural Town (rt)	R-1, R-4, R-6, R-8, R-12, R-18, R-24, R-48, NB, CB, ((RB,)) 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 ~~((e))~~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 rezoning application.

Abbreviation	Zoning Classifications
A	Agricultural ((10 or 35 acre minimum lot area))
F	Forest ((80 acre minimum lot area))
M	Mineral
RA	Rural Area ((2.5 acre, 5 acre, 10 acre or 20 acre minimum density))
UR	Urban Reserve
R	Urban Residential ((base density in dwelling units per acre))
NB	Neighborhood Business
CB	Community Business
RB	Regional Business
O	Office
I	Industrial

402

403 ((The Zoning Code (Title 21A) establishes precise rules for each zoning classification such as permitted
404 residential densities and activities or allowed commercial and industrial development activities, and striving for
405 separation between incompatible uses. This code includes standards relative to bulk (i.e. lot size and coverage,
406 building heights and setbacks, landscape standards).

407
408 ~~I-401~~ **The King County Zoning Code's zone classifications and development standards**
409 **and the official zoning maps shall be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan**
410 **and functional plans.**

411

412 ~~V. Other~~) Implementing King County Codes

413 The Comprehensive Plan guides land use over the long term by applying specific land use designations
414 throughout the unincorporated portion of King County and by providing guidelines for implementing
415 regulations used to evaluate specific development proposals. To ensure that these implementing regulations are
416 effective and warrant a high degree of public trust and confidence, the regulations must be equitable, reasonable,
417 and responsibly administered.

418

419 ((~~In addition to the Zoning Code,~~) King County regulates land development and construction based on the
420 Comprehensive Plan through a variety of technical code standards resulting in permits and approvals for specific
421 projects. This includes, but is not limited to, elements of Surface Water Management (King County Code Title
422 9), Water and Sewer Systems (King County Code Title 13), Roads and Bridges (King County Code Title 14),
423 Building and Construction Standards (King County Code Title 16), Fire Code (King County Code Title 17),
424 Land Segregation (King County Code Title 19A), Planning (King County Code Title 20), and Zoning (King
425 County Code Title 21A).

426

427 ((~~In terms of land use regulation, the most important of these other implementing codes are Land Segregation~~
428 ~~(K.C.C. Title 19A) and Shoreline Management (K.C.C. Title 25). The Land Segregation code regulates division~~
429 ~~of a parcel of land into smaller lots for transfer of ownership. The Shoreline Management code regulates the~~
430 ~~issuance of substantial development permits for lands abutting waters governed by the Washington State~~
431 ~~Shoreline Management Act.~~

432

433 ~~Other development approvals include commercial or industrial construction permits. Review of land~~
434 ~~segregation, substantial development permits and other development proposals are key parts of the development~~
435 ~~process for making sure facilities and services to support potential development are adequate and for evaluating~~
436 ~~environmental impacts.)~~

437

438 ~~((I-404))~~ **I-500 King County's regulation of land use should:**
439 **a. Protect public health, safety and general welfare, and property rights;**

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- 440 b. Protect consumers from fraudulent practices in land use, land sales and
- 441 development;
- 442 c. Implement and be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and other
- 443 adopted land use goals, policies, and plans;
- 444 d. Be expeditious, predictable, clear, straightforward, and internally
- 445 consistent;
- 446 e. Provide clear direction for resolution of regulatory conflict;
- 447 f. Be enforceable, efficiently administered, and provide appropriate
- 448 incentives and penalties;
- 449 g. Be consistently and effectively enforced;
- 450 h. ~~((Create public and private benefits worth their cost;~~
- 451 i.) Be coordinated with timely provision of necessary public facilities and
- 452 services;
- 453 ~~((j-))~~ i. Encourage creativity and diversity in meeting ~~((e))~~ County goals and
- 454 policies;
- 455 ~~((k-))~~ j. Be coordinated with cities, special purpose districts, and other public
- 456 agencies to promote compatible development standards throughout
- 457 King County;
- 458 ~~((l-))~~ k. Be responsive, understandable, and accessible to the public;
- 459 ~~((m-))~~ l. Provide effective public notice and reasonable opportunities for the
- 460 public ~~((t))~~, especially those directly affected~~((t))~~, to be heard and to
- 461 influence decisions;
- 462 ~~((n-))~~ m. Avoid intruding on activities involving constitutionally protected
- 463 freedoms of speech, petition, expression, assembly, association, and
- 464 economic competition, except when essential to protect public health,
- 465 safety and welfare ~~((t))~~, and then the restriction should be no broader
- 466 than necessary~~((t))~~;
- 467 ~~((o-))~~ n. Treat all members of the public equitably. Base regulatory decisions
- 468 wholly on the applicable criteria and code requirements, including
- 469 application of the ~~((e))~~ County's ~~((E))~~ equity and racial and ~~((S))~~ social
- 470 ~~((J))~~ justice goals;
- 471 ~~((p-))~~ o. Make development requirements readily accessible to the public through
- 472 up-to-date codes, technical assistance materials, and other relevant
- 473 documents; and
- 474 ~~((q-))~~ p. Provide for relief from existing regulations when they would deprive a
- 475 property of uses allowed to similar properties with the same zoning or
- 476 environmental or other constraints, and when such relief would neither
- 477 endanger public health and safety nor conflict with adopted use policies.
- 478 This policy is not intended for relief from rules governing the
- 479 subdividing of land.
- 480

481 ~~((I-404))~~ **I-500a** The King County (~~(Zoning)~~) Code’s (~~(zone)~~) zoning classifications and
482 development standards and the (~~(official zoning maps)~~) King County Zoning
483 Atlas shall be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan (~~(and functional plans)~~).

485 **I-501** When needed infrastructure and facilities are not available in a timely manner,
486 development approvals shall (~~(either)~~):
487 **a.** ~~(b)~~ Be denied (~~(or)~~);
488 **b.** ~~(d)~~ Divided into phases (~~(, or the project proponents should)~~); or
489 **c.** ~~(p)~~ Provide the needed facilities and infrastructure to address impacts
490 directly attributable to their project (~~(, or as may be provided by the~~
491 ~~proponent on a voluntary basis)~~).

493 **I-502** King County’s permitting systems should provide for expeditious review of
494 projects consistent with zoning and adopted policies.

496 **I-503** Subdivision, short subdivision, and other development approvals, including
497 those requiring detailed environmental review under the State Environmental
498 Policy Act shall be reviewed for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan,
499 zoning, community, subarea plans, functional plans, and capital improvement
500 programs.

502 **I-504** King County shall enforce its (~~(land use and environmental)~~) development
503 regulations by (~~(pursuing)~~) responding to code enforcement complaints and by
504 providing (~~(oversight)~~) inspection services during the process of site
505 development on all sites for which it issues permits.

507 **I-505** King County shall develop, as a part of the (~~(buildable lands)~~) Urban Growth
508 Capacity analysis, a zoning yield and housing production monitoring program to
509 determine whether housing capacity is being lost in the context of compliance
510 with the Endangered Species Act, and shall propose revisions to the Countywide
511 Planning Policies to implement such a program.

512 Siting public and private uses in communities can at times lead to concerns and objections from neighbors
513 resulting from the real or perceived impacts of proposed uses. There is also a risk that objections to these
514 “locally unwanted land uses” (~~(LULUs)~~) can lead to some uses becoming overly-concentrated in some
515 communities, particularly in (~~(historically disadvantaged areas)~~) those communities with higher populations of
516 Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; people with low-incomes; immigrants; and refugees. In response,
517 governments should evaluate the potential equity and racial and social justice implications, including the
518 beneficial and/or adverse impacts, of policies and regulations involving such uses.

520

521 ~~((I-101a)) I-505a~~ Equity and racial and social justice principles ~~((will)) shall~~ be used by King
522 County as an important consideration in developing zoning and development
523 regulations governing public and private uses, in siting public facilities, and in
524 evaluating land use decisions. Results from ~~((the E))equity ((H))impact~~
525 ~~((R))reviews ~~((Feel will)) shall~~~~ be used where appropriate.
526

527 ~~((VI. 2016)) Comprehensive Plan ((Workplan)) Work Plan~~

528 ~~((A new feature of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan is this Workplan section. While Workplan tasks have
529 accompanied the Comprehensive Plan as part of the adoption process by the County Council, these tasks were
530 historically included with the Ordinance rather than inside of the Comprehensive Plan. In the 2016
531 Comprehensive Plan, these tasks will be included in the body of the document.)) The Comprehensive Plan
532 ((Workplan tasks)) Work Plan identifies additional actions the County will take after adoption of the 2024
533 Comprehensive Plan to: (1) further implement and refine the plan, and/or (2) continue work on issues that arose
534 during plan development but there was not sufficient time or resources to complete the work prior to adoption.
535 The action items work in conjunction with the other implementation tools discussed in this chapter, such as
536 regulations, incentive programs, and other core regional planning and implementation activities. Each
537 ((Workplan)) Work Plan action item includes a summary description, general timeline and anticipated
538 outcomes. ((In the 2018 update to the 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan, as part of the restructure adopted
539 in Ordinance 18810 and Motion 15142, the County modified the structure of the King County Comprehensive
540 Plan update process to include a comprehensive update every eight years, as well as potential annual and
541 midpoint updates. As part of this review, Workplan items were amended to reflect this restructure, and to add
542 direction for future updates to the Comprehensive Plan, including a 2020 update. Consistent with policies I-203
543 and I-204a, modifications and additions to the Workplan were included in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan
544 update.)) Completion of Work Plan actions are dependent on future grant awards and/or budget decisions.
545 Should funding be unavailable to complete the work, the timelines and/or deliverables may need to be
546 reassessed.~~

547
548 When transmitting to the Council the required report, study, ordinance, and/or motion in any of the ~~((items))~~
549 Work Plan deliverables outlined below, the transmittal shall be ~~((in the form of a paper original and an electronic
550 eopy)) electronically~~ filed with the clerk of the Council, who shall ~~((retain the original and))~~ provide an electronic
551 copy to all Councilmembers, the Council chief of staff, the policy staff director and the lead staff for the
552 ~~((planning, rural service and environment committee, or its successor))~~ committee charged with oversight of the
553 Comprehensive Plan.

554
555 ~~((Action 1: Implementation of the Community Service Area Subarea Planning Program. Under the direction
556 of the Department of Local Services – Permitting Division, King County has launched a new regular subarea
557 planning program. While this is described in greater detail in Chapter 11: Community Service Area Subarea~~

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558 Planning, launching and implementing this effort will be a major activity following the adoption of the
559 Comprehensive Plan. For each plan, the County shall comply with Policy CP 100 and K.C.C. 2.16.055.

560 ~~● *Timeline:* Ongoing; the Executive will propose a subarea plan for each area based on planning schedule
561 in Chapter 11.~~

562 ~~● *Outcomes:* A proposed subarea plan for each Community Service Area for Council consideration and
563 possible adoption. Each subarea plan shall be transmitted by the Executive to the Council in the form
564 of an ordinance that adopts the subarea plan, at a time consistent with King County Code Chapter
565 20.18. A Public Review Draft of each subarea plan shall be made available to the public and the
566 Council for comment prior to finalizing the plan for transmittal.~~

567 ~~● *Lead:* Department of Local Services—Permitting Division, in coordination and collaboration with the
568 Office of Performance Strategy and Budget. Executive staff, including the Department of Local
569 Services—Permitting Division, the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, or other appropriate
570 agencies, shall update and coordinate with the Councilmember office(s) representing the applicable
571 study area throughout the community planning process.~~

572
573 **Action 2: Develop a Performance Measures Program for the Comprehensive Plan.** The purpose of the
574 program is to develop longer term indicators to provide insight into whether the goals of the Comprehensive
575 Plan are being achieved or if revisions are needed. Given the longer term nature of the issues addressed in the
576 Comprehensive Plan, this program will be implemented on an eight year update schedule. Reports are to be
577 released in the year prior to the initiation of the eight year update in order to guide the scoping process for the
578 update. Additionally, to the extent practicable for each dataset, indicators will be reported at the level most
579 consistent with the major geographies in the Growth Management Act and Comprehensive Plan—incorporated
580 cities, unincorporated urban areas, Rural Areas, and Natural Resource Lands.

581 ~~● *Timeline:* The motion adopting the program framework shall be transmitted by June 1, 2017. A 2022
582 Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures Report released by March 1, 2022, will inform the 2022 Scope
583 of Work for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update.~~

584 ~~● *Outcomes:* The 2017 framework for the program shall be transmitted by the Executive to the Council by June
585 1, 2017, in the form of a motion that adopts the framework. The 2022 Comprehensive Plan Performance
586 Measures Report shall be completed as directed by the 2017 framework motion adopted by the Council.
587 The Executive shall file with the Council the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures Report. The
588 2022 Scope of Work for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update shall be informed by the 2022 Performance
589 Measures Report. The Executive's transmitted 2024 Comprehensive Plan shall include updated references
590 to the new Performance Measures Program.~~

591 ~~● *Lead:* Office of Performance Strategy and Budget. Executive staff shall work with the Council's
592 Comprehensive Plan lead staff in development of the 2017 framework for the program.~~

593

594 ~~**Action 3: Implement a Transfer of Development Rights Unincorporated Urban Receiving Area Amenity**~~
595 ~~**Funding Pilot Project.**~~ The County's Transfer of Development Rights Program has been very effective in
596 implementing Growth Management Act goals to reduce sprawl and permanently protect open space. This
597 Workplan item is to conduct a pilot project to determine the process for providing amenities to unincorporated
598 urban Transfer of Development Rights receiving area communities. The focus of the pilot project will be the East
599 Renton Plateau—an area of urban unincorporated King County that has received a substantial number of
600 Transferrable of Development Rights. The East Renton Plateau Transfer of Development Rights Receiving Area
601 Pilot Project will: develop a process for engaging the community to determine the type of amenities the
602 community desires; assess the type and amounts of funding available for providing amenities; and establish an
603 amount of amenity funding to be provided for each Transferrable of Development Rights (both past and future
604 Transferrable of Development Rights).

605
606 ~~• *Timeline:* 2017-2018; (18-month process). The Transfer of Development Rights Amenity Funding Pilot~~
607 ~~Project Report on the results of the pilot project shall be transmitted to the Council by June 1, 2018, so~~
608 ~~as to inform the King County 2019-2020 Biennial Budget.~~

609 ~~• *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council the Transfer of Development Rights Amenity~~
610 ~~Funding Pilot Project Report recommending process and funding levels relative to Transferrable of~~
611 ~~Development Rights used in development projects. The report shall include identification of any~~
612 ~~necessary recommended amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and King County Code. The~~
613 ~~Executive shall transmit to the Council any recommended amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and~~
614 ~~King County Code as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.~~

615 ~~• *Leads:* Department of Natural Resources and Parks. Executive staff shall update and coordinate with~~
616 ~~the Councilmember office(s) representing the pilot project community throughout the process.~~

617
618 ~~**Action 4: Transfer of Development Rights Program Review.**~~ The County's Transfer of Development Rights
619 ~~Program has been very successful in protecting Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands by transferring~~
620 ~~development potential into cities and unincorporated urban areas. Typically the Transfer of Development Rights~~
621 ~~Program advances two primary policy objectives: conserving Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, as well as~~
622 ~~focusing new growth in urban areas.~~

623
624 ~~This Workplan item will do the following:~~

625 ~~A. Prepare a Transfer of Development Rights Program Review Study that addresses:~~

626 ~~1) Tax revenue impacts of the Transfer of Development Rights Program for both sending and~~
627 ~~receiving sites.~~

628 ~~2) Analysis of potential Transfer of Development Rights Program changes that build on existing~~
629 ~~program objectives while considering other policy objectives, such as making investments in~~
630 ~~economically disadvantaged areas, promoting housing affordability, incentivizing green~~

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631 building, and providing for Transit Oriented Development. The analysis should take into
632 consideration the economic feasibility of and market interest in these other policy objectives, as
633 well as opportunities for providing amenities to communities that receive Transfer of
634 Development Rights. This analysis will be achieved through implementation of a pilot project
635 that utilizes such incentives and provides amenities to the community receiving increased
636 density associated with the Transfer of Development Rights. If possible, the pilot project should
637 be undertaken in Skyway West Hill and help implement the Skyway West Hill Action Plan.

638 3) ~~Consider possible performance criteria.~~

639 B. ~~Produce an annual report to the Council on the Transfer of Development Rights Program and~~
640 ~~associated bank activity.~~

641

642 ● ~~Timeline: The annual report to the Council shall commence with a report due on December 1, 2017. The~~
643 ~~Transfer of Development Rights Program Review Study, and an ordinance making Comprehensive Plan~~
644 ~~and/or King County Code changes if applicable, shall be filed with the Council by September 30, 2019 as~~
645 ~~part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.~~

646 ● ~~Outcomes: The Executive shall file with the Council the Transfer of Development Rights Program Review~~
647 ~~Study and the annual report. The Study shall outline policy and implementation options, if applicable. If~~
648 ~~Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code changes are recommended, an ordinance implementing~~
649 ~~those changes shall also be transmitted to the Council with the Study.~~

650 ● ~~Leads: Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Office of Performance Strategy and Budget.~~
651 ~~Executive staff shall update and coordinate with the Councilmember office(s) representing the pilot~~
652 ~~project community throughout the process.~~

653

654 **Action 5: Review 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan Implementation Needs.** The 2016 Comprehensive
655 Plan includes new policy direction that may need updates in the King County Code in order to be implemented
656 before the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update. The County will utilize an interbranch team to review the 2016
657 Comprehensive Plan and any necessary code updates. This analysis will result in a report that identifies the
658 areas of the code in need of updating and subsequent legislation to address the areas of inconsistencies. The
659 legislation will also include code changes to K.C.C. 16.82.150 and 16.82.152, and associated references, to
660 reflect court rulings and current case law.

661 ● ~~Timeline: An Implementation Report shall be filed with the Council by July 31, 2017. The Report will~~
662 ~~inform a code update ordinance(s), which shall be transmitted to the Council no later than December 31,~~
663 ~~2021.~~

664 ● ~~Outcomes: The interbranch team shall prepare, and the Executive shall file with the Council, the 2016~~
665 ~~Comprehensive Plan Implementation Report and the code update ordinance(s).~~

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666 ● ~~Leads: Interbranch team comprised of staff from at least the: King County Council, Office of Performance
667 Strategy and Budget, Department of Local Services— Permitting Division, and Prosecuting Attorney’s
668 Office.~~

669

670 ~~**Action 6: Alternative Housing Demonstration Project.** There is considerable interest to explore temporary and
671 permanent alternative housing models to address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in the Puget
672 Sound region. King County is currently exploring microhousing pilot projects across the region that can inform a
673 larger demonstration project under King County Code on alternative housing models in unincorporated King
674 County. Based on what the County learns from the experience of pilots across the region, the County should
675 pursue a larger demonstration project that looks at a broader range of temporary and permanent alternative
676 housing models under its land use authority.~~

677

678 ~~This work plan item will utilize an interbranch team to analyze the potential for a demonstration project under
679 K.C.C. chapter 21A.55 for one or more temporary or permanent alternative housing projects, such as single
680 and/or multi family microhousing (i.e., very small units clustered around a shared kitchen and other similar
681 models) or tiny houses, modular construction, live/work units, and co-housing projects. A demonstration
682 project will allow the County to test development regulations and other regulatory barriers related to alternative
683 housing models before adopting or amending permanent regulations. Such regulations could include
684 amendments to or establishment of regulations related to permitted uses or temporary uses, building and fire
685 codes, water and sewer supply requirements, setbacks, landscaping screening, location requirements, light and
686 glare requirements, public notice, and mitigation of impacts to the surrounding area. This work plan item should
687 also analyze potential funding sources and funding barriers for projects that may or may not require public
688 funding, including funds managed by the King County Housing and Community Development Division of the
689 Department of Community and Human Services.~~

690 ● ~~*Timeline:* Two phases. Phase One— Issuance of a request for proposals to identify a project or projects in
691 unincorporated King County that will participate in an Alternative Housing Demonstration Project.
692 While a project or projects are being chosen, a Demonstration Project ordinance package that pilots
693 necessary regulatory flexibilities will be developed for approval by the Council. Such a Demonstration
694 Project shall be transmitted to Council by December 31, 2019. Phase II— An Alternative Housing
695 Demonstration Project Report, including proposed regulations and/or amendments to implement the
696 recommendations of the report shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration within two years from
697 the final certificate of occupancy for buildings developed under the Demonstration Project Ordinance.~~

698 ● ~~*Outcomes:* The interbranch team shall prepare, and the Executive shall file with the Council, the
699 Alternative Housing Demonstration Project Report, which shall include analysis of the issues learned in
700 the Demonstration Project(s), and identification of recommended amendments to the Comprehensive
701 Plan and King County Code. The Executive shall also file with the Council an ordinance adopting
702 updates to the Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code as recommended in the Report.~~

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- 703 ● ~~Leads: The King County Council will convene an interbranch team comprised of staff from at least: King~~
704 ~~County Council, Department of Community and Human Services, Department of Local Services–~~
705 ~~Permitting Division, Public Health, and Office of Performance Strategy and Budget.~~

706
707 **Action 7: Agricultural Related Uses Zoning Code Updates.** As part of the transmitted 2016 Comprehensive
708 Plan, the Executive included recommended code changes related to agricultural uses in unincorporated King
709 County. In order to give the Council additional time to consider these proposed changes and to address the
710 identified policy issues, the transmitted code changes will not be adopted in 2016. Instead, the code changes will
711 be further developed through this work plan item.

712
713 The Council identified several policy issues through review of the code changes as part of the 2016
714 Comprehensive Plan update. Through use of an interbranch team, this work plan item aims to resolve these
715 policy issues, draft a new ordinance, and complete outreach to affected stakeholders such as the King County
716 Agriculture Commission, ag-related business owners, and/or Community Service Areas. If the results of the
717 winery study, currently being reviewed by the Executive, are not complete in time to incorporate into the 2016
718 Comprehensive Plan, then this work plan item should also address the recommendations of that study.

- 719 ● ~~Timeline: Six to nine month process. An Agricultural Related Uses Zoning Code Updates Report and~~
720 ~~proposed regulations to implement the recommendations in report shall be transmitted to the Council for~~
721 ~~consideration by September 30, 2017.~~

- 722 ● ~~Outcomes: The interbranch team shall prepare, and the Executive shall file with the Council, the~~
723 ~~Agricultural Related Uses Zoning Code Updates Report, which shall include identification of~~
724 ~~recommended amendments to the King County Code. The Executive shall also file with the Council an~~
725 ~~ordinance adopting updates to the King County Code as recommended in the Report.~~

- 726 ● ~~Leads: The King County Council will convene an interbranch team comprised of at least King County~~
727 ~~Council staff, the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review, the Department of Natural~~
728 ~~Resources and Parks, and the Office of Performance Strategy and Budget.~~

729
730 **Action 8: Cottage Housing Regulations Review.** Cottage housing is a method of development that
731 allows for multiple detached single family dwelling units to be located on a commonly owned parcel. In
732 unincorporated King County, cottage housing is currently only permitted in the R-4 through R-8 urban
733 residential zones, subject to certain conditions in the King County Code, such as in K.C.C. 21A.08.030 and
734 21A.12.030, which includes being only allowed on lots one acre in size or smaller. This work plan item will
735 review Comprehensive Plan policies and development code regulations for the potential for expanded
736 allowances for cottage housing in unincorporated King County, including in Rural Areas, and recommend
737 policy and code changes as appropriate. The review will include evaluation of encouraging: close proximity of
738 garages to the associated housing unit; and development of units with a wide variety of square footages, so as to
739 address various needs and a diversity of residents.

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740 ● ~~*Timeline:* A Cottage Housing Regulations Report shall be transmitted to the Council by December 31,~~
741 ~~2018. Any proposed policy or code changes to implement the recommendations in the report shall be~~
742 ~~transmitted to the Council for consideration by September 30, 2019 as part of the 2020 Comprehensive~~
743 ~~Plan update.~~

744 ● ~~*Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council the Cottage Housing Regulations Report, which shall~~
745 ~~include identification of any recommended amendments to the King County Code and/or~~
746 ~~Comprehensive Plan. The Executive shall also file with the Council an ordinance adopting updates to the~~
747 ~~King County Code and/or the Comprehensive Plan, if recommended in the Report.~~

748 ● ~~*Leads:* The Department of Local Services – Permitting Division and the Office of Performance Strategy~~
749 ~~and Budget.~~

750

751 **Action 9: Carbon Neutral King County Plan.** The 2016 Comprehensive Plan includes a new policy F 215b
752 which directs the County to “strive to provide services and build and operate public buildings and infrastructure
753 that are carbon neutral.” To support implementation of this policy, this work plan item directs the Executive to
754 develop an Implementation Plan for making King County government carbon neutral. The Implementation
755 Plan shall address existing and new County buildings, as well as all County operations and services, and shall
756 identify the actions, costs and schedule for achieving carbon neutral status. This Implementation Plan will help
757 inform the 2020 update of the Strategic Climate Action Plan, through which existing county targets for carbon
758 neutrality and greenhouse gas emissions reduction will be updated consistent with the F 215b and the
759 Implementation Plan.

760 ● ~~*Timeline:* A Carbon Neutral King County Implementation Plan and a motion adopting the~~
761 ~~Implementation Plan shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by February 28, 2019. A~~
762 ~~Progress Report on development of the Implementation Plan shall be transmitted to the Council by~~
763 ~~December 31, 2017.~~

764 ● ~~*Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council for review and potential approval the Carbon Neutral~~
765 ~~King County Implementation Plan and a motion adopting the Implementation Plan.~~

766 ● ~~*Leads:* Department of Natural Resources and Parks.~~

767

768 **Action 10: Green Building Handbook Review.** The 2016 Comprehensive Plan includes policy direction in
769 Policies U 133, R 336a, F 215a, and ED 501a that encourages green building practices in private development.
770 To support these implementation of these policies, and consistent with direction in the 2015 Strategic Climate
771 Action Plan, the County will soon be in the process of reviewing potential green building code requirements
772 and/or encouraged standards for private development for possible adoption. In the meantime, the County
773 intends to continue to use the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review’s existing “Green Building
774 Handbook” to help encourage private green building development, which is referenced in the 2016
775 Comprehensive Plan. This work plan item directs the Executive to transmit to the Council the Green Building
776 Handbook for review and potential approval.

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777 ●—*Timeline:* The Green Building Handbook and a motion approving the Handbook shall be transmitted to
778 the Council for consideration by March 1, 2017.

779 ●—*Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council for review and potential approval the Green Building
780 Handbook and a motion adopting the Handbook.

781 ●—*Leads:* The Department of Permitting and Environmental Review.
782

783 **Action 11: Bicycle Network Planning Report.** The Puget Sound Regional Council has identified a regional
784 bicycle network, for both the existing network and the associated gaps and needs, in its Active Transportation
785 Plan, which is an element of *Transportation 2040*. King County also identifies local bicycle network needs
786 throughout its planning, such as in the Transportation Needs Report and the Regional Trail Needs Report.
787

788 This Workplan item directs the King County Department of Transportation, in coordination with the
789 Department of Natural Resources and Parks and the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review, to
790 evaluate and report on how to enhance the bicycle network within unincorporated King County and address
791 identified regional and local bicycle infrastructure needs (such as standards for bicycle lanes, tracks and trails;
792 plans and financing for capital improvements; bicycle racks and parking; air filling stations; etc). This report will
793 include:

794 a.—Evaluation of existing King County planning efforts and possible areas for improvement, such as
795 addressing bicycle facility provisions in:

796 ○—roadway designs and standards, including lighting standards,

797 ○—plat approvals,

798 ○—commercial developments,

799 ○—parks & trails planning, and

800 ○—transit planning and access to transit.

801 b.—Evaluation of bicycle and/or active transportation plan elements of other jurisdictions, including
802 the City of Seattle, for opportunities to connect to King County planning and active transportation
803 facilities.

804 c.—Working with stakeholders for identification of needs and areas for possible improvements.

805 ●—*Timeline:* The Bicycle Network Planning Report and a motion approving the report shall be transmitted to
806 the Council for consideration by December 31, 2017.

807 ●—*Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council for review and potential approval the Bicycle Network
808 Planning Report and a motion adopting the Report.

809

810 ●—*Lead:* Department of Transportation.

811

812 **Action 12: Update Plat Ingress/Egress Requirements.** State law gives King County the responsibility to adopt
813 regulations and procedures for approval of subdivisions and plats. The Department of Local Services—Permitting

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814 Division reviews ingress and egress to subdivisions and plats during the preliminary subdivision approval process
815 using the Department of Local Services—Road Services Division’s “King County Road Design and Construction
816 Standards— 2007” (Roads Standards). In recent years, subdivision layouts have included one entry/exit (or
817 ingress/egress) point and a looped road network within the subdivision.

818
819 Utilizing one entry/exit point can cause access issues if the roadway were to be physically impeded (such as due
820 to: a fire, debris, flooding, ice, snow, etc.). This configuration may also cause traffic backups while waiting for
821 the ability to turn in to or out of the development. Sometimes, this one access point may also be located too close
822 to other intersecting roadways to the roadway that the development intersects; this can contribute to traffic back-
823 ups.

824
825 This Workplan item directs the Executive to transmit legislation to update the code, (such as K.C.C. Title 21A),
826 and the King County Department of Local Services—Road Services Division’s Road Standards to address these
827 access issues. This code update will include requiring two entry/exit points for plats and subdivisions over a
828 certain size; requiring sufficient distance between the two entry/exit points so as to not impact traffic flows;
829 addressing access for emergency vehicles, including requiring adequate roadway width to accommodate
830 emergency vehicles; and increasing the distance between adjacent intersecting streets. The transmittal letter for
831 the ordinance(s) shall indicate the rationale for the chosen size threshold for when the County will require two
832 entry/exit points.

833 ● *Timeline:* The proposed amendments to the King County Code and the King County Roads Standards
834 shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by June 30, 2020.

835 ● *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council an ordinance(s) adopting updates to the King County
836 Code and the King County Roads Standards.

837 ● *Lead:* Department of Local Services.

838

839 **Action 13: Water Availability and Permitting Study.** The recent Washington State Supreme Court decision in
840 *Whatcom County v. Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board (aka, Hirst)* held that counties have a
841 responsibility under the Growth Management Act to make determinations of water availability through the
842 Comprehensive Plan and facilitate establishing water adequacy by permit applicants before issuance of
843 development permits. *Hirst* also ruled that counties cannot defer to the State to make these determinations. This
844 case overruled a court of appeals decision which supported deference to the State. The Supreme Court ruling
845 will require the County to develop a system for review of water availability in King County, with a particular
846 focus on future development that would use permit exempt wells as their source of potable water. This system
847 will be implemented through amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan and development
848 regulations. The County will engage in a Water Availability and Permitting Study to address these and related
849 issues. This study will analyze methods to accommodate current zoning given possible water availability issues
850 and will look at innovative ways to accommodate future development in any areas with insufficient water by
851 using mitigation measures (e.g. water banks). This study will not include analysis of current water availability.

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852

853 • ~~Timeline: Eighteen month process. Initial report will be transmitted to the Council by December 1, 2017;~~
854 final report, with necessary amendments, will be transmitted to the Council by December 31, 2018. This
855 report may inform the scope of work for the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.

856 • ~~Outcomes: Modifications, as needed, to the Comprehensive Plan, King County Code and County~~
857 practices related to ensuring availability of water within the Comprehensive Plan and determining the
858 adequacy of water during the development permit process.

859 • ~~Leads: Performance, Strategy and Budget. Work with the Department of Local Services – Permitting~~
860 Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Department of Public Health, Prosecuting
861 Attorney's Office, and King County Council. Involvement of state agencies, public, local watershed
862 improvement districts, and non-governmental organizations.

863

864 **Action 14: 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update.** In 2018, the County restructured its comprehensive planning
865 program and associated Comprehensive Plan update process. This restructure includes moving to an eight year
866 update schedule. As part of the transition to this new update schedule and given that the next eight year plan
867 update will not be completed until 2024, there is a need to make substantive changes in the interim. The scope of
868 the update proposed by the Executive in the motion shall include any changes as called for by applicable
869 Workplan Action items, any policy changes or land use proposals that should be considered prior to the 2024
870 update, review and inclusion of changes related to docket proposals that were recommended to be reviewed as
871 part of the next eight year update, aligning the language in the Comprehensive Plan and Title 20 regarding what
872 is allowed during annual, midpoint and eight year updates, and reviewing and updating the terminology to
873 consistently describe the various updates.

874 • ~~Timeline: A motion authorizing the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update shall be transmitted to the~~
875 Council for consideration by January 2, 2019. The Council shall have until February 28, 2019 to adopt
876 the motion. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan update shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration
877 by September 30, 2019. The Council shall have until June 30, 2020 to adopt the 2020 Comprehensive
878 Plan update.

879 • ~~Outcomes: The Executive shall file with the Council a motion authorizing the 2020 Comprehensive Plan~~
880 update. The Council shall have until February 28, 2019 to adopt the motion, either as transmitted or
881 amended. In the absence of Council approval by February 28, 2019, the Executive shall proceed to
882 implement the scope as proposed. If the motion is approved by February 28, 2019, the scope shall
883 proceed as established by the approved motion. The Executive shall then file with the Council the
884 proposed 2020 Comprehensive Plan update by September 30, 2019. The Council shall have until June
885 30, 2020 to adopt the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.

886 • ~~Leads: Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, in coordination and collaboration with the~~
887 Department of Local Services – Permitting Division.

888 **Action 15. Annual DLS Briefing at Local Services Committee.** In order to better serve the residents of
889 unincorporated King County, the Council adopted Ordinance 18791 to establish a new Department of Local

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890 Services effective January 1, 2019, following guidance for the creation of the Department adopted in Motion
891 15125. The Department will be evaluating processes, procedures, and policies to identify areas of improvement
892 in the delivery of unincorporated services. In addition to this evaluation, the Department will report at least
893 annually to the Local Services Committee or its successor on key issues related to unincorporated areas.

- 894 ● ~~Timeline:~~ The Department will report to the Local Services Committee or its successor at least annually.
- 895 ● ~~Outcomes:~~ The Department of Local Services shall coordinate with the Regional Planning Unit and
896 other departments to inform the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, and will brief the Local Services
897 Committee at least annually.
- 898 ● ~~Leads:~~ Department of Local Services, in coordination with the Regional Planning Unit of Office of
899 Performance, Strategy and Budget.

900
901 **Action 16: Streamlining the Comprehensive Plan.** Public participation, as expressed in Policy RP 103, is to be
902 actively sought out throughout the development, amendment, and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.
903 The Plan, and various iterations before final adoption, are posted online in order to be accessible to the public,
904 and active outreach efforts during plan updates seek to reach a wide range of County residents. However, such a
905 lengthy document with many complex regulatory requirements can be difficult to navigate and understand. To
906 make the Comprehensive Plan and relevant sections in King County Code Title 20 more reader friendly and
907 accessible to a wider audience, redundancies and excess detail should be minimized. This workplan item will
908 initiate the process of streamlining the 2016 Comprehensive Plan and portions of King County Code Title 20
909 over the next several years, with the goal of becoming shorter, easier to understand, and more accessible to the
910 general public. This review will consider: removal of text or policies that are redundant and/or repetitive within
911 the plan; removal of text or policies that are redundant to other existing plans and policy documents; removal of
912 outdated text or policies; removal of text or policies that are at a level of detail that is more appropriate for
913 functional plans, implementation plans, development regulations, etc.; increasing readability and conciseness;
914 clarifying the process for amending the plan; and making the document and sections of the Code more
915 streamlined, user friendly, and accessible for the public.

- 916 ● ~~Timeline:~~ A streamlined version of the Comprehensive Plan and relevant sections of King County Code
917 Title 20, including but not limited to KCC 20.08, 20.12, and 20.18 shall be transmitted to the Council
918 for consideration by June 30, 2023.
- 919 ● ~~Outcomes:~~ The Executive shall file with the Council an ordinance adopting a streamlined version of the
920 Comprehensive Plan and associated code changes as part of the Executive's proposed 2024 eight year
921 Comprehensive Plan update.
- 922 ● ~~Leads:~~ Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, in coordination and collaboration with the Council's
923 Comprehensive Planning lead staff and the Department of Local Services – Permitting Division.

924
925 **Action 17: Update the Residential Density Incentive Code.** As part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update,
926 the King County Executive included a code study regarding the County's Residential Density Incentive (RDI)
927 regulations in K.C.C. Chapter 21A.34. This code study included recommendations for updating the RDI

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928 regulations, but ultimately the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update did not include any updates with the 2020
929 Comprehensive Plan update. The code study states that the "key factors identified and recommendations should
930 be considered as the Affordable Housing Committee seeks to develop model ordinances or provide technical
931 assistance to other jurisdictions interested in implementing inclusionary housing policies." As part of this Work
932 plan Action, the King County Executive will update the County's RDI regulations. This work can be
933 coordinated with the Affordable Housing Committee of the Growth Management Planning Council, which has
934 been established to implement the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Five Year Action Plan and will
935 recommend action and assess progress toward implementing the Plan.

- 936 ● ~~*Timeline:* A proposed ordinance modifying the Residential Density Incentive Code shall be transmitted~~
937 ~~to the Council by June 30, 2023.~~
- 938 ● ~~*Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council a proposed ordinance as part of the Executive's~~
939 ~~proposed 2024 eight year Comprehensive Plan update.~~
- 940 ● ~~*Lead:* Department of Local Services— Permitting Division, in coordination with the Department of~~
941 ~~Community and Human Services and the Affordable Housing Committee of the Growth Management~~
942 ~~Planning Council.~~

943

944 **Action 18: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation.** As part of the 2020 update to the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, policies
945 and regulations related to some aspects of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions were adopted. More
946 work is needed to address resiliency for the natural and built environment, and to mitigate impacts from climate
947 change, including avoiding or sequestering greenhouse gas emissions. The loss of carbon sequestration capacity
948 resulting from the conversion of forestland to non-forest uses is one area where the County can make a difference
949 in addressing these impacts. In order to implement the policy direction in the 2020 update related to sea level
950 rise, climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and fossil fuel facility impacts, this Workplan item directs:

- 951 A. Preparation of a Forest Conversion Review Study that includes and evaluates the following information:
- 952 1. The current process and standards for reviewing and approving Class IV General Forest Practices
953 relating to forest conversion, and for reviewing and approving Conversion Option Harvest Plans.
 - 954 2. The number of forest conversions permitted in unincorporated King County since August 10, 1999,
955 regardless of whether a separate Class IV General Forest Practice permit was issued, and the
956 average and total acreage of forest removed.
 - 957 3. The number of Conversion Option Harvest Plans approved since August 10, 1999, and the number
958 of participating properties that were not subsequently replanted.
 - 959 4. An estimate of sequestered carbon lost and reduced future carbon sequestration potential due to
960 clearing under Class IV General Forest Practice permits and Conversion Option Harvest Plans.

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961 5.— Potential pathways to achieving zero net loss carbon sequestration capacity from future forest
962 conversions, including, but not limited to, off site replanting, payment into a mitigation bank, and
963 purchase of carbon credits. This should include both standard forest conversions and properties
964 with Conversion Option Harvest Plans that are subsequently converted to non forest uses.

965 B.— Drafting and transmittal of a proposed ordinance that establishes or modifies regulations, and if necessary,
966 Comprehensive Plan policies, that will result in zero net loss of carbon sequestration capacity from future
967 forest conversions, based on the recommended strategies in the Forest Conversion Review Study.

968 •— *Timeline:* The Forest Conversion Review Study report and a proposed ordinance making
969 Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code changes shall be transmitted to the Council for
970 consideration by June 30, 2022.

971 •— *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council the Forest Conversion Review Study report and a
972 proposed ordinance with recommended code and/or policy updates.

973 •— *Leads:* Department of Natural Resources and Parks and Department of Local Services—Permitting
974 Division.

975

976 **Action 19: Skyway West Hill and North Highline Anti-Displacement Strategies.** King County will complete
977 an Anti Displacement Strategy for Skyway West Hill and North Highline. In the context of Motion 15539, the
978 work done by the County's Regional Affordable Housing Task Force and the ongoing work by the Affordable
979 Housing Committee of the Growth Management Planning Council, this strategy will evaluate tools, programs,
980 and regulations to retain and create affordable housing and prevent residential displacement. The strategy, at
981 minimum, shall consider the following: mandatory inclusionary zoning; preservation for manufactured housing
982 and manufactured housing communities; residential community benefit agreements; relocation assistance;
983 redevelopment assistance; right to return programs; community preference programs; and other tools, programs,
984 and regulations identified in Motion 15539. The report will be informed by best practices, research, other
985 ongoing efforts in King County, and a robust community engagement process.

986 •— *Timeline:* A Skyway West Hill and North Highline Anti-Displacement Strategies Report and proposed
987 legislation to implement the recommendations in the report shall be transmitted to the Council for
988 consideration by September 30, 2021. This deadline supersedes the deadlines adopted in Motion 15539.

989 •— *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council the Skyway West Hill and North Highline Anti-
990 Displacement Strategies Report, which shall include recommended strategies and tools and
991 identification of recommended legislation, if appropriate. The Executive shall also file with the Council
992 legislation as recommended in the Report. These outcomes supersede the deliverables adopted in
993 Motion 15539.

994 •— *Leads:* Department of Community and Human Services, Department of Local Services, the Office of
995 Equity and Social Justice, and the Office of Performance Strategy and Budget. Executive staff shall
996 update and coordinate with the Councilmember offices representing the area on at least a quarterly
997 basis throughout the planning process.

998

999 **Action 20: Fossil Fuel Facilities Risk Bonds.** As part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, policies and
1000 regulations related to fossil fuel facilities were adopted. More work is needed to address the potential impacts of
1001 fossil fuels and fossil fuel facilities and related uses on the environment and human health. To accomplish this,
1002 this Workplan Action item directs:

1003 A. Preparation of a Fossil Fuel Risk Bond evaluation, that will include, at a minimum:

1004 1. An economic risk assessment of fossil fuel facilities and related uses, and climate change. The
1005 assessment shall include recommended policy language or development regulations that directs
1006 an update to this evaluation on a periodic basis when significant new information is available,
1007 and shall quantify the expected annualized costs to County finances, the County's economy,
1008 and County households over the next fifty years associated with several categories of risks:

1009 a. For fossil fuel facilities and related uses, the assessment shall address risks associated
1010 with catastrophic explosions of storage and transfer facilities, refineries, oil and gas train
1011 derailments, gas pipeline ruptures and explosions, fuel tanker spills and explosions,
1012 pollution of air and water, brownfields, and abandoned infrastructure.

1013 b. For climate change, the assessment shall address economic risks associated with
1014 changes in the frequency and severity of wildfires, floods, storms, drought, infestations
1015 of exotic diseases and pests, and other natural hazards. The assessment shall also
1016 address costs associated with the implementation of climate action policies and plans, as
1017 well as investing in adaptation measures.

1018 2. An evaluation of the adequacy of existing financial assurance mechanisms in reducing the
1019 County's economic and financial risks associated with fossil fuel facilities and related uses, and
1020 climate change. Title 27A of the King County Code, "Financial Guarantees" already contains
1021 mechanisms for obtaining financial assurances before attempting potentially dangerous
1022 development activity. However, there is currently no language in Title 27A that requires
1023 financial assurances specifically for fossil fuel facilities and related uses. Such measures could
1024 include surety and performance bonds, letters of credit, third party trust funds, insurance,
1025 corporate guarantees, and others. The evaluation shall compare risk exposure for the County,
1026 with the maximum likely coverage of that risk by these mechanisms, and shall include
1027 recommendations for additional financial assurances or other measures that need to be
1028 adopted to minimize risks.

1029 B. Drafting and transmittal of any necessary legislation that establishes or modifies Comprehensive Plan
1030 policies and development regulations, that will implement the recommendations of the Fossil Fuel Risk
1031 Bond evaluation.

1032 • *Timeline:* The Fossil Fuel Risk Bond evaluation and any necessary legislation making Comprehensive
1033 Plan and/or King County Code changes shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by June
1034 30, 2022.

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1035 ● ~~Outcomes: The Executive shall file with the Council the Fossil Fuel Risk Bond evaluation and, if~~
1036 ~~warranted, a proposed ordinance(s) with recommended code and/or policy updates.~~

1037 ● ~~Leads: Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and~~
1038 ~~Department of Local Services – Permitting Division.~~

1039

1040 **Action 21: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation.** ~~As part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, policies and~~
1041 ~~regulations related to fossil fuel facilities and resident and business resiliency to climate change impacts were~~
1042 ~~adopted. However, further work is necessary to reduce climate impacts, by mitigating the greenhouse gas~~
1043 ~~emissions that drive those impacts. Policy E-215 of the Comprehensive Plan requires all projects being evaluated~~
1044 ~~under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to be evaluated for greenhouse gas emissions, and also allows~~
1045 ~~the County to exercise its substantive authority to mitigate for these emissions, but only after mitigation~~
1046 ~~standards have been adopted by ordinance. In order to establish standards to begin mitigating emissions from~~
1047 ~~development, this Workplan Action item directs:~~

1048 A. ~~Updating the county's greenhouse gas emissions worksheet to include best available emissions factors~~
1049 ~~and other data, and to be able to evaluate emissions from a wide range of project types. The worksheet~~
1050 ~~shall, at a minimum, be capable of evaluating induced demand and all scope one and scope two~~
1051 ~~emissions from the construction and use, as well as embodied scope three emissions from construction~~
1052 ~~materials such as cement, asphalt, and steel.~~

1053 B. ~~Completion of a study evaluating options for implementing greenhouse gas mitigation from all~~
1054 ~~development projects requiring SEPA review, as allowed in Comprehensive Plan Policy E-215.~~

1055 C. ~~If warranted, drafting and transmittal of a proposed ordinance(s) that adopts the updated greenhouse~~
1056 ~~gas worksheet and establishes or modifies Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations to~~
1057 ~~implement standards for greenhouse gas mitigation in accordance with Policy E-215.~~

1058 ● ~~Timeline: The updated greenhouse gas emissions worksheet and the greenhouse gas mitigation study,~~
1059 ~~and a proposed ordinance(s) making Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code changes shall be~~
1060 ~~transmitted to the Council for consideration by June 30, 2022.~~

1061 ● ~~Outcomes: The Executive shall file with the Council the updated greenhouse gas worksheet, greenhouse~~
1062 ~~gas mitigation study and, if warranted, a proposed ordinance(s) with recommended code and/or policy~~
1063 ~~updates.~~

1064 ● ~~Leads: Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and Department of Local Services – Permitting~~
1065 ~~Division.~~

1066

1067 **Actions Related to the Growth Management Planning Council**

1068 The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) is a separate formal body consisting of elected officials
1069 from King County, Seattle, Bellevue, other cities and towns in King County, special purpose districts, and the
1070 Port of Seattle. The GMPC developed the Countywide Planning Policies, providing a countywide vision and
1071 serving as a framework for each jurisdiction to develop its own comprehensive plan, which must be consistent

**((2016)) 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan – ((updated December 6, 2022)) Adopted TBD
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1072 with the overall vision for the future of King County. The GMPC is chaired by the King County Executive; five
1073 King County Councilmembers serve as members. Recommendations from the GMPC are transmitted to the full
1074 King County Council for review and consideration.

1075

1076 The GMPC develops its own independent work program every year; this section of the 2016 Comprehensive
1077 Plan Workplan identifies issues the County will bring forward to the GMPC for review, consideration and
1078 recommendations. King County will submit these Workplan items to the GMPC for consideration at its first
1079 meeting of 2017, with a goal of completing the GMPC review and recommendations by December 31, 2018.
1080 The Executive will work with the Council to determine whether the amendments are appropriate for inclusion in
1081 the annual or midpoint Comprehensive Plan update prior to the next eight year update.

1082

1083 **Action GMPC 1 (Was Action 17): Develop a Countywide Plan to Move Remaining Unincorporated Urban**
1084 **Potential Annexation Areas Toward Annexation.** The GMPC has authority to propose amendments to the
1085 Countywide Planning Policies, and a unique defined role related to recommending approval or denial of Urban
1086 Growth Area expansions. In order to move remaining unincorporated areas, which vary in size and complexity,
1087 towards annexation, the GMPC would reconsider the Potential Annexation Areas map and the "Joint Planning
1088 and Annexation" section of the Countywide Planning Policies. This effort would include an evaluation of how
1089 to address Potential Annexation Areas that have been previously unsuccessful in annexation and/or where
1090 annexation does not appear feasible in the near future. The report shall include review of tax revenue impacts to
1091 the County resulting from annexations, evaluation of requirements regarding annexation of roadways within
1092 Potential Annexation Areas, and identification of current orphaned roads and potential methods to transfer
1093 ownership to cities. Deadline: December 31, 2019.

1094

1095 **Action GMPC 2 (Was Action 18): Review the Four to One Program.** The County's Four to One Program has
1096 been very effective in implementing Growth Management Act goals to reduce sprawl and encourage retention of
1097 open space. This is done through discretionary actions by the County Council, following a proposal being
1098 submitted by a landowner(s) to the County. Over time, there have been proposals that vary from the existing
1099 parameters of the program; these have included possible conversion of urban zoning for lands not contiguous to
1100 the original 1994 Urban Growth Area, allowing the open space to be non-contiguous to the urban extension, use
1101 of transfer of development rights, providing increased open space credit for preserved lands with high ecological
1102 value (such as lands that could provide for high value floodplain restoration, riparian habitat, or working
1103 resource lands), and consideration of smaller parcels or parcels with multiple ownerships. Allowing these
1104 changes have the potential for increasing the use of the tool, with attendant risks and benefits. The Growth
1105 Management Planning Council would review the Four to One program and determine whether changes to the
1106 existing program should be implemented that will strengthen the program and improve implementation of the
1107 Comprehensive Plan, including evaluation of the proposals listed above.

1108

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Attachment A to Ordinance ((18427, as amended by Ordinances 18623, 18810, 19034, 19146, and 19555)) TBD**

1109 ~~Action GMPC-3 (Was Action 19):~~ As required by the Growth Management Act, King County and the 39 cities
1110 participate in the Buildable Lands Program to evaluate their capacity to accommodate forecasted growth of
1111 housing units and jobs. The program, administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce, requires
1112 certain counties to determine whether the county and its cities are achieving urban densities within urban growth
1113 areas by comparing assumptions and targets regarding growth and development with actual growth and
1114 development in the county and cities. Since issuance of the first Buildable Lands Report in 2002, jurisdictions
1115 and stakeholders have expressed the potential for possible refinements of the methodology used by King County
1116 and the cities. The Growth Management Planning Council would work with stakeholders to review the
1117 methodology, including testing the accuracy of the Buildable Lands Report model and results, for potential
1118 refinements.))

1119

1120 **Action 1: Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures Framework Update**

1121 Through adoption of Motion 15014 in 2017, King County established a Performance Measures Program for the
1122 Comprehensive Plan. The Program is intended to monitor Comprehensive Plan implementation and to help
1123 inform whether plan amendments are needed to better achieve the plan’s goals, as reflected in the
1124 Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles. As established in the reporting timelines in King County Code
1125 Chapter 20.18, Program reporting occurs in advance of, and with the intent of informing, establishing the scope
1126 of work for 10-year Comprehensive Plan updates.

1127

1128 The Executive issued the first Performance Measures Report under the new program in 2022 via Report 2022-
1129 RPT0045. In developing the report, department staff indicated that the measures could be further refined to
1130 better tell a more accurate picture of plan performance. The approved framework also does not align with the
1131 current Comprehensive Plan update cycle. As required by Motion 15014, any changes to the performance
1132 measures framework must be approved via a motion that is passed by the Council.

1133

- 1134 • Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council a motion updating the Performance Measures
1135 Program Framework.
- 1136 • Timeline: The Performance Measures Program Framework Motion should be filed with the Council by
1137 December 31, 2029. Council review, refinement, and possible approval of the Motion should be
1138 completed by March 31, 2030, to allow for completion of the next Performance Measures Report that is
1139 due by December 31, 2030, to inform scoping for the 2034 10-year Comprehensive Plan update.
- 1140 • Lead Agency: Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget.
- 1141 • Support Agency(ies): Comprehensive Planning Interdepartmental Team.

1142

1143 **Action 2: Comprehensive Plan Public Participation Code Update**

1144 The public participation requirements for updates to the King County Comprehensive Plan and development
1145 regulations are guided by state law, adopted Comprehensive Plan policies, and King County Code Chapter
1146 20.18. The majority of the requirements in code have not been amended since they were first adopted in 1998.
1147 The 2024 Comprehensive Plan made some code changes to align with current state law, reflect current practice,

1148 and provide clarity. However, additional work is needed to ensure the code reflects and supports equitable
1149 engagement goals and outcomes.

1150

1151 Equitable engagement process improvements were integrated into the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update process.
1152 Those 2024 engagement efforts were not inconsistent with the current code; however, the code could be
1153 strengthened to further support this work in the future. Additionally, there are more opportunities to improve
1154 the engagement process to make it more equitable. Given this, additional updates to the public participation
1155 code in Chapter 20.18 work are warranted. This work would be disingenuous without thoughtful community
1156 engagement on the changes, especially with communities that have been historically excluded from the planning
1157 process. This Work Plan Action directs that work to occur outside of a major Comprehensive Plan update to
1158 allow for focused engagement on these important issues.

1159

- 1160 • Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council an ordinance updating the public participation
1161 elements of King County Code Chapter 20.18.
- 1162 • Timeline: The ordinance should be transmitted to the Council by June 30, 2028. If there is a
1163 Comprehensive Plan midpoint update authorized at that time, the code changes should be part of the
1164 midpoint transmittal package.
- 1165 • Lead Agency: Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget.
- 1166 • Support Agency(ies): Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice, and Department of Local Services.

1167

1168 **Action 3: Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Community Preference Review**

1169 In 2022, the County adopted inclusionary housing regulations for Skyway-West Hill and North Highline, which
1170 included: (1) mandatory inclusionary housing in the commercial cores of both communities, (2) voluntary
1171 inclusionary housing in the remaining areas of those communities, and (3) a requirement for a community
1172 preference program for any inclusionary housing development. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan expanded the
1173 voluntary inclusionary housing provisions to other geographies (all of urban unincorporated King County and
1174 the Rural Towns of Vashon and Snoqualmie Pass).

1175

1176 The 2024 Comprehensive Plan Equity Work Group, as well as public input received during development of the
1177 2024 plan, expressed support for also expanding the mandatory inclusionary housing and community preference
1178 provisions to some or all of the new geographies that the voluntary provisions in the 2024 changes would apply
1179 to. Additional time and resources are needed to review how or if these elements could successfully be
1180 implemented in additional communities without unintended consequences.

1181

1182 Given this, this Work Plan Action directs evaluation of whether it would be appropriate to potentially expand
1183 mandatory inclusionary housing and/or community preference regulations to the other geographies that
1184 currently have voluntary inclusionary housing, including consideration of displacement risk, market conditions,
1185 and public engagement with potentially affected communities.

1186

((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)) TBD

- 1187 • Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and
- 1188 Community Preference Review report and a proposed ordinance implementing the recommendations in
- 1189 the report.
- 1190 • Timeline: The Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Community Preference Review report and ordinance,
- 1191 if recommended, should be filed with the Council by December 31, 2027.
- 1192 • Lead Agency: Department of Community and Human Services.
- 1193 • Support Agency(ies): Department of Local Services.

1194

1195 **Action 4: Multifamily Housing Tax Exemption Feasibility**

1196 In 2021, the Washington State Legislature authorized use of Multifamily Housing Tax Exemptions (MFTEs) in

1197 unincorporated areas via Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5287. MFTE programs are property tax

1198 waiver programs enacted by cities and counties to support local housing goals. Under Chapter 84.14 Revised

1199 Code of Washington, local governments can give exemptions for new construction, conversion, and

1200 rehabilitation of multifamily residential improvements with at least four units. Under these exemptions, a

1201 property owner does not have to pay property taxes on the residential improvements for a given number of years.

1202 The property owner still pays tax on the land and on non-residential improvements like the commercial portion

1203 of a mixed-use building.

1204

1205 MFTEs give financial incentives to help meet housing goals without the need for direct funding. This can

1206 support development of affordable housing, but it can also incentivize market-rate housing in a way that

1207 complies with state constitutional requirements. It can also potentially result in either a loss of tax revenue to the

1208 community or a tax shift where other property owners will pay more in taxes.

1209

1210 This Work Plan Action directs King County to explore whether to allow use of a MFTE in unincorporated King

1211 County, including analysis of:

- 1212 a. potential program design that would incentivize affordable units;
- 1213 b. impacts of a tax exemption, and whether that financial impact is sustainable; and
- 1214 c. potential program administrative needs, including monitoring, oversight, reporting;
- 1215 d. ongoing program updates to ensure sufficient incentive to maximize public benefits; and
- 1216 e. public input received during engagement on this action item.

1217

- 1218 • Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council a Multifamily Housing Tax Exemption Feasibility
- 1219 report and a proposed ordinance implementing the recommendations in the report.
- 1220 • Timeline: The Multifamily Housing Tax Exemption Feasibility report and ordinance, if recommended,
- 1221 should be filed with the Council by December 31, 2027.
- 1222 • Lead Agency: Department of Community and Human Services.
- 1223 • Support Agency(ies): Department of Local Services, Office of Performance Strategy and Budget.

1224

1225 **Action 5: Old Growth Corridors Strategies**

1226 Mature forests with broad range of native tree species and age classes – key characteristics of what are commonly
1227 referred to as “old growth” forests – provide a wealth of ecological and social benefits including, but not limited
1228 to, healthy habitat; clean and cool water; water storage to mitigate downstream flooding, providing summer
1229 flows to rivers and streams, and supplying drinking water; wildfire resilience; diversity of flora, fauna, fungal,
1230 and microbial communities; and recreation. Old growth forests in western Washington are also of enormous
1231 cultural importance to sovereign Indian tribes. In addition to providing ecological, social, and cultural benefits,
1232 mature forests in the Pacific Northwest also sequester carbon and are more resilient to the effects of climate
1233 change than younger or less diverse forests.

1234
1235 The 2024 Comprehensive Plan includes policies directing King County to identify and implement strategies to
1236 protect forests in ways that build resilience and maximize social and ecological values while carefully
1237 considering any effects of changes to forestland management on the timber resource economy. The Plan directs
1238 King County to identify opportunities to establish and maintain large blocks of forest, particularly in upper
1239 watershed areas and along major river corridors given the importance of contiguous forest cover in these areas
1240 for preventing flooding, improving water quality, and protecting salmon and other wildlife habitat.
1241 This work plan action item directs review scientific literature and recommend potential strategies and tactics to
1242 accelerate establishment of “old growth corridors” in upper watersheds and along major river corridors,
1243 especially in areas with a predominance of existing public ownership.

1244
1245 This work should include identifying and analyzing: appropriate geographies; feasible programmatic and project
1246 actions King County has control to implement such as acquisitions, incentive programs, and regulatory changes;
1247 potential partnerships with public and private landowners, land managers, and Indian tribes; and existing and
1248 potential funding sources.

- 1249
1250
 - *Deliverables:* The Executive should file with the Council an Old Growth Corridors Strategies report
1251 outlining scientific findings, geographies of relevance, and potential strategies for establishing old
1252 growth corridors.
 - *Timeline:* The Old Growth Corridors Strategies report should be transmitted to the Council by June 1,
1253 2026.
 - *Lead Agency:* Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

1254
1255
1256
1257 **Action 6: Vashon-Maury Island Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Response Plan**
1258 Properties and infrastructure along the Vashon-Maury Island shoreline are potentially at risk to damage from
1259 coastal flooding, tsunamis, landslides, and sea level rise. The extent to which these hazards affect specific
1260 locations will vary depending on site-specific factors, including topography, the proximity of infrastructure to the
1261 shoreline, and the ability to implement adaptive measures in any given location. Existing studies have not gotten
1262 to this level of specificity for these hazards, however. This makes it difficult to determine where and what
1263 specific hazard mitigation approaches may be needed and how to sequence that work.

1264

1265 King County will conduct a detailed assessment of the Vashon and Maury Island shoreline inclusive of public
1266 and private infrastructure and natural systems to better understand which locations face a higher risk from
1267 coastal flooding, tsunamis, landslides, and sea level rise due to site constraints or other factors. Results from the
1268 study will inform long-range planning for these hazards and the development of additional actions, policies,
1269 development regulations, and/or zoning changes, as needed, to address these risks. These changes would be
1270 included in future updates of the Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code.

1271
1272 The study will draw on available data and studies, as well as a new coastal storm surge model for the King
1273 County shoreline being developed by USGS (due summer 2024). The County intends to apply for grant funding
1274 to complete this work.

- 1275
- 1276 • Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council the Vashon-Maury Island Coastal Hazard
1277 Vulnerability Assessment and Response Plan. If policy and/or code changes are recommended by
1278 the Assessment, they should be transmitted to the Council in the next appropriate update to the
1279 Comprehensive Plan and/or the King County Code.
 - 1280 • Timeline: The Vashon-Maury Island Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Response Plan
1281 should be transmitted to the Council by December 31, 2026.
 - 1282 • Lead agency: Department of Natural Resources and Parks
 - 1283 • Support agency(ies): Department of Local Services, Public Health - Seattle & King County
- 1284

1285 **Action 7: Wildfire Risk Assessment**

1286 Large wildfires across the Pacific Northwest over the last decade, combined with recent local fires in King
1287 County and increasing concern about the impacts of climate change on wildfire potential, have contributed to a
1288 growing awareness of the need to prepare for an increased risk of wildfire in or adjacent to the wildland-urban
1289 interface (WUI).

1290
1291 King County issued its first Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy in 2022 and has since been working to develop and
1292 implement the identified actions. This includes implementing state building code changes related to building in
1293 the WUI in 2023, as well as adopting wildfire risk policy and code changes in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.
1294 However, additional information is needed to better understand wildfire risks in unincorporated King County
1295 and whether additional regulatory measures are needed to further reduce wildfire risk.

1296
1297 This workplan will include completing a wildfire risk assessment for unincorporated King County to better
1298 understand where and how communities and critical infrastructure are vulnerable to wildfire; the degree to
1299 which current codes and policies address the risk; and what additional actions, policy, development regulation,
1300 or zoning changes, if any, may be needed to reduce wildfire risk. Potential external partners for the study
1301 include King County fire districts, the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources, and utilities. The results of
1302 this work will inform future updates of the Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code. The County intends
1303 apply for grant funding to complete this work.

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- 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: Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Support agency(ies): King County Office of Emergency Management Department of Local Services – Permitting Division.

1314 ~~((VII.))~~ **Incentives**

1315 To ensure that the vision, goals, objectives, and policies of ~~((this))~~ the Comprehensive Plan become a reality, it
1316 will require adjusting policy and budget priorities by King County government. It will require individuals to
1317 reconsider their daily decisions and choices relating to the management or development of their lands. The
1318 decisions and choices of large scale public/private partnerships during the development of major projects will be
1319 critical factors contributing to the effective implementation of ~~((this))~~ the Comprehensive Plan. Incentives,
1320 ~~((like))~~ such as the Transfer of Development Rights Program, must encourage the types of growth and
1321 development patterns desired by King County and its residents.

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- I-601 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 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;~~
 - d.) Density bonuses and/or other regulatory flexibilities for inclusionary housing;**
 - b. Joint development opportunities at ~~((e))~~ County-owned or operated facilities, utilization of air rights on ~~((e))~~ County-owned or operated facilities, and the establishment of transit-supportive design guidelines and regulations; and**

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((e.)) c. County ((capital improvement)) funding for public urban amenities, including transportation, parks, open space, cultural, and other facilities, for cities participating in the King County Transfer of Development Rights Program.



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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 including, but not limited to, the use of wheelchairs and personal assistive mobility devices powered by electricity that are used by physically impaired persons, 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. The Regional Trail network, and its use, is for both recreation and transportation purposes. Not all facilities are appropriate for all modes and may have restrictions on the use of any mode.

22 **Adaptive management**

23 Adaptive management ((is a systematic approach for continually improving management policies and practices
24 by learning from the outcomes of operational programs)) means modifying management actions based on
25 ongoing monitoring and data analysis.
26

27 **Agricultural activities**

28 ((Agricultural activities means agricultural uses and practices including, but not limited to: producing, breeding,
29 or increasing agricultural products; rotating and changing agricultural crops; allowing land used for agricultural
30 activities to lie fallow in which it is plowed and tilled but left unseeded; allowing land used for agricultural
31 activities to lie dormant as a result of adverse agricultural market conditions; allowing land used for agricultural
32 activities to lie dormant because the land is enrolled in a local, state, or federal conservation program, or the land
33 is subject to a conservation easement; conducting agricultural operations; maintaining, repairing, and replacing
34 agricultural equipment; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural facilities, provided that the
35 replacement facility is no closer to the shoreline than the original facility; and maintaining agricultural lands
36 under production or cultivation.)) Except for the purposes of Chapter 6, Shorelines, agricultural activities means
37 those agricultural uses and practices that pertain directly to the commercial production of agricultural products,
38 including, but not limited to:

39 _____ A. Tilling, discing, planting, seeding, fertilization, composting and other soil amendments and
40 harvesting;

41 _____ B. Grazing, animal mortality management and on-site animal waste storage, disposal and processing;

42 _____ C. Soil conservation practices including dust control, rotating and changing agricultural crops and
43 allowing agricultural lands to lie fallow under local, state or federal conservation programs;

44 _____ D. Maintenance of farm and stock ponds, agricultural drainage, irrigation systems canals and flood
45 control facilities;

46 _____ E. Normal maintenance, operation and repair of existing serviceable equipment, structures, facilities or
47 improved areas, including, but not limited to, fencing, farm access roads and parking; and

48 _____ F. Processing, promotion, sale, storage, packaging and distribution.

49 (See Chapter 6, Shorelines, for agricultural activities in the shoreline jurisdiction.)

50
51 **Agricultural Production Districts ((APD))**

52 The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, agricultural lands
53 that are not characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production
54 of food or other agricultural products. ((The comprehensive plan designates)) Agricultural Production Districts
55 are lands where the principal land use should be agriculture. ((Lands within Agricultural Production Districts
56 should remain in parcels large enough for commercial agriculture.)) (See Chapter 3((:)), Rural Areas and
57 Natural Resource Lands.)
58

59 **Agricultural products**

60 Agricultural products include, but are not limited to: horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, vegetable, fruit,
61 berry, grain, hops, hay, straw, turf, sod, seed, and apiary products; feed or forage for livestock; Christmas trees;
62 hybrid cottonwood and similar hardwood trees grown as crops and harvested within ~~((twenty))~~ 20 years of
63 planting; and livestock, including both the animals themselves and animal products including, but not limited to,
64 meat, upland finfish, poultry and poultry products, and dairy products.

65
66 **Annexation**

67 Annexation is the process of adding or incorporating an area into a city's jurisdiction.
68

69 **Applicant**

70 An applicant is a property owner, a public agency or a public or private utility that owns a right-of-way or other
71 easement or has been adjudicated the right to such an easement under Revised Code of Washington 8.08.040, or
72 any person or entity designated or named in writing by the property or easement owner to be the applicant, in an
73 application for a development proposal, permit, or approval.
74

75 **Area Median Income**

76 Area median income is the midpoint income for an area, where half of the people earn more than the median,
77 and half of the people ear less. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development calculates an
78 adjusted area median income for each metropolitan region based on American Community Survey data and
79 local and national factors and uses it to determine income limits for government affordable housing programs.
80

81 **Area Zoning and Land Use Study**

82 An area zoning and land use study is a study that reviews the land use designations and zoning classifications for
83 a specified set of properties. Area zoning and land use studies are typically focused on a ~~((broader set of policies~~
84 ~~than a subarea study))~~ specific set of possible land use and zoning changes, and do not look at the larger range of
85 issues that a subarea plan would include. Area zoning and land use studies consider specific potential changes to
86 land use or zoning, or both, and analyze such requests based on surrounding land use and zoning, current
87 infrastructure and potential future needs, and consistency with the King County Comprehensive Plan,
88 ~~((e))Countywide ((p))Planning ((p))Policies, and the ((g))Growth ((m))Management ((a))Act.~~

89
90 **Arterial Functional Classification**

91 Arterial functional classification is the ~~((division of a road system into a number of categories according to the~~
92 ~~function of each road))~~ categorization of roadways based on their function. The degree to which ~~((the))~~ a road
93 serves movement of traffic or access to adjacent properties is the basis for its classification. Principal arterials
94 provide for movement across large areas, serving predominantly “through traffic.” Minor arterials generally
95 serve smaller areas than principal arterials and provide ((movement)) greater access to abutting properties ((and
96 to arterials within large areas bound by principal arterials)). Collector arterials serve smaller areas by

97 “collecting” traffic ~~((to or))~~ from local roads and abutting properties and funneling it to ~~((and from))~~ the
98 ~~((transportation system))~~ arterial network.

99

100 **Asset Poverty**

101 Asset poverty is a socio-economic condition that describes a person or household’s lack of wealth-building
102 property, possessions, or financial holdings. It is a broader concept than poverty, which is traditionally defined
103 based on income or wages, and can measure or describe stability or precarity amid unexpected life events.

104

105 **B**

106 **Biodiversity**

107 Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the variety of living organisms considered at all levels, from genetic
108 diversity through species, to higher taxonomic levels, and includes the variety of habitats, ecosystems, and
109 landscapes in which the species are found.

110

111 **Brownfields**

112 Brownfields are defined as vacant or underdeveloped industrial/commercial sites with real or perceived
113 contamination.

114

115 **Buffer**

116 A buffer is a designated area contiguous to a steep slope or landslide hazard area intended to protect slope
117 stability, attenuation of surface water flows and landslide hazards, or a designated area contiguous to and
118 intended to protect and be an integral part of an aquatic area or wetland.

119

120 **C**

121 **Capital Improvement Program ~~((CIP))~~**

122 The ~~((A))~~ adopted Capital Improvement Program budget allocates funds from various revenue sources to
123 improve cultural and recreational opportunities for King County residents, build needed transportation facilities,
124 protect the County's investment in existing buildings, protect the health of residents, enhance the management of
125 natural resources, and provide necessary capital resources for the law, safety, and ~~((justice))~~ criminal legal
126 system.

127

128 **Channel migration hazard area, moderate**

129 A portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps, which lies
130 between the severe channel migration hazard area and the outer boundaries of the channel migration zone.

131

132 **Channel migration hazard area, severe**

133 A portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps, which
134 includes the present channel. The total width of the severe channel migration hazard area equals one hundred
135 years times the average annual channel migration rate, plus the present channel width. The average annual
136 channel migration rate as determined in the technical report is the basis for each Channel Migration Zone map.

137

138 **Channel Migration Zone**

139 Channel migration zones are those areas along a river channel within which the channel(s) can be reasonably
140 predicted, based on best available science, to migrate over time as a result of natural and normally occurring
141 hydrological and related processes when considered with the characteristics of the river and its surroundings.

142

143 **Circular Economy**

144 Circular economy means a system that keeps products and materials in a cycle of use for as long as possible,
145 thereby lessening the need to extract virgin materials, like trees, metals, and oil, from the earth. Actions that
146 promote a circular economy include recycling, reusing, repairing, and reducing.

147

148 **Cities**

149 For the purposes of the Comprehensive Plan, the term “cities” includes incorporated towns.

150

151 **Cities in the Rural Area**

152 ~~((King County's))~~ Cities in the Rural Area are incorporated areas ~~((within))~~ substantively surrounded by the
153 Rural Area, and whose local governments are involved in the region's planning processes on an equal legal basis
154 with the suburban cities, Bellevue, and Seattle. The ~~((incorporated))~~ Cities in the Rural Area are Black
155 Diamond, Carnation, Duvall, Enumclaw, North Bend, Skykomish, and Snoqualmie. (See Chapter 3~~((:))~~, Rural
156 Areas and Natural Resource Lands)

157

158 **Clearing**

159 Clearing includes cutting, killing, grubbing or removing vegetation or other organic plant material by physical,
160 mechanical, chemical or any other similar means. For the purpose of this definition ~~((of clearing))~~, cutting
161 means the severing of the main trunk or stem of woody vegetation at any point.

162

163 **Clustering**

164 Clustering means ~~((developing))~~ development of a subdivision at the existing zoned density that reduces the size
165 of individual lots ~~((areas to))~~ and creates permanent open space for the preservation of critical areas or ~~((a reserve~~
166 ~~for future development while it maintains the zoned residential density))~~ resource land for forestry or agriculture.

167

168 **Community Business Centers**

169 These are primarily retail developments designed to serve a nearby market area of 15,000 to 40,000 people. (See
170 Chapter 2~~((:))~~, Urban Communities.)

171

172 **Community-Driven Development**

173 Community-Driven Development includes equitable development actions that advance the following principles:

174 a. advances economic mobility and opportunity for residents;

175 b. prevents residential, commercial and cultural displacement;

176 c. builds upon and protects local cultural assets that anchor communities;

177 d. supports organizational capacity building;

178 e. promotes transportation mobility and connectivity; and

179 f. enables equitable access for all communities.

180

181 **Community Needs List**

182 A Community Needs List is a community-identified list of services, programs, facilities, and capital

183 improvement projects that support the community’s vision for their neighborhood.

184

185 **Community Service Areas ((CSA))**

186 Community Services Areas refers to the geographic framework that organizes the unincorporated areas of King

187 County into seven territories for the purposes of the Community Service Area Program. (See Chapter 11,

188 Community Service Area Subarea Planning.)

189

190 **Community Service Areas Program**

191 The ((CSA)) Community Service Areas Program is housed in the Department of ((Natural Resources and

192 Parks)) Local Services. This program promotes robust public engagement that informs, involves, and empowers

193 people and communities in unincorporated ((urban areas and in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands of))

194 King County to take an active role in County decision-making related to programs, services, and capital projects

195 within each Community Service Area.

196

197 **Community Service Area Subarea Plan**

198 ((With King County's initiation of the subarea planning program, the new plans will be called)) Community

199 Service Area Subarea Plans((–These will)) apply the countywide goals of the Comprehensive Plan to smaller

200 geographic areas consistent with the Community Service Area Program. ((Each one of King County’s six rural

201 CSAs and each of the five large Potential Annexation Areas has or is scheduled to have its own CSA Subarea

202 Plan. CSA Subarea Plans focus on land use issues in the smaller geographies, as well as community identified

203 implementation activities)) while recognizing the parameters of County funding and revenue sources.)) These

204 plans help implement and are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's policies ((and development

205 regulations)).

206

207 **Comprehensive Plan**

208 The ((state of Washington’s)) Growth Management Act requires certain cities and counties of the state to adopt

209 comprehensive land use plans. A comprehensive plan is a generalized, coordinated land use policy statement of

210 the governing body of a county or city that is adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act. A
211 comprehensive plan consists of a map or maps; descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards
212 used to develop the comprehensive plan; and a plan, scheme or design for land use, housing, capital facilities,
213 utilities, rural areas, natural resource lands, ~~((and))~~ transportation. Optional components include elements
214 relating to conservation, solar energy, recreation, and subarea plans.

215

216 **(((Concurrency Management System**

217 ~~The Growth Management Act requires jurisdictions to adopt and enforce ordinances that prohibit development~~
218 ~~approval if the development causes the level of service on a transportation facility to decline below the standards~~
219 ~~adopted in the comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the~~
220 ~~impacts of development are made “concurrent” with the development. Concurrent with development means~~
221 ~~that transportation improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development or that financial~~
222 ~~commitment is made to complete the improvements or strategies within six years. The Concurrency~~
223 ~~Management System of King County establishes a process to manage new development based on transportation~~
224 ~~impacts on levels of service and the concurrency of needed improvements or actions. (See Chapter 8:~~
225 ~~Transportation).))~~

226

227 **Congestion Pricing**

228 Congestion pricing is a strategy to manage traffic congestion by charging drivers a fee for using designated lanes
229 or roadways during congested periods. Congestion pricing encourages drivers to use other modes of
230 transportation, other routes, or other travel times. By removing a fraction of vehicles from the roadway during
231 peak travel times, the transportation system operates more efficiently.

232

233 **Coordinated Water System Plans**

234 Four Critical Water Supply Service Areas have been designated in King County in accordance with the Public
235 Water System Coordinated Act of 1977 ~~(((e))Chapter ((70.116))~~ 70A.100 Revised Code of Washington): East
236 King County, Skyway, South King County, and Vashon Island. The Coordinated Water System Plan for each
237 area provides an assessment of water supply and a program to meet future demand. Planning areas, within
238 which a water purveyor is obligated to provide service consistent with ~~(((e))~~ County land use plans and
239 regulations, were assigned for major purveyors.

240

241 **Countywide Planning Policies (((CPP)))**

242 ~~(((The Growth Management Act requires that counties, as regional governments within their boundaries, prepare~~
243 ~~e))Countywide planning policies ((which establish)) are written policy statements used solely for establishing a~~
244 ~~countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are ((to be)) developed and adopted((-~~
245 ~~This framework is)) to ensure that county and city ((and county)) comprehensive plans are consistent. ~~(((The~~
246 ~~King County Countywide Planning Policies were developed and recommended by the Growth Management~~
247 ~~Planning Council and are to serve as a blueprint for how King County and its cities should grow over the next 20~~
248 ~~years. The Metropolitan King County Council adopted these policies in 1992. Since this time, amendments~~~~

249 called “Phase II Countywide Planning Policies” have been made to the sections pertaining to affordable housing,
250 economic development and rural character. The County Council has adopted these Phase II amendments.)
251 The Growth Management Planning Council is the formal body charged with developing the Countywide
252 Planning Policies. (See Chapter 1((:)), Regional Growth Management Planning.)
253

254 **Critical Areas**

255 The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, critical areas which
256 include: 1) wetlands, 2) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, 3) fish and
257 wildlife habitat conservation areas, 4) frequently flooded areas, and 5) geologically hazardous areas. (See
258 Chapter 5((:)), Environment, for King County’s designation of critical areas.)
259

260 **Critical Habitat**

261 Critical habitat includes specific areas that possess physical or biological features, which are essential to the
262 conservation of a listed species.
263

264 **Cultural Resources**

265 Cultural resources include performing and visual arts events, programs and facilities; public art; heritage events,
266 programs and facilities; and historic properties.
267

268 **Cumulative impacts**

269 Cumulative impacts, for the purposes of Chapter 6, Shorelines, are the sum total of the current, plus any
270 reasonably foreseeable future disturbances to ecological functions, which can be impacted by both development
271 subject to shoreline permits and by development that is not subject to permits.
272

273 **D**

274 ~~**(Deficiency**~~

275 ~~Deficiency in a comprehensive plan or development regulation refers to the absence of required or potentially~~
276 ~~desirable contents of a comprehensive plan or development regulation.)~~
277

278 **Density**

279 Density is the quantity of structures or buildings per unit area. Density is typically expressed as housing units per
280 acre or square mile.
281

282 **Density Incentives/Bonuses**

283 Density incentives, or density bonuses, are programs that allow more dwelling units than the number permitted
284 on a site by zoning (sometimes referred to as "base density") in exchange for public benefits provided by the

285 developer. ~~((King County has incorporated use of density incentives with standard urban subdivision, mobile
286 home park, and multifamily development projects. (King County Code, Title 21A)))~~

287

288 **Development**

289 For purposes of the shoreline master program, development means a use consisting of the construction or
290 exterior alteration of structures; dredging; drilling; dumping; filling; removing sand, gravel, or minerals;
291 bulkheading; driving of piling; placing of obstructions; or any project of a permanent or temporary nature which
292 interferes with the normal public use of the surface of the waters overlying lands subject to any state of water
293 level.

294

295 **Development regulations**

296 Development regulations means the controls placed on development or land uses by a county or city, including,
297 but not limited to: zoning ordinances, critical areas ordinances, all portions of a shoreline master program other
298 than goals and policies approved or adopted under ~~((e))Chapter 90.58 Revised Code of Washington~~, planned
299 unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances together with any
300 amendments thereto.

301

302 **Docket**

303 A list of suggested changes to a comprehensive plan or development regulations maintained by the department.

304

305 **Docket Process, The**

306 The docket process specifies that dockets are not just to note deficiencies, but also to suggest changes and make
307 written comments. These suggested changes are reviewed by the ~~((e))County~~ and made available for review by
308 the public. Information provided to the public ~~((will))~~ includes the ~~((e))County's~~ response. ~~((An Internet docket
309 process is available and can be found at: [http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/performance-strategy-
310 budget/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan/amend/docket.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan/amend/docket.aspx).~~

311

312 **Docketing**

313 ~~Docketing means compiling and maintaining a list of suggested changes to the comprehensive plan or
314 development regulations in a manner that will ensure such suggested changes will be considered by the county
315 and will be available for review by the public.)~~

316

317 **Drainage Basin**

318 A drainage basin, like a watershed, is an area that drains to a common outlet or an identifiable water body such
319 as a river, stream, lake or wetland. In King County, 72 drainage basins are contained within six major
320 watersheds. These drainage basins in turn contain numerous individual water bodies with small drainages.

321

322 **Dredging**

323 Dredging is the removal, displacement, or disposal of unconsolidated earth material such as sand, silt, gravel, or
324 other submerged materials, from the bottom of water bodies, ditches, or natural wetlands. Maintenance dredging
325 and/or support activities are included in this definition.

326

327 **Dwelling unit**

328 A dwelling unit consists of one or more rooms designed for occupancy by a person or household for living and
329 sleeping purposes, containing kitchen facilities and rooms with internal accessibility, for use solely by the
330 dwelling's occupants. Dwelling units include but are not limited to efficiency and studio apartments,
331 factory-built housing, and mobile homes.

332

333 **E**

334 **Ecological Function**

335 An ecological function refers to physical, chemical, and biological processes or attributes at some level of
336 biological organization. For example, the ecological functions of wetlands include food chain support, water
337 quality maintenance, flood storage, and wildlife habitat.

338

339 **Ecoregions**

340 Ecoregions are land areas that contain a geographically unique set of species, communities, and environmental
341 conditions.

342

343 **Ecosystem**

344 Ecosystem means the complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological
345 unit.

346

347 **Ecosystem-wide processes**

348 Ecosystem-wide processes means the suite of naturally occurring physical and geologic processes of erosion,
349 transport, and deposition; and specific chemical processes that shape landforms within a specific shoreline
350 ecosystem and determine both the types of habitat and the associated ecological functions.

351

352 ~~**(Emissions Trading**~~

353 ~~Emissions trading means the transfer in ownership of emission reductions. Emission trading occurs when a~~
354 ~~source of air pollution reduces its emissions and then transfers ownership of the emission reduction to another~~
355 ~~party. Markets for emission reductions can be created by regulation (the market for sulfur dioxide allowances for~~
356 ~~example) or voluntarily (the current market for greenhouse gases:-))~~

357

358 **Endangered Species**

359 Endangered species means any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of
360 its range and which has been designated as such in regulations issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or
361 the state of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

362

363 **Endangered Species Act ((ESA))**

364 The Endangered Species Act is an act that was adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1973 to provide a means to
365 conserve ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend and to provide a program for the
366 conservation for such endangered and threatened species.

367

368 **~~((Endemic Species~~**

369 ~~Endemic species (or habitats or ecosystems) are those that are native to, and occur only in, a particular area or~~
370 ~~locale. Endemic species generally have very specific adaptive requirements that are linked to particular habitat or~~
371 ~~ecosystems that are rare (e.g., Townsend’s big eared bats and caves). Even small changes in the ecosystem are~~
372 ~~likely to cause localized extinctions of these species.))~~

373

374 **Enhance**

375 Enhance means to increase or improve one or more of the functions, attributes, or values that an ecosystem or
376 environmental feature possesses. (See Chapter 5((:)), Environment).

377

378 **~~((Environmentally Sensitive Areas~~**

379 ~~Environmentally sensitive areas include: coal mines; areas that are prone to erosion, floods, landslides, or~~
380 ~~seismic activity; steep slopes; volcanic hazard areas; and streams, wetlands and protection buffers.))~~

381

382 **Equitable Development**

383 Equitable development is an approach to planning and community development paired with public and private
384 investments and service delivery that advances equity and self-determination of communities:

- 385 • Adversely impacted by structural racism and discrimination;
- 386 • Experiencing disparities in economic and health outcomes; and
- 387 • Facing a heightened risk of displacement.

388 These communities primarily include Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; people living with low
389 incomes; immigrants; refugees; people with disabilities; seniors; and LGBTQIA+ communities.

390

391 **Equity Impact Review**

392 An equity impact review is a process to identify, evaluate, and communicate the potential impact - both positive
393 and negative - of a policy or program on equity using tools from the King County Office of Equity and Racial
394 and Social Justice.

395

396

F

397

~~((Fair Housing Ordinance~~

398

~~King County's Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion,~~

399

~~national origin, age, sex, marital status, parental status, use of Section 8 subsidy, sexual orientation, disability or~~

400

~~the use of a trained guide dog.)~~

401

402

Family-Wage Jobs

403

Family-wage jobs are jobs that pay more than the average annual wage for King County in a given year and

404

therefore enable a worker to support a family.

405

406

Feasible

407

Feasible means, for the purpose of ~~(((this))~~ the Shoreline Master ((p))Program, that an action, such as a

408

development project, mitigation, or preservation requirement, meets all of the following conditions:

409

(a) The action can be accomplished with technologies and methods that have been used in the past in

410

similar circumstances, or studies or tests have demonstrated in similar circumstances that such

411

approaches are currently available and likely to achieve the intended results;

412

(b) The action provides a reasonable likelihood of achieving its intended purpose; and

413

(c) The action does not physically preclude achieving the project's primary intended legal use.

414

In cases where these guidelines require certain actions unless they are infeasible, the burden of proving

415

infeasibility is on the applicant. In determining an action's infeasibility, the reviewing agency may weigh the

416

action's relative public costs and public benefits, considered in the short- and long-term time frames.

417

418

FEMA floodway

419

A FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) floodway is the channel of the stream ~~(((and that portion of~~

420

~~the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to contain and discharge the 100-year flood flow without increasing the~~

421

~~base flood elevation more than one foot))~~ or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved

422

to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated

423

height at any point. The FEMA floodway is delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map, as well as but not

424

limited to on King County Surface Water Design Manual major floodplain or floodway studies.

425

426

Fill

427

For the purposes of the Chapter 6, Shorelines, Fill means the addition of soil, sand, rock, gravel, sediment, earth

428

retaining structure, or other material to an area waterward of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), in

429

wetlands, or on shorelands in a manner that raises the elevation or creates dry land.

430

431

~~(((Flood Hazard Management Plan~~

432

~~The King County Flood Hazard Management Plan contains policies and program and project recommendations~~

433

~~that guide floodplain use and development throughout King County.)~~

434

435 **Floodplain**

436 Floodplain is the total area subject to inundation by the 100-year flood.

437

438 ~~(((Floodway, zero-rise~~

439 ~~Floodway zero rise is the channel of a stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to~~
440 ~~contain and discharge the base flood flow without any measurable increase in base flood elevation.~~

441 ~~A. For the purpose of this definition, measurable increase in base flood elevation means a calculated~~
442 ~~upward rise in the base flood elevation, equal to or greater than 0.01 foot, resulting from a comparison~~
443 ~~of existing conditions and changed conditions directly attributable to alterations of the topography or~~
444 ~~any other flow obstructions in the floodplain. Zero rise floodway is broader than that of the FEMA~~
445 ~~floodway but always includes the FEMA floodway.~~

446 ~~B. Zero rise floodway includes the entire floodplain unless a critical areas report demonstrates otherwise.))~~

447

448 **Food Innovation District**

449 A district of food-related activities supportive of healthy, affordable local food. Food innovation districts may
450 encompass food retail, anchor food businesses, small food business incubation, food industry education and
451 training, markets and food hubs, urban agriculture, food programs and partnerships with urban and rural food
452 growers and cooperatives, and food aggregation and processing.

453

454 **Forest practice**

455 Forest practice is any forest practice as defined in Revised Code of Washington 76.09.020.

456

457 **Forest Production Districts ((FPD))**

458 The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, forest lands that are
459 not characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber.

460 The Comprehensive Plan designates Forest Production Districts where the primary use should be commercial
461 forestry. Lands within the Forest Production District shall remain in large parcels and in ownership conducive
462 to forestry. (See Chapter 3(=), Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands).

463

464 **Frontline Communities**

465 Frontline communities are those that are disproportionately impacted by climate change due to existing and
466 historical racial, social, environmental, and economic inequities, and who have limited resources and/or
467 capacity to adapt. These populations often experience the earliest and most acute impacts of climate change, but
468 whose experiences afford unique strengths and insights into climate resilience strategies and practices. Frontline
469 communities include Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; immigrants; refugees; people
470 living with low incomes; communities experiencing disproportionate pollution exposure; women and gender
471 non-conforming people; LGBTQIA+ people; people who live and/or work outside; those with existing health
472 issues; people speaking a language(s) other than English; and other climate-vulnerable groups.

473

474 **Fully Contained Community (~~(FCC)~~)**

475 A fully contained community is a site-specific development project consisting of conceptual site plan(s),
476 development standards, processing and other elements. ~~((It is also consistent with the criteria provided in RCW
477 36.70A.350 which states that Fully Contained Communities should be located outside of the initially designated
478 Urban Growth Area.))~~

479

480 **Functional Classification**

481 See "Arterial Functional Classification"

482

483 **Functional Planning**

484 Functional plans are detailed King County plans for facilities and services and action plans and programs for
485 other governmental activities. Some functional plans are operational or programmatic, which means they guide
486 daily management decisions. Others include specific details of facility design and location and must be
487 consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations. ~~((Functional plans are prepared by King
488 County, independent special purpose districts or other public and private agencies. (See Chapter 12:
489 Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation)))~~

490

491 **G**

492 **Geotechnical report or geotechnical analysis**

493 Geotechnical report or geotechnical analysis means a scientific study or evaluation conducted by a qualified
494 expert that includes: a description of the ground and surface hydrology and geology; the affected land form and
495 its susceptibility to mass wasting, erosion, and other geologic hazards or processes; conclusions and
496 recommendations regarding the effect of the proposed development on geologic conditions; the adequacy of the
497 site to be developed; the impacts of the proposed development; alternative approaches to the proposed
498 development; and measures to mitigate potential site-specific and cumulative geological and hydrological
499 impacts of the proposed development, including the potential adverse impacts to adjacent and down-current
500 properties. Geotechnical reports shall conform to accepted technical standards and must be prepared by
501 qualified professional engineers or geologists who have professional expertise about the regional and local
502 shoreline geology and processes.

503

504 ~~**(Global Warming**~~

505 ~~Global warming is an increase in worldwide atmospheric temperature and resulting alterations in climate.))~~

506

507 **Grading**

508 Grading is any excavation, filling, or removal of the duff layer or any combination thereof.

509

510 **Groundwater Management Plans**

511 King County has five Groundwater Management Areas (~~(((GWMA)))~~) for which residents and technical experts
512 are addressing groundwater issues. For each (~~(((GWMA)))~~) Groundwater Management Area, a Groundwater
513 Management Plan (~~(((GWMP)))~~) has been developed per (~~(((e)))~~)Chapter 173-100 Washington Administrative Code
514 (~~(((e)))~~)Chapter 90.44 Revised Code of Washington. Each (~~(((GWMP)))~~) Groundwater Management Plan describes
515 the area's groundwater resource, contains a detailed exploration of groundwater protection issues, and proposes
516 solutions to perceived threats. These plans identify Sensitive Aquifer Areas to receive a special level of
517 protection.

518

519 **Growth Management Act (~~(((GMA)))~~)**

520 In 1990 and 1991, the Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act. The Growth
521 Management Act calls for urban counties and cities in the state to develop comprehensive plans to guide growth
522 management decisions. Amendments to the Act in 1991 require that counties, working with the cities within
523 their boundaries, develop Countywide Planning Policies to provide a common vision of the future to serve as the
524 framework for all comprehensive plans throughout the county. (See Chapter 1(~~(((s)))~~), Regional Growth
525 Management Planning)

526

527 **Growth Management Planning Council (~~(((GMPC)))~~)**

528 The Growth Management Planning Council, which was established by an interlocal agreement, is a council of
529 elected officials from Seattle, Bellevue, suburban cities, special purpose districts, the Port of Seattle, and King
530 County. The Growth Management Planning Council is responsible for the preparation and recommendation of
531 the Countywide Planning Policies to the Metropolitan King County Council, which then adopts the policies and
532 sends them to the cities for ratification.

533

534 **~~(((Urban)))~~ Growth Target**

535 The Growth Management Act and the Countywide Planning Policies require King County and (~~(((its)))~~) the cities
536 in the county to plan for a 20-year population and employment growth target for urban areas in each jurisdiction,
537 based on designation of the Urban Growth Area, Urban Centers₂, and the criteria of the Countywide Planning
538 Policies. (See Chapter 2(~~(((s)))~~), Urban Communities)

539

540 **H**

541 **Habitat**

542 Habitat is the area where wildlife normally lives and grows. Habitat components include food, water, cover
543 (security, breeding, thermal) and space.

544

545 **Habitat Network**

546 Habitat network is a system of fish and wildlife habitat where connections between large habitat blocks and open
547 spaces are necessary for the support of fish and wildlife through their life cycles.

548

549 **Healthy Community**

550 Healthy community (communities) means a community that makes it (~~((easier))~~) easy for people to live healthy
551 lives by: encouraging mixed and dense land use (~~((and greater land density))~~) to shorten distances between
552 housing, workplaces, schools and recreation so people can walk or bike more easily to them; incorporating
553 (~~((good))~~) complete pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, including sidewalks and bike paths that are safely
554 removed from (~~((automobile))~~) vehicle traffic; providing opportunities for people to be physically active and
555 socially engaged as part of their daily routine; including access to open space and parks; allowing people, if they
556 choose, to age in place and remain in their community as their lifestyle changes or they face changing physical
557 capabilities; and ensuring access to affordable and healthy food, especially fruits and vegetables.

558

559 **Healthy Housing**

560 Healthy housing means housing that protects all residents from exposure to harmful substances and
561 environments, reduces the risk of injury, provides opportunities for safe and convenient daily physical activity,
562 and assures access to healthy food and social connectivity.

563

564 ~~**((High Capacity Transit Facilities**~~

565 ~~These include all of the elements of a system, including the rails, stations, vehicle infrastructure and associated~~
566 ~~supportive facilities.))~~

567

568 **Historic Properties**

569 Historic properties include historic buildings, sites, objects, districts and landscapes, prehistoric and historic
570 archaeological resources, and traditional cultural places.

571

572 **Historic Property, Significant**

573 Significant historic properties are those properties that meet the criteria for designation as County landmarks
574 and/or listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

575

576 **Historically Underrepresented Groups**

577 Historically underrepresented groups or populations are communities of people whose experiences, opinions,
578 and life outcomes have intentionally or indirectly not been sought out or reflected in planning processes.
579 Historically underrepresented groups often include Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities;
580 immigrants; refugees; people living with low incomes; people speaking a language(s) other than English; women
581 and gender non-conforming individuals; and LGBTQIA+ people.

582

583 **Historically Underserved**

584 Historically underserved groups or populations are communities that have been systematically denied a full
585 opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. Historically underserved groups often
586 include Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; immigrants; refugees; people living with low
587 incomes; people speaking a language(s) other than English; women and gender non-conforming individuals; and
588 LGBTQIA+ people.

589

590 **Housing Needs**

591 Housing needs means the number of housing units needed in King County by the end of the planning period to
592 ensure sufficient and attainable housing for all households. Jurisdictional housing needs are shown in Table H-2
593 of the Countywide Planning Policies.

594

595

I

596 **Impervious surface**

597 ~~((An i))~~ Impervious surface ((is)) means a nonvertical surface artificially covered or hardened ((that)) so as to
598 prevent((s, retards, or otherwise alters)) impede the ((entry)) percolation of water into the soil mantle ((as
599 compared to)) at natural ((conditions prior to development; and/or a hard surface area that causes water to run
600 off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from the flow present under natural conditions
601 prior to development). Common impervious surfaces include)) infiltration rates including, but are not limited to,
602 roofs ((tops)), swimming pools and areas that are paved, graveled, or made of packed or oiled earthen materials
603 such as roads, walkways, ((patios, driveways,)) or parking ((lots and gravel roads)) areas. "Impervious surface"
604 does not include landscaping and surface water flow control and water quality treatment facilities.

605

606 **Income, Extremely Low-**

607 Extremely low-income means households are households earning less than or equal to 30 percent of the area
608 median income for their household size.

609

610 **Income, Low-**

611 Low-income means households earning greater than 50 percent to less than or equal to 80 percent of the area
612 median income for their household size.

613

614 **Income, Moderate-**

615 Moderate-income means households earning greater than 80 percent to less than or equal to 120 percent of the
616 area median income for their household size.

617

618 **Income, Very Low-**

619 Very low-income means households earning greater than 30 percent to less than or equal to 50 percent of the
620 area median income for their household size.

621

622 **Incorporated Areas**

623 Incorporated areas are those areas within a city or a city's jurisdiction. King County contains the entirety of
624 ~~((39))~~ 35 incorporated cities and parts of ~~((two))~~ four others.

625

626 **Infill**

627 Infill means development or redevelopment on small properties or groups of properties within existing built-up
628 areas.

629

630 ~~**(Initial Project Needs**~~

631 ~~Initial project needs are road improvement projects needed to address the impacts of a specific development.
632 The projects must be concurrent with the development.)~~

633

634 **J**

635

636 **K**

637 **Keystone Species**

638 Keystone species are those that exert a significant effect on the structure of the biological community of which
639 they are a part. These species often prevent dominance by a single species and thereby maintain diversity in the
640 community.

641

642 **L**

643 **Landfill**

644 Landfill is a disposal site or part of a site at which refuse is deposited.

645

646 **Landslide Hazard Areas**

647 An area subject to severe risk of landslide, such as:

648 A. An area with a combination of:

649 1. Slopes steeper than fifteen percent of inclination;

650 2. Impermeable soils, such as silt and clay, frequently interbedded with granular soils, such as
651 sand and gravel; and

652 3. Springs or ground water seepage;

653 B. An area that has shown movement during the Holocene epoch, which is from ten thousand years

654 ago to the present, or that is underlain by mass wastage debris from that epoch;

- 655 C. Any area potentially unstable as a result of rapid stream incision, stream bank erosion or
656 undercutting by wave action;
- 657 D. An area that shows evidence of or is at risk from snow avalanches; or
- 658 E. An area located on an alluvial fan, presently or potentially subject to inundation by debris flows or
659 deposition of stream-transported sediments.

660

661 **Land Use Map**

662 The land use map adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan designates the general location and extent of the
663 uses of land for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, public
664 utilities, public facilities, and other land uses as required by the Growth Management Act. A representation of
665 the Land Use Map is included at the end of Chapter 1((:)), Regional Growth Management Planning.

666

667 **Level of Service – Transportation ((LOS))**

668 Transportation ((LOS)) Level of Service is a qualitative measure describing the operational conditions of the
669 transportation system as experienced by travelers.

670

671 **LGBTQIA+**

672 LGBTQIA+ means people that are Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Plus. As an
673 evolving acronym, the plus symbol includes all other identities on the gender and sexuality spectrum not
674 included already.

675

676 **Locally Significant Resource Areas ((LSRAs))**

677 ((LSRAs)) Locally Significant Resource Areas contribute to the aquatic resources within a specific basin, when
678 compared to aquatic and terrestrial systems of similar size and structure elsewhere in the basin. They also
679 provide wetland and stream habitat that is important for wildlife and salmonid diversity and abundance within
680 the basin. (See Chapter 5((:)), Environment)

681

682 **Long((-))-term commercial significance**

683 Long-term commercial significance is defined in Washington Administrative Code 365-190-030(((41))) to include
684 the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in
685 consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of land.
686 Long-term commercial significance means the land is capable of producing the specified natural resources at
687 commercially sustainable levels for at least a twenty-year planning period, if adequately conserved. Designated
688 mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance may have alternative post-mining land uses, as
689 provided by the Surface Mining Reclamation Act, comprehensive plan and development regulations, or other
690 laws.

691

692 **Low Impact Development (~~((LID))~~)**

693 ~~((LID))~~ Low impact development is an approach to land development that works to match a site's natural
694 hydrologic function by protecting native vegetation and soils, reducing impervious surface and managing
695 stormwater at the source.
696

697 **M**

698 **~~((Master Planned Resorts~~**

699 ~~RCW 36.70A.360 defines a Master Planned Resort as a self-contained and fully integrated planned unit~~
700 ~~development, in a setting of significant natural amenities, with primary focus on destination resort facilities~~
701 ~~consisting of short-term visitor accommodations associated with a range of developed on-site indoor or outdoor~~
702 ~~recreation facilities. A master planned resort may include other residential uses within its boundaries, but only if~~
703 ~~the residential uses are integrated into and support the on-site recreational nature of the resort.))~~

704
705 **May**

706 See definition for “shall”
707

708 **~~((Median Household Income~~**

709 ~~The median household income is the income level at which half of all households has higher income and the~~
710 ~~other half has lower income.))~~

711
712 **Middle Housing**

713 Middle housing includes moderately scaled multi-unit or clustered housing types. Middle housing developments
714 include more housing units than single-detached homes, but less than large apartment buildings. These housing
715 types typically include, but are not limited to, duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, multiplexes, townhouses,
716 courtyard buildings, cottage houses, and live-work buildings.

717
718 **Middle-Wage Jobs**

719 Jobs that can support a household or family without significant educational requirements. Given the barriers in
720 access throughout the educational, banking, and other institutional systems, these middle-wage jobs provide key
721 avenues for financial self-sufficiency and wealth building and play a unique role in advancing equity. Jobs in this
722 range predominate in more locally-owned, smaller- and medium-sized businesses and manufacturers, such as
723 accountants, machinists, or technicians.

724
725 **Mineral Resource Sites**

726 The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, mineral resource
727 lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction
728 of minerals. The comprehensive plan designates as Mineral Resource Sites existing, approved mineral extraction

729 sites, and also designates as Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites properties on which King County expects
730 some future mines may be located. (See Chapter 3((e)), Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands)

731

732 ~~**(Mitigation Bank**~~

733 ~~A mitigation bank is a property approved by the appropriate county, state and federal agencies for restoration,~~
734 ~~creation, or enhancement to compensate for adverse impacts to wetlands caused by the development of public~~
735 ~~agency facilities and utility facilities.~~

736

737 **Mitigation Payment System**

738 This impact fee system establishes a requirement that new growth and development pay a proportionate share of
739 the cost of needed transportation improvements. The mitigation payment system is authorized by state growth
740 management legislation. (See Chapter 8: Transportation))

741

742 **Mixed((-))_Use**

743 Mixed((-))_use refers to a development with combined commercial and residential uses.

744

745 **Mode Split**

746 Mode split is the percentage of a specific mode's use from among all modes of travel. For example, if 25 trips
747 out of 100 total trips are made by bus, the bus mode split is 25 percent. Modes of travel include single-occupant
748 vehicles, transit, carpooling, bicycling, walking, and other modes.

749

750 **Multifamily Housing**

751 Multifamily housing structures are those with more than one unit. Multifamily housing includes ~~((duplexes))~~
752 middle housing, apartments, and condominiums.

753

754 **Must**

755 See definition for "shall"

756

757 **N**

758 **Natural Area**

759 Natural areas are those properties in the ((e))County's natural lands inventory whose primary purpose is to
760 conserve and restore ecological value. They may not be completely natural and undisturbed but may be
761 important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological sites, or features of scientific, traditional,
762 cultural, or educational value. These sites may allow public use that does not harm the ecological resources of
763 the site. Also referred to as Ecological Lands or Ecological sites.

764

765 **Natural Resource Lands**~~((, designated))~~

766 Natural Resource Lands means lands designated under ~~((the))~~the Growth Management Act ~~((requires cities and~~
767 ~~counties to designate natural resource lands which include the following:))~~ as 1) agricultural lands that have
768 long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products; 2) forest lands that
769 have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber; ~~((and))~~ or 3) mineral resource lands that
770 have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals. ~~((The Comprehensive Plan designates))~~ This
771 designation includes Agricultural Production Districts, Forest Production Districts, and Mineral Resource Sites.
772 (See Chapter 3~~((:))~~, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands)

774 **Neighborhood Business Centers**

775 Neighborhood Business Centers are shopping areas that offer convenience goods and services to local residents.
776 They primarily contain retail stores and offices. (See Chapter 2~~((:))~~, Urban Communities)

778 **~~((New Growth~~**

779 ~~New growth is growth that occurs subsequent to pipeline development for which no application is currently~~
780 ~~pending review/approval in the King County permitting process, but which is forecasted to occur over the next~~
781 ~~20 years in this comprehensive plan.~~

783 **Nondegradation**

784 ~~Nondegradation means to prevent the decline to a lower state, to keep from reducing the complexity, functions,~~
785 ~~or integrity of ecological processes or values.~~

787 **Nonmotorized Transportation**

788 ~~Nonmotorized transportation refers to pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian travel, and the facilities needed to~~
789 ~~support such travel. For purposes of this Comprehensive Plan, wheelchairs, personal assistive mobility devices~~
790 ~~or scooters powered by electricity and used by physically impaired persons shall be considered nonmotorized~~
791 ~~transportation. Any motorized foot scooter, motor driven cycle, moped, motor powered bicycle, a motorcycle~~
792 ~~or, except as provided above, personal assistive mobility device shall be considered motorized transportation.))~~

794 **Non-point Pollution**

795 Non-point pollution is pollution that enters any waters of the state from any dispersed land-based or water-based
796 activities, including but not limited to atmosphere disposition, surface water runoff from agricultural lands,
797 urban areas, or forest lands, subsurface or underground sources, or discharges from boats or marine vessels.

799 **O**

800 **Open Space System, King County**

801 King County's Open Space System ~~((is a regional system of county owned parks, trails, natural areas, working~~
802 ~~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 back country trails, and local parks in unincorporated areas. The system provide(s) 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)

~~808 **Opportunity Mapping**~~

~~809 Opportunity mapping assesses the conditions present in neighborhoods across a region by examining indicators
810 of opportunity in areas such as education, economy, transportation, housing, environment, and health.
811 Opportunity mapping provides a comprehensive analytical framework to measure opportunity in the region and
812 to determine who has access to opportunity rich areas. Analysis of opportunity mapping can provide valuable
813 information about where more affordable housing needs to be located, and what needs to be remedied in areas
814 where these types of opportunities are currently very limited.))~~

816 **P**

817 **Particulate Matter**

818 Particulate matter is solid or aerosol particles dispersed in the air including dust, soot, and oil. The major
819 sources are industrial activities, fugitive road dust, motor vehicle emissions, and wood smoke.

821 **Passive Recreation Site**

822 ~~Passive recreation ((sites require a lower level of development and provide areas for informal, self directed
823 activities for individuals and groups)) is characterized by low-impact, individually-oriented activities, such as
824 informal play, hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, and biking. Capital improvements are generally
825 minimal, such as picnic tables, park furniture, signage, grass fields or meadows, or backcountry trails.~~

827 ~~**Pervious surface**~~

828 ~~A pervious surface is an area that allows the entry of water into the soil mantle, as under natural conditions prior
829 to development.~~

831 **Pipeline Development**

832 Pipeline Development is comprised of land use development applications, whether vested or unvested, that were
833 submitted prior to adoption of the King County Comprehensive Plan and are pending review/approval in the
834 permitting process.

836 ~~**Pipeline transportation needs**~~

837 ~~Pipeline transportation needs are associated with growth that is pending through the county's development
838 review process.~~

839

840 **Point Pollution**

841 Point pollution is pollution that enters any waters of the state from an identifiable source such as a pipe.)
842

843 **Potential Annexation Area ((PA))**

844 A Potential Annexation Area is an area in unincorporated King County adjacent to a city that is expected to
845 annex to the city and to which that city will be expected to provide services and utilities within the next two
846 decades. (See Chapter 2((:)), Urban Communities)
847

848 **Precautionary Action**

849 Precautionary action, also referred to as the "no risk approach," means in such instances where an absence of
850 valid scientific information or incomplete scientific information relating to the county's critical areas, leading to
851 uncertainty about whether development and land uses could lead to harm of critical areas or uncertainty about
852 the risk to critical area function, such development and land use activities are strictly limited until the uncertainty
853 is sufficiently resolved.
854

855 **Preserve/Preservation**

856 Preserve/preservation, as used in Chapter 2((:)), Urban Communities, and Chapter ~~((9: Services, Facilities and
857 Utilities))~~ 4, Housing and Human Services, regarding affordable housing, means the process of protecting the
858 availability of affordable housing, especially publicly-assisted affordable housing, for extremely low-, very low-,
859 low-, and moderate((-))-income households when transitions from current assistance programs or affordable
860 housing uses are planned. Preservation may occur through acquisition of the housing by a non((-))profit or
861 public agency or through funding mechanisms that include a covenant or similar legal agreement requiring that
862 the units in the property remain affordable to a designated household income-level for an extended period of
863 time, such as 15 years, 30 years or 50 years. (See "Rehabilitate")
864

865 **Priority habitat**

866 Priority habitat means a habitat type with unique or significant value to one or more species. An area classified
867 and mapped as priority habitat must have one or more of the following attributes:

- 868 • Comparatively high fish or wildlife density;
- 869 • Comparatively high fish or wildlife species diversity;
- 870 • Fish spawning habitat;
- 871 • Important wildlife habitat;
- 872 • Important fish or wildlife seasonal range;
- 873 • Important fish or wildlife movement corridor;
- 874 • Rearing and foraging habitat;
- 875 • Important marine mammal haul-out;
- 876 • Refugia habitat;
- 877 • Limited availability;
- 878 • High vulnerability to habitat alteration;

- 879 • Unique or dependent species; or
- 880 • Shellfish bed.

881

882 A priority habitat may be described by a unique vegetation type or by a dominant plant species that is of primary
883 importance to fish and wildlife (such as oak woodlands or eelgrass meadows). A priority habitat may also be
884 described by a successional stage (such as old growth and mature forests). Alternatively, a priority habitat may
885 consist of a specific habitat element (such as a consolidated marine/estuarine shoreline, talus slopes, caves,
886 snags) of key value to fish and wildlife. A priority habitat may contain priority and/or nonpriority fish and
887 wildlife. [Washington Administrative Code 173-26-020 ~~(((24)))~~]

888

889 **Priority Species**

890 Priority species means species requiring protective measures and/or management guidelines to ensure their
891 persistence at genetically viable population levels. Priority species are those that meet any of the criteria listed
892 below.

893 (a) Criterion 1. State-listed or state proposed species. State-listed species are those native fish and wildlife
894 species legally designated as endangered (Washington Administrative Code ~~(((232-12-014)))~~ 220-610-
895 010), threatened (Washington Administrative Code ~~(((232-12-014)))~~ 220-200-100), or sensitive
896 (Washington Administrative Code ~~(((232-12-014)))~~ 220-200-100). State proposed species are those fish
897 and wildlife species that will be reviewed by the ~~(((d)))~~Department of ~~(((f)))~~Fish and ~~(((w)))~~Wildlife
898 ~~(((POL M 6001)))~~ for possible listing as endangered, threatened, or sensitive according to the process
899 and criteria defined in Washington Administrative Code ~~(((232-12-297)))~~ 220-610-110.

900 (b) Criterion 2. Vulnerable aggregations. Vulnerable aggregations include those species or groups of
901 animals susceptible to significant population declines, within a specific area or statewide, by virtue of
902 their inclination to congregate. Examples include heron colonies, seabird concentrations, and marine
903 mammal congregations.

904 (c) Criterion 3. Species of recreational, commercial, and/or tribal importance. Native and nonnative fish,
905 shellfish, and wildlife species of recreational or commercial importance and recognized species used for
906 tribal ceremonial and subsistence purposes that are vulnerable to habitat loss or degradation.

907 (d) Criterion 4. Species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as either proposed, threatened, or
908 endangered.

909

910 ~~(((Protect~~

911 ~~Protect means to keep from harm, attack, injury, or destruction; to maintain the integrity of, especially through~~
912 ~~environmental care.))~~

913

914 **Public Benefit Rating System ~~(((PBRs)))~~**

915 The Public Benefit Rating System ~~(((PBRs)))~~ is a current use taxation program whereby property taxes are
916 reduced by an amount determined by a scoring system related to the numbers and quality of open space
917 resources located on all or portions of the property.

918

919 **Public Review Draft**

920 A Public Review Draft is a draft of Executive proposed Comprehensive Plan updates, including proposed
921 Community Service Area subarea plans, made available to the public for review and comment. A Public Review
922 Draft(~~s~~) is published prior to transmittal of proposed Comprehensive Plan updates to the Council (~~se as~~) to
923 provide the public an opportunity to record comments before the Executive finalizes the recommended updates.

924

925 **Puget Sound**

926 Puget Sound is an estuary—a semi-enclosed, glacial fjord where salt water from the ocean is mixed with fresh
927 water. Puget Sound is bordered by about 1,300 miles of shoreline with a mix of beaches, bluffs, deltas, mudflats,
928 kelp forests and eelgrass meadows. Approximately 100 miles of this saltwater shoreline lie within King County.
929 King County's immediate responsibilities include those portions of Puget Sound which lie within the county,
930 roughly between Point Wells to the north and Dumas Bay to the south. King County shares responsibility for
931 the health of the main basin of Puget Sound with its neighbors—Pierce County, Kitsap County, and Snohomish
932 County.

933

934 **Puget Sound Regional Council (~~(PSRC)~~)**

935 The (~~(PSRC)~~) Puget Sound Regional Council is the designated metropolitan planning organization for the
936 four-county region that includes King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, and is responsible for regional
937 growth management and transportation planning. The (~~(PSRC's)~~) Puget Sound Regional Council's General
938 Assembly includes mayors, county executives, and council commission members from the four counties, as well
939 as representatives from local Indian tribes, ports, transit agencies, the State Department of Transportation, and
940 Transportation Commission. The (~~(PSRC)~~) Puget Sound Regional Council prepared Multi(~~(-)~~)county Planning
941 Policies for the four-county region.

942

943 **Q**

944

945 **R**

946 **Rare Ecosystems, Habitats, and Species**

947 Rare ecosystems, habitats, and species(~~(-habitats, and ecosystems)~~) are those that are few in number or are
948 poorly represented in an area. Rare species often lack the capability to resist changes in environmental conditions
949 or lack the resilience to recover after a change. Species, habitats, and ecosystems may be rare because of the
950 following reasons: changing natural conditions have reduced their range, abundance, or distribution; they
951 depend on specific environmental conditions that are not commonly represented in this area (species or habitats
952 at the edge of their range or occurring as relicts); and anthropogenic (human-related) actions have caused habitat
953 loss or severe decreases in range or abundance.

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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~~)

~~RSRA~~) Regionally Significant Resource Areas 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. Regionally Significant Resource Areas may also support rare, threatened or endangered species or communities. (See Chapter 5(~~RSRA~~), 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;~~

993 and 3) mineral resource lands that have long term significance for the extraction of minerals. The
994 Comprehensive Plan designates Agricultural Production Districts, Forest Production Districts, and Mineral
995 Resource Sites. (See Chapter 3: Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands))
996

997 **Restore**

998 Restore, for the purposes of Chapter 5, Environment, means to return land and water resources from a disturbed
999 or altered condition to an approximation of their condition prior to disturbance or alteration. Restoration
1000 projects are conducted by public agencies through capital improvement projects and by developers as a means to
1001 mitigate adverse impacts of their proposals. (Restoration of land is not required of developers when they protect
1002 land and water resources according to King County regulation.) ((See Chapter 5: Environment))
1003

1004 **Rezones**

1005 Rezoning is the term that refers to the process of individual requests and applications to change the zoning
1006 classification of land.
1007

1008 **Riparian**

1009 Pertains to the banks of rivers and streams, and also sometimes wetlands, tidewater, and lakes.
1010

1011 **Rural Area geography (See also Rural Area Zoning)**

1012 ~~((The Growth Management Act requires that counties designate a Rural Area in order to conserve the rural
1013 character and quality of the existing rural lands in Washington. King County's))~~ The Rural Area refers
1014 collectively to the geography that primarily contains the following land use categories – Rural Towns, Rural
1015 Neighborhood Commercial Centers, and Rural Area (with RA-2.5, RA-5, RA-10 and RA-20 zoning
1016 classifications) in unincorporated King County. The Rural Area geography also includes a limited amount of
1017 acreage with the Industrial land use ~~((categories such as Industrial, Commercial Outside of Center, etc))~~
1018 designation. The Rural Area geography does not include designated Natural Resource Lands, although resource
1019 activities occur on them. The Rural Area contains very low-density residential development, commercial and
1020 industrial development, farms, forests, watersheds crucial for both fisheries and flood hazard management,
1021 mining areas and towns, historic sites and buildings, archaeological sites, and regionally important recreation
1022 areas. (See Chapter 3((:)), Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands)
1023

1024 **Rural Area zoning**

1025 ~~((The))~~ Rural Area ~~((zone))~~ zoning or zones refers to the Rural Area((-)-)2.5, Rural Area((-)-)5, Rural Area((-)-)
1026 10, and Rural Area((-)-)20 zoning ~~((categories))~~ classifications. This zoning is meant to provide an area-wide,
1027 long-term((-)) rural character and to minimize land use conflicts with nearby agricultural, forest or mineral
1028 extraction production districts. These purposes are accomplished by: 1) limiting residential densities and
1029 permitted uses to those that are compatible with rural character and nearby resource production districts and are
1030 able to be adequately supported by rural service levels; 2) allowing small scale farming and forestry activities and
1031 tourism and recreation uses which can be supported by rural service levels and which are compatible with rural

1032 character; and 3) increasing required setbacks to minimize conflicts with adjacent agriculture, forest, or mineral
1033 zones.

1034
1035

Rural Forest Focus Areas

1036 Rural Forest Focus Areas are designated geographic areas with Rural Area zoning that contain large contiguous
1037 blocks of rural forest. These efforts, such as funding, economic incentives, regulatory actions, and other
1038 strategies, are enacted to maintain forest cover and the practice of sustainable forestry.

1039

1040 **Rural Character**

1041 Rural character refers to the pattern of land use and development established by a county in the rural element of
1042 its comprehensive plan:

- 1043 (a) In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment;
- 1044 (b) That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in
1045 Rural Areas;
- 1046 (c) That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in Rural Areas and communities;
- 1047 (d) That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat;
- 1048 (e) That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density
1049 development;
- 1050 (f) That generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services; and
- 1051 (g) That are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and groundwater and surface
1052 water recharge and discharge areas

1053

1054 ~~**(Rural Growth**~~

1055 ~~Rural Growth refers to residential, commercial, and industrial growth that is scaled to be compatible with, and~~
1056 ~~maintains the traditional character of the Rural Area. Rural growth typically does not require urban~~
1057 ~~governmental services except in the case of some Rural Towns to protect the environment as provided in this~~
1058 ~~Comprehensive Plan. The basic elements of “Rural Character,” as defined by the King County Countywide~~
1059 ~~Planning Policies, are natural features, resource-based industries, rural towns, rural neighborhoods, rural~~
1060 ~~infrastructure and services, open space system, rural housing, rural economy, and Cities in the Rural Area.)~~

1061

1062 **Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers**

1063 Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center ~~((s (a specific land use category within the larger geography of Rural~~
1064 ~~Areas) are))~~ is a land use designation used to recognize existing small pockets of commercial development((s)),
1065 or in some cases, historic ((towns)) communities or buildings, that are too small to provide more than
1066 convenience shopping and services to surrounding residents. They generally do not have services such as water
1067 supply or sewage disposal systems any different from those serving surrounding rural residential development.
1068 (See Chapter 3((:)), Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands)

1069

1070 **Rural Towns**

1071 Rural towns (a specific land use category within the larger geography of Rural Areas) are unincorporated towns
1072 governed directly by King County. ~~((They provide a focal point for community groups such as chambers of
1073 commerce or community councils to participate in public affairs.))~~ The purposes of Rural Town designations
1074 within the Comprehensive Plan are to recognize existing concentrations of higher density and economic activity
1075 in Rural Areas and to allow modest growth of residential and economic uses to keep them economically viable
1076 into the future. (See Chapter 3((=)), Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands)

1077

1078 **S**

1079 **Salmonid**

1080 A member of the fish family Salmonidae. In King County, salmonid species include Chinook, Coho, chum,
1081 sockeye, and pink salmon; cutthroat, rainbow, and brown trout and steelhead; Dolly Varden, brook trout, char,
1082 kokanee, and whitefish.

1083

1084 **Satellite ~~((System))~~ or Remote Ownership and Management**

1085 Satellite or remote ownership and management refers to ~~((When))~~ large water utilities that oversee the operations
1086 of smaller water systems, not connected to their own system~~((, it is called satellite system management)).~~ ~~((The
1087 satellite system manager is))~~ These entities are hired by the smaller system to operate and maintain the system in
1088 accordance with local, state, and federal health regulations.

1089

1090 **Sediment Transport**

1091 Sediment transport is the process of taking soil from one place and depositing it in another via the flow of water.
1092 Deposition of the soil occurs when sediment in the water flow is more than the flow can transport.

1093

1094 **~~((Sensitive Areas Map Folio~~**

1095 ~~The folio displays the location of environmentally sensitive areas in unincorporated King County. It identifies
1096 sensitive areas for wetlands, streams, flood hazards, erosion hazards, landslide hazards, seismic hazards, and
1097 coal mine hazards.))~~

1098

1099 **Sensitive Species**

1100 Sensitive species means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future
1101 throughout all or significant portion of its range and which has been designated as such in regulations issued by
1102 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

1103

1104 **Sewer Availability**

1105 Sewer availability means the presence of sewers now or within six years through extensions included in adopted
1106 sewer comprehensive plans. ~~((In the case of Urban Planned Development, 1) the capacity to intercept and treat~~

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1107 ~~waste water as evidenced by a King County approved sewer system plan or a Metro utility plans, 2) a firm~~
1108 ~~commitment to serve an area with sewer as evidenced by either a sewer availability certificate, utility extension~~
1109 ~~agreement, or an approved sewer system plan and 3) a firm financial commitment to provide sewer, as evidenced~~
1110 ~~by either a capital improvement program or utility extension agreement.~~

1111

1112 **Sewer Tightline**

1113 ~~Tightlining of sewers means that a sewer line is designed and sized to only serve a particular structure.))~~

1114

1115 **Shall**

1116 To guide King County, the use of the terms “shall,” (~~“(will,)”~~) “should,” and “may” in policies determine the
1117 level of discretion the ((e))County can exercise in making future and specific land use, budget, development
1118 regulation, and other decisions. “Shall” (~~“(and “will”)~~) in a policy mean that it is mandatory for the ((e))County
1119 to carry out the policy, even if a timeframe is not included. “Shall” (~~“(and “will” are)~~) is imperative and
1120 nondiscretionary--the ((e))County must make decisions based on what the policy says to do. “May” in a policy
1121 means that the action is allowed and/or it is in the ((e))County’s interest to carry out the policy, but the
1122 ((e))County has total discretion in making decisions. "Must" in a policy means a mandate; the action is required.
1123 "Should" in a policy means: noncompulsory guidance, in which cost, availability of funding, and public benefit
1124 associated with the policy’s purpose are considered as part of the implementation decision; establishes that the
1125 ((e))County has discretion in making decisions.

1126

1127 **Shoreline Environment**

1128 Shoreline environment or master program environment means the categories of shorelines of the state
1129 established by the King County shoreline management master program to differentiate between areas whose
1130 features imply differing objectives regarding their use and future development.

1131

1132 **Shoreline Master Program**

1133 The Shoreline Master Program is the comprehensive use plan for a described area, and the use regulations
1134 together with maps, diagrams, charts, or other descriptive material and text, a statement of desired goals, and
1135 standards developed in accordance with the policies enunciated in Revised Code of Washington 90.58.020.

1136

1137 **Should**

1138 See definition for “shall”.

1139

1140 **Significant Adverse Environmental Impact**

1141 Significant as used in State Environmental Policy Act means a reasonable likelihood of more than a moderate
1142 adverse impact on the environment. Significance involves context and intensity and does not lend itself to a
1143 formula or quantifiable text. The context may vary with the physical setting. Intensity depends on the
1144 magnitude and duration of an impact. The severity of an impact should be weighed along with the likelihood of

1145 its occurrence. An impact may be significant if its chance of occurrence is not great, but the resulting
1146 environmental impact would be severe if it occurred.

1147

1148 **Significant vegetation removal**

1149 Significant vegetation removal means the removal or alteration of trees, shrubs, and/or ground cover by clearing,
1150 grading, cutting, burning, chemical means, or other activity that causes significant ecological impacts to
1151 functions provided by such vegetation. The removal of invasive or noxious weeds does not constitute significant
1152 vegetation removal. Tree pruning, not including tree topping, where it does not affect ecological functions, does
1153 not constitute significant vegetation removal.

1154

1155 **Single(~~Family Housing~~) Detached Homes**

1156 Single(~~family housing units~~) detached homes are individual structures, including conventional houses and
1157 mobile homes, containing one dwelling unit (not including attached accessory dwelling units).

1158

1159 **Species of Local Importance**

1160 Species of local importance include priority species as identified by the state of Washington Department of Fish
1161 and Wildlife; bird species whose populations in King County are known to have declined significantly over the
1162 past 150 years; anadromous salmonids; and aquatic species whose populations are particularly vulnerable to
1163 changes in water quality and water quantity.

1164

1165 **Subarea Plans**

1166 A subarea plan is a detailed local land use plan that implements, is consistent with, and is an element of the
1167 Comprehensive Plan containing specific policies, guidelines and criteria adopted by the council to guide
1168 development and capital improvement decisions within specific subareas of the county. (~~Subareas are~~) Subarea
1169 plans are used for distinct communities, specific geographic areas, or other types of districts having unified
1170 interests or similar characteristics within the county. Subarea plans may include(~~community plans~~), but are
1171 not limited to, community service area subarea plans(~~, neighborhood plans, basin plans, and plans addressing~~
1172 ~~multiple areas having common interests~~). (~~The relationship between the 1994 King County Comprehensive~~
1173 ~~Plan and subarea plans is established by K.C.C. 20.12.015.~~

1174

1175 **Subarea Study**

1176 A subarea study is a study that is required by a policy in the Comprehensive Plan to evaluate a proposed land use
1177 change, such as the establishment of new community business centers, adjusting Rural Town boundaries, or
1178 assessing the feasibility of zoning reclassifications in urban unincorporated areas. Subarea studies are focused on
1179 specific areas of the County, but do not look at the larger range of issues that a subarea plan would include.
1180 Subarea studies are separate from area zoning and land use studies defined in K.C.C 20.08.030. The
1181 Comprehensive Plan policies and accompanying text shall guide the scope and content of the subarea study.))

1182

1183 **Subdivision**

1184 A subdivision is land that has been divided into legal lots((;)) or is the process of dividing land into lots.

1185

1186 **Sustainable economic development**

1187 Sustainable economic development means economic development that does not exceed the ability of the natural
1188 or built environments to remain healthy while sustaining growth over the long term.

1189

1190 **Substantially degrade**

1191 Substantially degrade means to cause significant ecological impact.

1192

1193 **T**

1194 **~~((Sewer))~~ Tightline**

1195 Tightlining of sewers means that a sewer line is designed and sized to only serve a particular structure.

1196

1197 **Totalizing source meter**

1198 A totalizing source meter is a device that will measure the volume of water withdrawn from a well over time and
1199 provide a sum total of the water extracted. This type of meter is different than a meter that would measure just
1200 the instantaneous volume of water being withdrawn.

1201

1202 **Traditional Rural Development**

1203 In King County, traditional rural land uses could include, but are not limited to: low density residential uses;
1204 small scale farming, forestry and mineral extraction; small, neighborhood ~~((churches))~~ places of worship; feed
1205 and grain stores; the keeping of horses and livestock; cottage industries, crafts and trades that support the
1206 residents of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and/or the needs of natural resource production; and
1207 public and private facilities necessary to serve rural homes such as utility installations or public schools. In
1208 general, the rural development pattern in King County has historically been comprised of houses, barns, fences
1209 and cultivated fields, but natural features and open spaces are the predominant visual image.

1210

1211 **Transfer of Development Rights ~~((TDR))~~**

1212 Transfer of development rights means the ability to transfer allowable density, in the form of permitted building
1213 lots or structures, from one property (the "sending site") to another (the "receiving site") in conjunction with
1214 conservation of all or part of the sending site as open space or working farm or forest. King County allows
1215 transfers of development rights as part of standard subdivision, mobile home park and multifamily project review
1216 processes through its ~~((TDR))~~ Transfer of Development Rights Program. (King County Code((;)) Title 21A)

1217

1218 **Transit Oriented Development (~~((TOD))~~)**

1219 A private or public/private real estate development project that creates, expands, maintains or preserves a
1220 mixed-use community or neighborhood within walking distance of a transit center, or stop, that is designed to
1221 encourage transit use and pedestrian activity. Transit Oriented Development projects support transit by
1222 increasing the density of residents, shoppers, visitors, or employees per acre. New Transit Oriented
1223 Development projects are often coupled with an increase in transit service to the area.

1224

1225 **Transportation Concurrency Management (~~((System))~~)**

1226 ~~((The Growth Management Act requires jurisdictions to adopt and enforce ordinances))~~ Transportation
1227 Concurrency Management means regulations that prohibit development approval if the development causes the
1228 level of service on a transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the ~~((e))~~ Comprehensive
1229 ~~((p))~~ Plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are
1230 made “concurrent” with the development. Concurrent with development means that transportation
1231 improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development or that financial commitment is made to
1232 complete the improvements or strategies within six years. ~~(((The Concurrency Management System of King~~
1233 ~~County))~~ King County’s Transportation Concurrency Management program establishes a process to manage
1234 new development in unincorporated King County based on transportation impacts on levels of service and the
1235 concurrency of needed improvements or actions. (See Chapter 8~~((:))~~, Transportation)~~((-))~~

1236

1237 **Transportation Demand Management (~~((TDM))~~)**

1238 Transportation Demand Management is ~~((a strategy))~~ an array of strategies to reduce the number of
1239 ~~((automobile))~~ vehicle trips, particularly trips taken in single-occupant vehicles. Transportation Demand
1240 Management encourages public transportation over ~~((automobile))~~ vehicle use ~~((and specifically refers to))~~ as
1241 well as other policies, programs, and actions implemented to increase the use of high-occupancy vehicles (public
1242 transit, car-pooling and van-pooling), reduce the total amount of trips (such as through remote work), and spread
1243 travel to less congested time periods through alternative work hour programs (See Chapter 8~~((:))~~,
1244 Transportation)~~((-))~~

1245

1246 **Transportation Facilities and Services**

1247 Transportation facilities and services are ~~((the physical assets))~~ elements of the transportation system that are
1248 used to provide mobility. They include roads, sidewalks, bike lanes and other facilities supporting
1249 ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation, transit, bridges, traffic signals, ramps, buses, bus garages, park
1250 ~~((and))~~ ride lots, and passenger shelters.

1251

1252 **~~((Transportation needs for new growth~~**

1253 ~~Transportation needs for new growth are associated with growth that has been planned for 2012 in this~~
1254 ~~comprehensive plan.))~~

1255

1256 **Transportation Needs Report ~~((TNR))~~**

1257 The ~~((TNR))~~ Transportation Needs Report is a comprehensive list of ~~((recommended-e))~~ County transportation
1258 needs ~~((through the year 2022 needed))~~ to implement the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan. It
1259 includes transportation needs for the unincorporated King County road network~~((, and some city, state, and~~
1260 ~~adjacent county projects))~~. It does not include transit service or capital needs. (See Chapter 8~~((:))~~,
1261 Transportation, and Appendix C1, Transportation Needs Report)

1262

1263 **U**

1264 **Unemployment Rate**

1265 The unemployment rate is the percentage of the civilian labor force that is unemployed and actively seeking
1266 work.

1267

1268 **Unincorporated Activity Centers**

1269 Unincorporated Activity Centers are the primary locations for commercial and industrial development in urban
1270 unincorporated King County. ~~((Currently, White Center is the only designated Unincorporated Activity Center,~~
1271 ~~as other such centers are now parts of cities.))~~ (See Chapter 2~~((:))~~, Urban Communities)

1272

1273 **Unincorporated Areas**

1274 Unincorporated areas are those areas outside any city and under King County's jurisdiction.

1275

1276 **~~((Unique Wetland~~**

1277 ~~The term unique wetland refers to bogs and fens, which have unusual and sensitive water chemistries.))~~

1278

1279 **Universal Design**

1280 Universal design as used in ~~((Chapter 2: Urban Communities))~~ Chapter 4, Housing and Human Services, means
1281 the design of products, buildings, and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, and
1282 which allows people to age in place in their home without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

1283

1284 **Urban Centers**

1285 Urban Centers are centers of concentrated employment and housing located within the Urban Growth Area
1286 designated by the ~~((Phase II))~~ Countywide Planning Policies. Urban Centers are to be serviced directly by
1287 high-capacity transit and are to contain a wide variety of land uses, including retail, recreational, cultural and
1288 public facilities, parks, and open spaces. Unincorporated Urban Centers are represented on Urban Centers Map
1289 included at the end of Chapter 2~~((:))~~, Urban Communities.

1290

1291 **Urban Growth**

1292 Urban growth refers to residential, commercial and industrial growth that makes intensive use of land for the
1293 location of buildings, structures and impermeable surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the
1294 primary use of such land for the production of food, other agricultural products, or fiber, or the extraction of
1295 mineral resources. Urban growth typically requires urban governmental services. "Characterized by urban
1296 growth" refers to land having urban growth located on it, or to land located in relationship to an area with urban
1297 growth.

1298

1299 **Urban Growth Area**

1300 The Growth Management Act requires King County's Comprehensive Plan to designate an Urban Growth Area,
1301 where most future urban growth and development is to occur to limit urban sprawl, enhance open space, protect
1302 Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, and more efficiently use human services, transportation, and utilities.
1303 The Comprehensive Plan designates an Urban Growth Area which includes areas and densities sufficient to
1304 permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the county for the succeeding 20-year period. (See Chapter
1305 1((:)), Regional Growth Management Planning, and Chapter 2((:)), Urban Communities)

1306

1307 ~~**Urban Growth Target**~~

1308 ~~The Growth Management Act and the Countywide Planning Policies require King County and its cities to plan~~
1309 ~~for a 20-year population and employment growth target for each jurisdiction, based on designation of the Urban~~
1310 ~~Growth Area, Urban Centers and the criteria of the Countywide Planning Policies. (See Chapter 2: Urban~~
1311 ~~Communities))~~

1312

1313 **Urban Planned Developments ((UPD))**

1314 Urban Plan Developments are site specific projects consisting of conceptual site plans, development stands,
1315 processing and other elements.

1316

1317 **Urban Separator**

1318 Urban separators are areas planned for permanent low-residential density within the Urban Growth Area.
1319 Urban separators protect adjacent resource land, ~~((environmentally sensitive))~~ critical areas, or Rural Areas and
1320 create open space corridors within and between urban areas which provide environmental, visual, recreations,
1321 and wildlife benefits.

1322

1323 **Utilities Technical Review Committee ((UTRC))**

1324 The Utilities Technical Review Committee ~~((UTRC))~~ is an interdepartmental committee with responsibility for
1325 ensuring that water and sewer plans comply with county and state health requirements and county land use
1326 policies. The committee reviews the plans of all water and sewer utilities that operate in unincorporated King
1327 County and then recommends the plans to King County Executive and the Metropolitan King County Council
1328 for approval.

1329

1330

V

1331

~~**(Variable Tolling**~~

1332

~~Variable tolling or pricing is any form of collecting a direct user fee on a roadway.))~~

1333

1334

W

1335

Water Availability

1336

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)~~

1337

~~presence of a water source with water rights that can serve the projected average daily demand; 2) a firm~~

1338

~~commitment to serve an area with water, as evidenced by either a water availability certificate, utility extension~~

1339

~~agreement or a King County approved water system plan; and 3) a firm financial commitment to provide water,~~

1340

~~as evidenced by either a capital improvement plan or utility extension agreement.))~~

1341

1342

Water Quality

1343

Water quality 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 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.

1344

1345

~~**(Water Reuse**~~

1346

~~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.~~

1347

1348

~~**Water Supply Availability**~~

1349

~~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.~~

1350

1351

~~**Water System Classifications**~~

1352

~~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.))~~

1353

1367 **Water System Plan**

1368 Water system plans are planning documents that include water system plans as referred to in Chapter 43.20
1369 Revised Code of Washington, comprehensive plans of water supply systems (including combined water and
1370 sewer plans) as referred to in Revised Code of Washington 57.16.010, water system plans and coordinated water
1371 system plans as referred to in Revised Code of Washington ~~((70.116.050))~~ 70A.100.050, and all other water
1372 system plans, comprehensive plans and plan elements that may be required under King County Code Chapter
1373 13.24 and ~~((this King County))~~ the Comprehensive Plan for any special district or any other public or private
1374 entities that distribute or obtain water in unincorporated King County.

1375

1376 **Watershed**

1377 A watershed, like a drainage basin, is an area that drains to a common outlet or an identifiable water body such
1378 as a river, stream, lake, or wetland. The six major watersheds in King County are Cedar River, Green River,
1379 Skykomish River, Snoqualmie River ~~((and))~~, White River, and the Puget Sound. These watersheds contain a
1380 total of 72 individual drainage basins. (See Chapter 5~~((:))~~, Environment)

1381

1382 ~~((Well Head))~~ **Wellhead Protection**

1383 ~~((Well Head))~~ Wellhead protection is another way that King County can protect its groundwater resource. This
1384 program directs purveyors to identify ~~((+))~~ one, ~~((5))~~ five, and 10-year time of travel to their well(s) to identify
1385 contamination sources, and to propose methods to reduce or eliminate contamination sources.

1386

1387 **Wetland**

1388 The term wetland means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency
1389 and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation
1390 typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and
1391 similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites,
1392 including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities,
1393 wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990
1394 that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands shall
1395 include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas to mitigate conversion of wetlands.

1396

1397 ~~((Wetland Banking~~

1398 ~~Wetland banking is a process that allows certain wetlands to be developed if the development is accompanied by~~
1399 ~~the restoration or creation of wetlands in other areas. (See Chapter 5: Environment))~~

1400

1401 **Wetland Functions**

1402 Functions refer to the ecological (physical, chemical, and biological) workings or attributes of a wetland
1403 regardless of their importance to society. Food chain support or the transport and transformation of chemicals in
1404 ecosystems are examples of wetland functions. Water quality maintenance, flood storage, and wildlife habitat
1405 are examples of ecological functions to which society attributes a value. (See Chapter 5~~((:))~~, Environment)

1406

1407 **Wetland Values**

1408 Values are estimates, usually subjective, of the worth, merit, quality, or importance of wetland attributes that are
1409 valuable and beneficial to society. Values vary by watershed or human community. Education, research,
1410 aesthetics, and recreation are examples of other wetland attributes that may be considered values in that they are
1411 beneficial to society.

1412

1413 **Wildland-urban interface**

1414 The wildland-urban interface is the geographic area where structures and other human development meets or
1415 intermingles with wildland vegetative fuels.

1416

1417 ~~((With~~

1418 ~~See definition for “shall”-))~~

1419

1420 **X**

1421

1422 **Y**

1423

1424 **Z**

1425

1426 **~~((Frequently Used Acronyms~~**

1427 ~~APD ————— Agricultural Production District~~

1428 ~~CIP ————— Capital Improvement Program~~

1429 ~~CPP ————— Countywide Planning Policy~~

1430 ~~CSA ————— Community Service Area~~

1431 ~~ESA ————— Endangered Species Act~~

1432 ~~FCC ————— Fully Contained Community~~

1433 ~~FPD ————— Forest Production District~~

1434 ~~GMA ————— Growth Management Act~~

1435 ~~GMPC ————— Growth Management Planning Council~~

1436 ~~HOT ————— High Occupancy Toll~~

1437 ~~HOV ————— High Occupancy Vehicle~~

1438 ~~ITS ————— Intelligent Transportation Systems~~

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1439	KCCP	King County Comprehensive Plan
1440	KCSP	King County Strategic Plan
1441	LID	Low Impact Development
1442	LOS	Level of Service
1443	LSRA	Locally Significant Resource Area
1444	MPP	Multi county Planning Policies
1445	MPS	Mitigation Payment System
1446	PAA	Potential Annexation Area
1447	PBRS	Public Benefit Rating System
1448	PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
1449	RSRA	Regionally Significant Resource Area
1450	RWSP	Regional Wastewater Services Plan
1451	SCAP	Strategic Climate Action Plan
1452	SPPT	Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
1453	SPRS	Strategic Plan for Road Services
1454	SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
1455	TAM	Transportation Adequacy Measure
1456	TDR	Transfer of Development Rights
1457	TDM	Transportation Demand Management
1458	TNR	Transportation Needs Report
1459	TOD	Transit Oriented Development
1460	UGA	Urban Growth Area
1461	UGB	Urban Growth Boundary
1462	UPD	Urban Planned Development
1463	UTRC	Utilities Technical Review Committee))
1464		

1 **Appendices**

2 The Comprehensive Plan also includes the following detailed appendices that supplement
3 the information found in the Plan and support compliance with the Growth Management
4 Act.

5
6 Appendix A. Capital Facilities and Services

7 Appendix B. Housing Needs Assessment

8 Appendix C. Transportation

9 Appendix C1. Transportation Needs Report

10 Appendix C2. Regional Trail Needs Report

11 Appendix D. 1994 Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area

12 Appendix D1. Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area

13 Appendix E. 1994 Natural Resource Lands

14 Appendix F. School Siting Task Force Report

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Office of Performance
Strategy and Budget

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