



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

## 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.

7  
8

## 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 ~~((13<sup>th</sup>))~~ 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

47

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

52

### 53 **King County Economy**

54 King County is truly the economic engine of Washington State, with more than ~~((4-2))~~ 1.3 million workers  
 55 employed at ~~((nearly 80,000))~~ over 66,000 business firms, excluding sole proprietorships. King County's ~~((87))~~  
 56 \$142 billion payroll is ~~((52%))~~ 67 percent of Washington State's ~~((167))~~ \$214 billion payroll and over three-  
 57 ~~((fourths))~~ quarters of the four-county region's payroll.

58

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

76

## 77 **~~((H.))~~ King County Planning Framework**

78 Prompted by residents concerned about sprawl, King County adopted its first comprehensive land use plan in  
 79 1964. Two decades later, the 1985 comprehensive land use plan was the first to identify an urban growth  
 80 boundary line to limit urban growth to areas with the infrastructure needed for facilities and services. It also  
 81 established policies to protect the Rural Area, conserve the natural environment, and designate resource lands for  
 82 long-term agriculture and forest production.

83

**((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**

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.<sup>1</sup>

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,

---

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

~~((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**

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

~~((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~~

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~~((s))~~ 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 ((c))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 ef))~~ 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.<sup>(2)</sup> 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

---

<sup>(2)</sup> As amended by Ordinance 17687.

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

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,<sup>3</sup> and  
 201 coordinating protection and restoration of the natural environment in King County.<sup>((3))</sup>

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,<sup>1</sup> 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

---

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

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

- 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



**((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**

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

**~~((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~~**

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,<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>)~~

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;

---

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

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

**((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**

- 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 Amendments<sup>6</sup> and Zone Reclassifications,<sup>7</sup> 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

---

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

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

**((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**

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.))~~

400

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

**Other Planning**

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

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

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

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

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

~~((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~~

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

~~((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~~

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~~

**~~((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~~**

- 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.

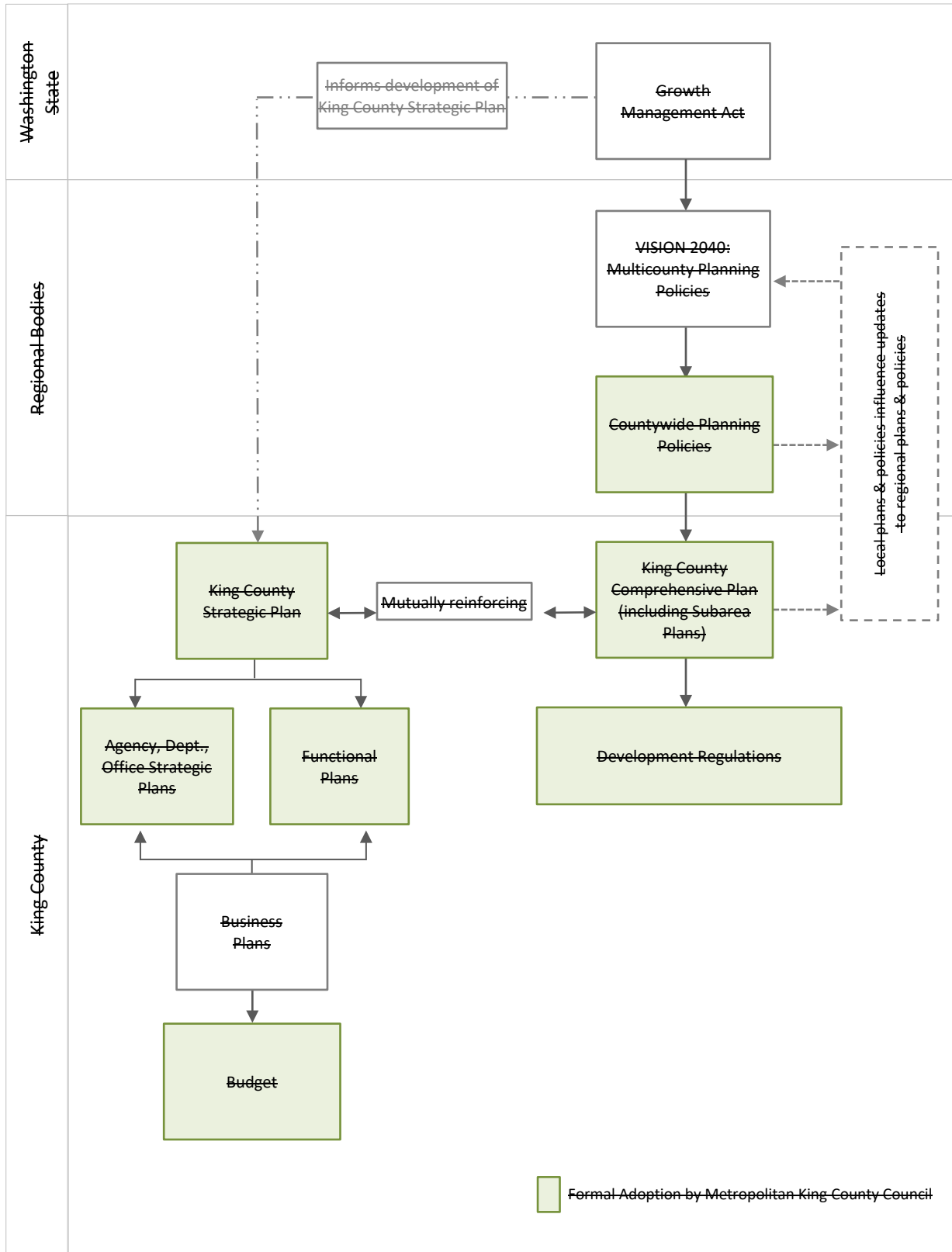
558

559

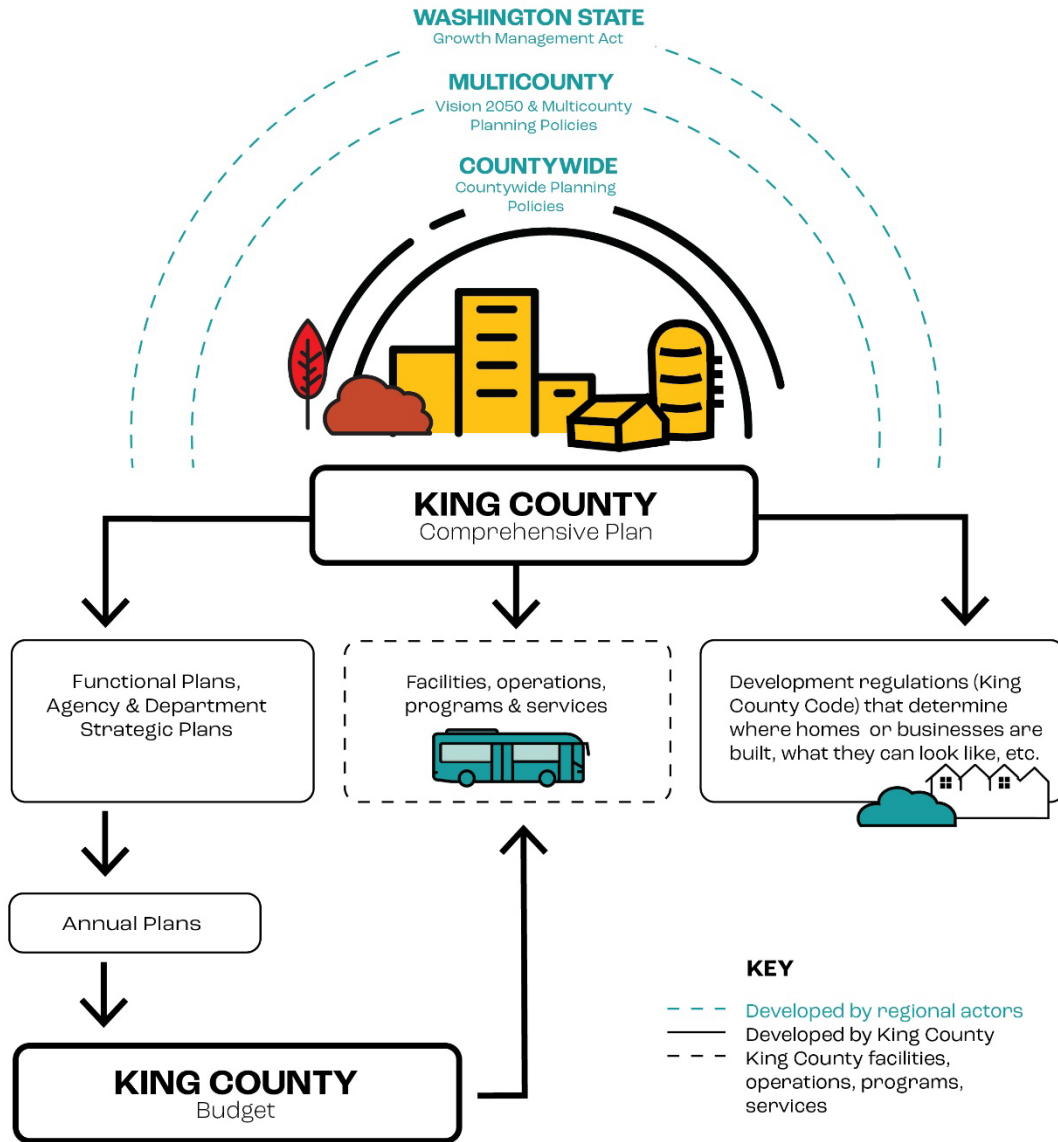


**((2016)) 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan – ((updated December 6, 2022)) Adopted TBD  
Attachment A to Ordinance ((18427, as amended by Ordinances 18623, 18810, 19034, 19146, and 19555)) TBD**

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



**((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**



## 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

**((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**

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))~~

**((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**

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 Equity<sup>8</sup>**

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

---

<sup>8</sup> King County Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice

**((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**

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



**((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**

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

**((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**

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

#### **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

#### **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

#### **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

**((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**

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 ~~Volume 1~~

910 ~~Technical Appendix A. — Capital Facilities and Services~~

911 ~~Technical Appendix B. — Housing~~

912 ~~Technical Appendix C. — Transportation~~

913 ~~C1. Transportation Needs Report~~

914 ~~C2. Regional Trail Needs Report~~

915 ~~Technical Appendix D. — Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area~~

916

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

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~~

~~((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~~

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

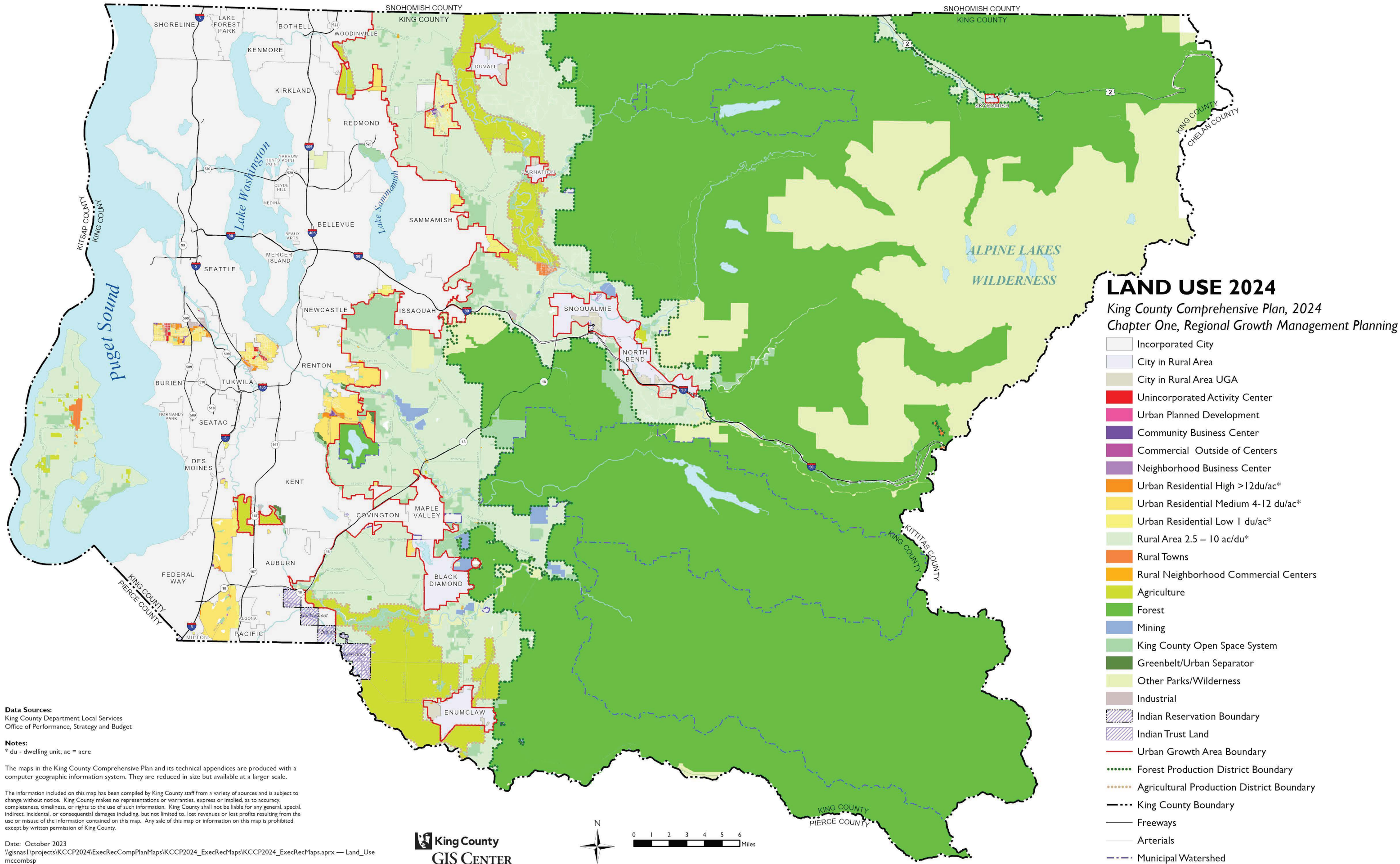
951

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



PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK