



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Ordinance

**Proposed No.** 2023-0438.1

**Sponsors** Perry

1           AN ORDINANCE adopting and ratifying amendments to  
2           the Urban Growth Area policies and Four-to-One program  
3           in the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies.

4           BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

5           SECTION 1. Findings:

6           A. The 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies ("CPPs") were adopted  
7           and ratified by King County on December 14, 2021, by Ordinance 19384. The CPPs  
8           were ratified by the cities and towns in King County on April 6, 2022.

9           B. Ordinance 19384 established a workplan for the King County Growth  
10          Management Planning Council ("GMPC") to review the Urban Growth Area policies and  
11          Four-to-One program in the CPPs, King County Comprehensive Plan ("Plan"), and King  
12          County Code ("K.C.C.").

13          C. Following almost two years of work, on September 25, 2023, the GMPC  
14          approved Motion 23-4, which recommended amendments to the CPPs, Plan, and K.C.C.,  
15          consistent with the requirements in Ordinance 19384.

16          SECTION 2. The amendments to the CPPs, as shown in Attachment A to this  
17          ordinance, are hereby adopted by King County and ratified on behalf of the population of  
18          unincorporated King County.

Ordinance

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19            **SECTION 3. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its application to  
20 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the  
21 application of the provision to persons or circumstances is not affected.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None

## ATTACHMENT A

## Attachment A to GMPC Motion 23-4: GMPC Recommended Amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies related to Urban Growth Area Amendments through the Four-to-One Program

*King County Countywide Planning Policies, as adopted (Ordinance 19553) on 12/6/2022, and ratified by 03/31/2023*

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

- 1 **DP-17** Allow expansion of the Urban Growth Area only if at least one of the following criteria is  
2 met:
- 3 a) A countywide analysis determines that the current Urban Growth Area is insufficient in  
4 size and additional land is needed to accommodate the housing and employment  
5 growth targets, including institutional and other non-residential uses, and there are  
6 no other reasonable measures, such as increasing density or rezoning existing urban  
7 land, that would avoid the need to expand the Urban Growth Area; or
- 8 b) A proposed expansion of the Urban Growth Area is accompanied by dedication of  
9 permanent open space to the King County Open Space System, where the acreage  
10 of the proposed open space:
- 11 1) Is at least four times the acreage of the land added to the Urban Growth Area;
- 12 2) Is ~~((contiguous with))~~ adjacent to the original Urban Growth Area boundary  
13 adopted in the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan, with at least ((a  
14 portion)) half of the site to be placed in dedicated open space ((surrounding))  
15 and shall fully buffer the proposed Urban Growth Area expansion from  
16 surrounding Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands; and
- 17 3) Preserves high quality habitat, critical areas, or unique features that contribute  
18 to the band of permanent open space along the edge of the Urban Growth  
19 Area; or
- 20 c) The area is currently a King County park being transferred to a city to be maintained  
21 as a park in perpetuity~~((or is park land that has been owned by a city since 1994 and~~  
22 ~~is less than thirty acres in size)).~~
- 23
- 24 **DP-18** Add land to the Urban Growth Area only if expansion of the Urban Growth Area is  
25 warranted based on the criteria in DP-17(a) or DP-17(b), and it meets all of the following criteria:
- 26 a) For expansions based on DP-17(a) only:

## ATTACHMENT A

- 27                    1. Is adjacent to the existing Urban Growth Area((  
 28                    b) For expansions based on DP-17(a) only, is));
- 29                    2. Is no larger than necessary to promote compact development that  
 30                    accommodates anticipated growth needs;
- 31                    ((e))b) Can be efficiently provided with urban services and does not require supportive  
 32                    facilities or services to cross or be located in the Rural Area;
- 33                    ((e))c) Follows topographical features that form natural boundaries, such as rivers and  
 34                    ridge lines and does not extend beyond natural boundaries, such as watersheds, that  
 35                    impede the provision of urban services;
- 36                    ((e))d) Is not currently designated as Natural Resource Land;
- 37                    ((f))e) Is sufficiently free of environmental constraints to be able to support urban  
 38                    development without significant adverse environmental impacts, unless the area is  
 39                    designated as an Urban Separator by interlocal agreement between King County  
 40                    and the annexing city; ((and))
- 41                    f) Is not expanding the Urban Growth Area from a location that was previously expanded  
 42                    through the Four-to-One program;
- 43                    g) Is subject to an agreement between King County and the city or town adjacent to the  
 44                    area that the area will be added to the city's Potential Annexation Area. Upon  
 45                    ratification of the amendment, the Countywide Planning Policies will reflect both the  
 46                    Urban Growth Area change and Potential Annexation Area change; and
- 47                    h) For expansions of the Urban Growth Area based on the criteria in DP-17 (b) where  
 48                    the area is adjacent to an incorporated area, no development proposal or activity  
 49                    shall be allowed until the land added to the Urban Growth Area is annexed into a city  
 50                    or town.
- 51
- 52    **DP-19** Allow redesignation of Urban land currently within the Urban Growth Area to Rural land  
 53    outside of the Urban Growth Area if the land is not needed to accommodate projected urban  
 54    growth, is not served by public sewers, is ((contiguous with)) adjacent to the Rural Area, and:
- 55                    a) Is not characterized by urban development;
- 56                    b) Is currently developed with a low-density lot pattern that cannot be realistically  
 57                    redeveloped at an urban density; or
- 58                    c) Is characterized by environmentally sensitive areas making it inappropriate for higher  
 59                    density development.