2016 King County Comprehensive Plan

**Topical Areas**

***In accordance with King County Code 20.18.060(A.1)***

**Updates related to All Chapters:**

*All chapters of the King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) will be reviewed and updated to advance the County’s adopted Goals and Vision:[[1]](#footnote-1) mobility; health and human services; economic vitality; safety and justice; accessible, affordable housing; healthy environment; and efficient, accountable regional and local government. Further, since the King County Countywide Planning Policies were substantially revised in the past four years, all chapters will be reviewed and updated to ensure consistency.*

* Review and update the KCCP for consistency with current State, regional, and countywide growth management policy documents, such as the Growth Management Act, Vision 2040 and the multicounty planning policies (MPPs), Transportation 2040, and the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).
* Strengthen the link between the KCCP and the King County Strategic Plan through a set of metrics that will be based on measurable goal statements to be added to each chapter.
* Consider references, where appropriate, to adopted implementation plans and initiatives, such as the King County Health and Human Services Transformation Plan, King County Strategic Climate Action Plan, King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), Youth Action Plan, and Rural Economic Strategies plan.
* Update and strengthen policies that call for better integration of land use and transportation to create sustainable communities by promoting walking and bicycling, greater transit use, access to a healthy food system, access to quality and affordable homes, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved environmental, health and economic outcomes.
* Review and update policies to support Low Impact Development (LID) and ensure language related to LID and stormwater management reflects current National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.
* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities related to health, housing, and prosperity.
* Review and update policies to address inequities and disparities related to environmental justice and climate justice impacts.
* Review and update policies to advance the 14 Determinants of Equity in each chapter, and especially regarding the built environment, transportation, parks, housing, food systems, and economic development.
* Review four-to-one policies, including consideration of: the efficacy of the program to encourage permanent conservation of open space along the Urban Growth Boundary, potential policy changes to allow flexibility for smaller parcels while still achieving similar conservation goals, and identification of possible associated CPP changes.
* Consider consolidating health and equity policies into a new, stand-alone chapter.
* Update rural areas definitions (e.g. rural area, rural land, rural zoning, and rural cities) and usage in plan for clarity and consistency.
* Update policies and related code sections to reflect court rulings, current case law, and federal regulations.
* Update demographic and economic information.

**Chapter One – Regional Growth Management Planning**

*Our region’s prosperity and sustainability rely on local governments working in partnership to plan for the future. The 2016 update to the Regional Growth Management Planning chapter will seek to strengthen the county’s commitment to regional partnerships and public engagement in order to support efficient and effective use of public funds and a high quality of life for all residents in King County.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities.
* Review and update policies to strengthen the County’s commitment to regional partnerships – including examples such as the Growing Transit Communities Compact, Regional Code Collaboration, and the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) – and public engagement.
* Review policies to express support for the multi-use vision for the public asset currently known as the “Eastside Rail Corridor” and associated multi-jurisdictional collaboration.

**Chapter Two – Urban Communities**

*The 2016 update to the Urban Communities chapter will focus on sustainability and health, racial, economic and social equity of all King County’s unincorporated urban communities by strengthening the nexus of land use and housing with health, public transportation, jobs, education, and social services.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities.
* Advance the Communities of Opportunity initiative. Consider vehicles for communities to engage in innovative healthy place-making work.
* Identify prospects for partnerships with cities, especially within identified Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs).
* Review and update annexation policies to promote timely annexation of the remaining urban unincorporated area, including consideration of utilizing zoning and/or development regulations of the city identified for the PAA.
* Update PAA map, as needed.
* Address lingering service delivery issues in urban unincorporated areas likely to remain in King County governance for the foreseeable future.
* Address the Regional Code Collaboration for opportunities to support Green Building provisions.
* Review and update policies to support healthy, affordable housing, including additional strategies to incentivize increased affordable housing and development.
* Consider adding policies that identify regional and/or unincorporated county targets for affordable housing.
* Review and update policies to support appropriate housing for aging demographics, including expanded use of cottage housing.
* Consider adding policies that address the historic distribution of benefits and burdens of infrastructure and services.
* Extend the growth targets that were adopted in the 2012 CPPs to provide a 20-year planning horizon.
* Update data consistent with the 2014 Buildable Lands Report and address any identified shortfall in employment capacity in urban unincorporated King County.
* Review and update policies to ensure that there is robust provision for public/community benefits and consider whether there should be heightened public/community benefits requirements in new developments, especially in areas that may be susceptible to displacement of lower income people and community-based businesses.
* Update the data in the housing section and consider streamlining and/or moving to an appendix.
* Evaluate Housing and Land Use Section to ensure that potential innovative new housing models in urban unincorporated King County, in consideration of land uses in adjacent jurisdictions, can be permitted and move forward, including homeless housing models.
* Address land use/zoning needs in urban unincorporated King County, in consideration of land uses in adjacent jurisdictions, for transit-oriented communities that will include high quality/healthy affordable housing at high capacity transit stations and access areas.
* Explore addition of multifamily tax exemption and other affordable housing strategies.
* Consider inclusion of policies to support urban to urban TDRs and incentives for use of TDRs in economically disadvantaged communities.

**Chapter Three – Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands**

*Rural and resource lands in King County contribute to the region’s economic and environmental prosperity. The 2016 update to the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands chapter will incorporate new information regarding the Local Food Economy Initiative and the Farm, Fish, Flood watershed planning process, as well as ongoing sustainability.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities.
* Review the King County Local Food Economy Initiative recommendations for policy implications and consider incorporating into policies, as appropriate.
* Review and update the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) policies, including consideration of policies to support urban to urban TDRs, incentives for use of TDRs in economically disadvantaged communities, and expanded options for rural to rural TDRs.
* Strengthen policies related to improving productivity of farmland by addressing drainage, flood impacts, irrigation needs and other farmland issues to facilitate farming in King County.
* Update policies related to farm, fish, and flood conflicts, including consideration of the findings of the Farm, Fish, Flood watershed planning process, which is scheduled to conclude in Spring 2015.
* Evaluate and add policies to promote Green Building and energy reduction, where feasible, in rural unincorporated areas.
* Update policies on landslide hazard identification, mapping, and mitigation countywide.
* Review and update policies to support appropriate housing for aging demographics, including expanded use of cottage housing.
* Evaluate policies to the extent they address the needs of residents living in unincorporated rural King County.
* Review and update policies to advance the Rural Economic Strategies plan and promote rural economic development.
* Address issues related to resource-based home businesses.
* Address impacts related to resource-based businesses.
* Evaluate possibilities for streamlining home-based businesses.
* Consider adding policies to match rural densities with water resources, including consideration of future water availability due to climate change.
* Update 2012 Agriculture and Forest Lands map, as needed.
* Update 2012 Mineral Resources map and property information, and ensure resources within unincorporated King County meet Growth Management Act planning requirements.

**Chapter Four – Environment**

*The sustainability of King County’s natural environment requires a long-term commitment to environmental monitoring and adaptive management that highlights changing environmental conditions, evaluates the effectiveness of county actions, and influences policy decisions and investments. Since the 2012 update, the Strategic Climate Action Plan was adopted and is currently under review to be updated in 2015 and the K4C was formed to collaborate on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The 2016 update to the Environment chapter will advance King County’s commitment to environmental protection and further address climate change.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities, specifically including those related to environmental justice and climate justice impacts.
* Review and update climate policies to reflect changes in federal and state requirements, climate inventories, the 2012 CPPs, and joint work with other cities and counties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change impacts.
* Review and revise emissions reductions targets for consistency with State requirements and adopted updates to the CPPs, including establishing short term goals to achieve the 2050 goal.
* Review and update policies to strengthen relationship between climate impacts and solutions with health, equity, and social justice.
* Review and update policies concerning regional plans, such as those related to salmon recovery, to better reflect the county’s expectations for the effective life of the plan, the relative significance of such plans for the region, and/or priority for implementation.
* Consider adding new policies regarding beaver management in King County to explore the benefit to maximize stream restoration efforts, climate change benefits, and reduce flood risk associated with beaver dams.
* Review and update policies to encourage and support a more integrated approach to achieving improved outcomes for water quality, health, and habitat.
* Review and update policies as needed to reflect most recent Puget Sound Action Agenda and its focus on habitat, stormwater, and shellfish beds.
* Update policies as needed for consistency with new requirements for municipal stormwater discharge permits.

**Chapter Five – Shoreline Master Program**

*This chapter is adopted in accordance with RCW 90.58.020.*

* Update policies to reflect an emphasis on the importance of outreach/education to shoreline property owners.

**Chapter Six– Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources**

*The 2016 update to the Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources chapter will further reflect the priority for developing and maintaining regional and local parks, open space, and the regional trails based on the voter-approved 2013 Parks, Trails & Open Space Replacement Levy.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities.
* Review and update policies to facilitate the recreation element of the multi-use vision for the public asset currently known as the “Eastside Rail Corridor.”
* Review and update policies relating to climate change/sustainability, forest stewardship, and public engagement/partnerships.
* Create a brief policy subsection for the Regional Trails System (RTS).
* Update the Regional Trails Needs Report (RTNR) and the RTNR Map.
* Update the 2012 King County’s Open Space System Map.

**Chapter Seven – Transportation**

*The 2016 update to the Transportation chapter will further refine the policy framework that guides efficient provision of vital transportation infrastructure and services that support thriving communities and the county’s participation in critical regional transportation issues. The 2016 update will also reflect the county’s continuing transition to becoming a road service provider for a primarily rural roads system.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities.
* Review and update policies to reflect adopted transportation functional plans such as agency strategic plans, service guidelines, long-range plans, and master plans.
* Review and update policies and programs related to transportation level of service and impact mitigation. Update the Transportation Concurrency Management program and Mitigation Payment System to reflect insufficient funding to address roadway capacity improvements for the foreseeable future. The Concurrency program update should address collaboration with other jurisdictions regarding infrastructure improvement strategies to help prevent travel shed failure caused by unfunded city and state projects and traffic generated outside the unincorporated area.
* Review and update policies to address unmet roadway infrastructure needs in the rural area.
* Review and update policies to facilitate the transportation element of the multi-use vision for the public asset currently known as the “Eastside Rail Corridor.”
* Review and update policies to guide and potentially expand public and private partnerships to advance regional transportation services.
* Review and update policies related to local and regional transportation funding, pricing, and demand management.
* Review and update policies to promote active transportation, as appropriate.
* Review and update transportation policies promoting sustainability issues, such as greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and performance and operation of the HOV/HOT lane system to support efficiencies for transit and other vehicles.
* Review and update policies to strengthen coordinated planning to increase connectivity between transportation modes.
* Review and update environmental and stormwater management policies to facilitate efficient and cost-effective maintenance and preservation of transportation infrastructure and respond to emergency situations. Consider adding policies to prioritize replacement of culverts that function as fish barriers on county roadways.
* Address the importance of high quality/healthy housing, including sufficient housing that is affordable, near transit stations as part of a strategy to increase the use of public transportation, reduce vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled, and improve equity outcomes.
* Consider policies to incorporate health and equity assessments as part of transportation planning and project analysis.
* Review and update policies to address the importance of regional collaboration to provide and site infrastructure supportive of freight mobility, including truck stops.
* Review and update policies to support and advance the King County International Airport Master Plan.

**Chapter Eight – Services, Facilities and Utilities**

*The 2016 update to the Services, Facilities and Utilities chapter will focus on strengthening regional cooperation and coordination around critical community infrastructure including water supply, wastewater treatment, flood management, and solid waste. Policies will be updated to reflect new and innovative approaches to energy efficiency, green building and environmental sustainability, and will reinforce the important social and economic role King County’s facilities, services, and utilities play in the region.*

* Review and update policies to reflect environmental justice, equity, and social justice, including consideration of historic trends in the distribution of benefits and burdens.
* Review and update policies to facilitate the utilities element of the multi-use vision for the public asset currently known as the “Eastside Rail Corridor.”
* Review policies to reflect that the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) uses planning horizons that exceed the 20-year growth target and land use plan when developing capital facility plans.
* Update policies in the Capital Facility Planning section to reflect that WTD uses an alternative to LEED, Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System, to rate WTD infrastructure.
* Update policies to reflect Consent Decree requiring completion of Combined Sewer Overflow projects by 2030.
* Review and update policies as needed to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and treaty obligations related to monitoring, inspection, and correction of failing onsite septic systems.
* Review policies for consistency with adopted updates to Solid Waste Division facilities/transfer plans. Update policies to reflect goals for zero waste/70% recycling rates.
* Review and update the Regional Services section to reflect the Health and Human Services Transformation Plan , Communities of Opportunity, and Youth Action Plan.

**Chapter Nine – Economic Development**

*The 2016 update to the Economic Development chapter will recognize that sustainable economic development benefiting all people in King County requires visionary policies and strong partnerships to grow and attract businesses, educate and train workers, and maintain and expand infrastructure while supporting the health of the natural and built environment.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities.
* Update economic data.
* Review and update policies to advance the Rural Economic Strategies plan.
* Explore including policies to address growing income inequality.
* Consider including policies for place-based workforce training strategies in communities with education and opportunity challenges.
* Review and update policies to promote economies and industries of opportunity for low and moderate income residents in “places of opportunity,” including in transit-served job centers and in communities with high concentrations of unemployment and poverty.
* Review the King County Local Food Economy Initiative recommendations for policy implications and incorporate into policies as appropriate.
* Assess current fragmented economic development activities across the county and update policies to improve regional coordination and achieve agreed-upon results in job and wage growth and in economic diversity.

**Chapter Ten – Community Plans**

*The 2016 updates to Community Plans will enhance the applicability of the community plan policies by focusing on specific community issues and eliminating those policies that relate to areas that have annexed to cities.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities.
* Update policies to remove site specific references to areas that have been annexed to cities.
* Review policies for broader applicability and consider incorporating into other chapters of the Comprehensive plan rather than being site specific.

**Chapter Eleven – Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation**

*The 2016 update to the Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation chapter will strengthen the link between the KCCP and the King County Strategic Plan through a set of metrics that will be based on measurable goal statements to be added to each chapter.*

* Update and strengthen policies to provide increased attention to areas with low income communities and people of color to address inequities and disparities.
* Review and update metrics to monitor the progress of the KCCP toward achieving the Regional Growth Strategy.
* Consider adding metrics to monitor the performance of the KCCP in meeting the goals of the Growth Management Act.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Work with the State Department of Commerce and, as necessary, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) on possible changes to Buildable Lands Reports, including establishing measurable targets for each type of residential housing (e.g. single family, multifamily, and affordable housing).
* Work with the State Department of Commerce and, as necessary, the GMPC to ensure accuracy of Buildable Lands Reports by considering all factors that may prevent achieving growth targets.

**Glossary**

* Update rural areas definitions (e.g. rural area, rural land, rural zoning, and rural cities).

**Area Zoning and Land Use Proposals**

* **West Hill** (Motion 14221): Incorporate the updated subarea plan (expected to be completed by June 30, 2015), which should include zoning and regulations that: address the historic wide gaps in equity of infrastructure investments and services; facilitate the revitalization of its neighborhoods, local economy, and quality of life of its residents; and have included outreach with the local community in their development.
* **Fairwood** (Motion 14276): Review land use designations and implementing zoning on parcels 3423059035, 3423059061, 3423059031, and 3423059034 and the surrounding area.
* **Federal Way** (Motion 14276): Review land use designations and implementing zoning on parcel 2821049171 and the surrounding area.
* **Allison Docket request:** Review land use designation and implementing zoning on parcel 3224079134 and the surrounding area, and consider whether to remove Special District Overlay.
* **Timmerman Docket request:** Review land use designation and implementing zoning on parcel 2625069041 and the surrounding area, and consider whether to change designation and/or zoning, pending the outcome of a review by the City of Sammamish in their 2015 Comprehensive Plan update.
* **Snoqualmie Interchange:** Review land use designations and implementing zoning on the north side of I-90 and SR-18 interchange, and consider whether to convert land from rural to urban. Consider whether any conversion from rural to urban should be done in conjunction with a dedication of lands as open space and/or farmland, on terms and conditions equal to or better than the County's four-to-one program.
* **Duthie Hill:** Review land use designations and implementing zoning within the Duthie Hill Notch in unincorporated Sammamish and the surrounding area, and consider whether to convert land from rural to urban.
* **Fall City:** Review and update the Fall City Subarea Plan including: review land use designations and implementing zoning on parcels 0943100020, 2475900865, and 1524079003 and the surrounding area, and consider including the parcels in the Fall City Business District and the Special District Overlay; and update policies to facilitate increased assistance from King County, as the local government provider, in the formation and management of a local alternative wastewater system.
* **Snoqualmie Pass:** Initiate a subarea plan for Snoqualmie Pass rural town and ski area. The subarea plan should developed in collaboration with Kittitas County and should evaluate and address the current and future housing and economic development needs of this growing community.
* **Vashon:** Incorporate the updated Town Plan, which should include zoning and regulations that: address community and business needs, improve economic vitality and quality of life of its residents, and have included the outreach with the local community in their development.
* **Highline:** Incorporate the updated subarea plan, which should include zoning and regulations that: address the historic wide gaps in equity of infrastructure investments and services; facilitate the revitalization of its neighborhoods, local economy, and quality of life of its residents; and have included outreach with the local community in their development.
* **Carnation:** Review land use designations and implementing zoning on parcels 1525079049, 1525079005, and 1525079010 and the surrounding area, and consider whether to convert the parcels from rural to urban. The proposal should be evaluated in conjunction with dedication of lands as open space and/or farmland preservation that is four times the acreage of the land added to the Urban Growth Area.
* **North Bend:** Review land use designations and implementing zoning on parcels 1523089147, 1523089039, 1523089132, 1523089194, 1523089170, 1523089019, 1523089124, and 1523089133 and the surrounding area, and consider whether to convert the parcels from rural to urban. The proposal should be evaluated in conjunction with dedication of a portion of the land as open space that is four times the acreage of the land added to the Urban Growth Area.
* **Cedar Hills/Maple Valley:** 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, and whether a four-to-one proposal is appropriate for this area.
* **Maple Valley Industrial:** Review land use designations and implementing zoning on parcels 1622069091, 1522069034, and 1522069036 and the surrounding area, and consider whether to change designation and/or zoning, including whether to revise or eliminate the development conditions placed by Ordinance 12824 in 1997.
* **Fairwood**: Review land use designations and implementing zoning on parcels 2473300010, 2473300020, 2473300030, 2473300040, 2473300070, 2473300080, 2473300090, 2473300100, 2473300110, 2473300120, and 5479300000, and the surrounding area, and consider whether to change the designation and/or zoning. Consider the current uses, potential for redevelopment, consistency between the comprehensive plan designation and the zoning classification. Consider including incentives to encourage redevelopment of these parcels, such as only allowing realization of any new zoning when the parcels are redeveloped.

Identify any changes to generally applicable policies and codes that would be necessary to adopt any proposed UGA change.

**Technical Appendices**

* Update technical appendices as needed.

**Development Code**

* Consider code amendments and comprehensive plan policies for agriculture supportive and dependent uses to support viable and sustainable agricultural production districts.
* Consider code flexibility for alternative temporary lodging, such as treehouses and structures associated with re-creations of historic communities.
* Consider code flexibility for alternative housing models, such as micro housing.
* Consider code changes to regarding ingress/egress for new plat proposals, including space needed for traffic queuing.
* Update and consolidate code sections related to agriculture lands, including KCC 20.54, while still maintaining and/or memorializing relevant policy statements and findings.
* Evaluate and consider code changes to expand use of and/or timelines for extensions of plat approvals.

1. Motion 14317 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. RCW 36.70A.020 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)