



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2013

To: Planning Commission

From: Janice Coogan, Senior Planner
Eric R. Shields, AICP, Planning Director
Paul Stewart, AICP, Deputy Planning Director
Teresa Swan, Senior Planner

Subject: Comprehensive Plan Update Status- Community Outreach and Visioning Activities and Smart Growth Principles
File No. CAM13-00465 #2

Over the summer staff was busy with initial Comprehensive Plan update tasks such as research, data collection, community outreach activities, and planning for the upcoming fall visioning process and second Community Planning Day. This memo provides the Commission with a status update and what to expect over the next few months:

1. Community Outreach activities held over the summer and upcoming events for the community visioning process, including October 19th Community Planning Day
2. Background information on vision statements and Smart Growth Principles

I. Status of Comprehensive Plan Update Community Outreach Activities

- In June staff provided you, the Houghton Community Council and City Council with an overview of the [Community Outreach Plan](#) for the Comprehensive Plan update. The Plan describes the public involvement activities being coordinated with the city wide Kirkland 2035 public outreach plan. June 8th was the first Community Planning Day held at City Hall. A joint meeting with the Transportation Commission, Planning Commission and Park Board was held on July 17 to brief the groups on the update process.
- Staff worked with consultants EnviroIssues to plan the community visioning process and the second Community Planning Day on October 19th described in more detail below.
- The [Kirkland 2035 webpage](#) was enhanced to provide a central webpage for information related to the Comprehensive Plan Update and other long range plans. The

webpage contains educational videos, upcoming events and ways for the public to participate, publications, a resource center, past monthly updates to City Council and an email address the public can send in questions or comments to staff.

- The new IdeasForum.KirklandWa.Gov interactive online website is now live and provides an opportunity for public dialogue on visioning and the Cross Kirkland Corridor. At this time the posted questions focus on visioning and will change over time depending on the phase of the Comprehensive Plan update or other long range plans.
- Staff attended **neighborhood summer picnics** and provided informational booths at the Wednesday and Friday **Farmer's Markets**.
- Staff attended the **September KAN meeting** to encourage involvement in the Update and visioning process. They requested staff to conduct a visioning exercise at their November 13 meeting.
- Staff met with the **Kirkland Chamber of Commerce Policy Committee** on September 16 to discuss the Comprehensive Plan update process and schedule. We encouraged their participation in the Community Planning Day, and the update of the Economic Development Element and overall update process.
- **Status updates to City Council** on the overall Kirkland 2035 outreach activities are provided once a month by Deputy City Manager Marilynne Beard and available for public viewing with the last one held on [September 17, 2013](#).
- To gear up for the visioning process staff has prepared a background paper on what **vision statements** are, why they are important. We have provided examples of vision statements and various formats from other communities (Attachment 1). This handout will be given to participants of the visioning exercises and available on the Kirkland 2035 webpage.
- Staff prepared a background paper on **Smart Growth Principles**, what they are and how communities can plan for growth using these basic principles to create successful communities (Attachment 2). This handout will be used as an educational resource for the public and added to the Kirkland 2035 webpage. These principles will be one of the focuses as the Planning Commission and staff's review each general element chapter of the Comprehensive Plan for desired changes. Staff is also looking into examples of other best planning practices and will forward them to the Commission when available.

II. Upcoming Community Visioning Process and Outreach Activities

Fall will be a busy time as we continue to inform the public about the Comprehensive Plan update schedule and launch into the Community Visioning process. Below are some examples of upcoming outreach activities and events we have planned. We encourage the Planning Commission to promote and attend these events.

- **Downtown Merchants Meet Up**

Staff will meet with **Downtown Merchants** on September 30 at Zoka restaurant to provide information about the Comprehensive Plan update process, schedule and other Kirkland 2035 long range plans.

- **National Community Planning Month in October**

October is the American Planning Association National Planning Month which coincides nicely with our Community Planning Day on October 19th. The theme this year is People and Places. Planning staff will prepare a display in the lobby of City Hall about the planning profession, the role planning and people have played in making Kirkland the great community it is today as well as encourage public involvement in the Comprehensive Plan update. Staff will also ask the City Council to issue a proclamation on October 1st that we will be celebrating Community Planning month. If you have other ideas for the display or activities let staff know. The local Planning Conference will be held on October 2-3 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue.

- **October 19, 2013 Community Planning Day**

The Community Planning Day will be held from 10-2pm at the Peter Kirk Community Center. The focus of the day will be on community visioning and the status of the other long range plans. **Two separate visioning exercises** will be held, one will on the **city wide Vision Statement** and how people see that changing or not for Kirkland by year 2035 and the second will be the **vision for the Cross Kirkland Corridor**. Both will have two sessions each from 10:30-11:30 and noon to 1:00 pm. so people can alternate and attend both sessions and still have time to roam the informational booths on the other long range plans.

- **Community Visioning Process**

The purpose of the community visioning process is for the public to assess the existing city [Vision Statement](#) in the Comprehensive Plan to determine if it is still valid, or if there are aspects that should be changed in how they envision Kirkland to be in 2035. The goal is not to recreate an entire new vision statement but reflect the new larger Kirkland community.

Format for Vision Activities

With assistance from EnviroIssues, staff has developed a visioning exercise that will be conducted at the October 19th Community Planning Day and repeated for smaller focus groups throughout October and November (see schedule below). The visioning exercises are planned for approximately one hour. The basic format for each of the visioning meetings is described below and may vary slightly in the type of questions asked depending on the focus group or number of attendees. The goal is for small groups to exchange ideas about their future visions for Kirkland.

How will the comments be used to draft the vision statement?

Public input received from all the visioning events, comment cards, online comments and emails and letters will be gathered and a draft vision statement prepared by staff. The participants and public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft vision statement with the Planning Commission and City Council making the final changes. The visioning process is scheduled to be completed by January 2014.

- **Upcoming Public Outreach and Visioning Activities:**

Planning staff will attend the meetings or events to inform the public about the Comprehensive Plan update process or to conduct a visioning exercise:

September

30 Downtown Merchants informational meeting- Zoka restaurant 4:30 to 6pm (Lake Street and Central Way)

October

7 Joint Boards and Commission visioning discussion (PC, TC, PB, DRB) – Heritage Hall 6:45-8:45 pm

8 Joint Senior Council and Human Services Council visioning discussion - Peter Kirk Center 6-7 pm

9 Kirkland Business Roundtable visioning discussion – location TBD- 7:30 am – 9:30 am

19 Community Planning Day open house and visioning discussion - Peter Kirk Center 10:00-2:00 pm

28 Youth Council visioning discussion – Peter Kirk Room 6:45-8:15 pm

November

13 KAN visioning exercise

Questions for the Planning Commission to consider:

1. *Does the Commission have any comments on the proposed visioning process or plans for the Community Planning Day or National Community Planning Month?*
2. *Would the Commissioners like to participate as scribes at these events or at the Community Planning Day Planning Department information station?*
3. *Kirkland's existing vision statement is rather lengthy at two pages. Be thinking about the format you would like to see for the vision statement and how it relates to the Framework Goals for later discussion with staff.*

III. Next Steps

An updated month by month schedule of the Comprehensive Plan Update work program tasks is included in Attachment 4. This schedule will be updated as we move through the process.

Staff is in the process of working on the following tasks that we will bring to the Commission in the next couple of months.

- **Final land use Capacity analysis.** We are in the process of making final edits to the capacity analysis and Eric Shields will provide the final results at your September 26th meeting.
- An **update of the 2004 Community Profile** is in process with a preliminary draft completed by the end of October. When complete the profile will provide the most current data available (2012) for Kirkland and surrounding cities on population, demographic, age, number of households and employment information and trends. The GIS and Finance Department have been very helpful in updating the data using sources such as the 2010 U.S. census, the State Office of Financial Management and other sources. Related to this will be an update of the Buildable Lands Study describing development activity.
- A **Housing Needs Assessment** is underway by ARCH and a draft will be provided when available.
- **Issue papers** will be prepared for the general elements including GMA required changes for each topic in winter 2013.

Attachments:

1. Vision Statement paper
2. Smart Growth Principles paper
3. General visioning questions
4. Work Program Schedule by month as of 9/5/2013

Cc: File CAM13-00465 #2



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



“Community Vision Statements”

City of Kirkland Planning and Community Development Department

September 2013

What are community vision statements and why are they important?

One of the first steps in the update of the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan will be to conduct a citywide Community Visioning process in the fall of 2013. The visioning process will be designed as part of the overarching community outreach program [Kirkland 2035 Your Voice. Your Vision. Your Future.](#) Last updated in 2002, Kirkland’s existing [Vision Statement](#) needs to be evaluated to see if it still reflects the values and priorities for how we want the city to develop 20 years from now or if not, what needs to be changed. In preparation for evaluating Kirkland’s Vision Statement this document is intended to provide an overview of what a vision statement is, their purpose, what they typically contain and internet resources for more information about vision statements and examples from other cities.

What is the purpose of a vision statement?

A vision statement describes a community’s values and aspirations and a shared image of what they want their community to become over the next 10 to 20 years in the future. The statement should address all aspects that make up a community such as the social, cultural and economic fabric. Statements should be forward thinking and written in a positive, affirmative and inspirational style. The vision statement functions like a captain steers a ship to stay the course on its journey as changes occur.

Kirkland’s Vision Statement and Framework Goals

In the case of Kirkland, the [Vision Statement](#) was used to establish the priorities that form the city wide [Framework Goals](#) found in Chapter Two of the Comprehensive Plan. In 2002, as part of the *Community Conversations – Kirkland 2022* public outreach program, approximately 1,000 people participated in a process to create the existing vision statement for the 20 year horizon year of 2022.

Once the Vision Statement was created, the 17 Framework Goals were established to set the priorities for guiding growth and development in Kirkland. From this foundation the general plan chapters evolved (i.e. land use, transportation, etc.). The general plan chapters provide more detailed goals and policies to implement the vision and framework goals. Zoning Code and other regulations are then developed to be consistent with and implement the Comprehensive Plan. A few of the recent neighborhood plans also contain their own vision statements unique to the neighborhood.

Since the last time the Vision Statement was created the City has changed through growth and the annexation of 31,000 new residents. Therefore, it is a high priority to conduct an extensive community outreach program for people to be involved in setting the priorities for the next twenty years.



Below are subjects that are usually discussed in community vision statements:

- The **common values** of a community
- The **qualities or resources** that make a city unique or describe its identity
- The attributes people like and **want to be sure to keep or want to change** about their city
- The **historic context** of a city
- The **preferred future for each subject area** of the city such as the transportation system, natural environment, parks, open space and tree canopy
- A **description of commercial and residential areas**
- **Transition issues** between uses (i.e. landscape buffers, architectural mitigation, traffic management)

Many believe that the existing Vision Statement has served us well over the last 11 years and may only need minor adjustments. As part of the Kirkland 2035 Community Visioning process the City will consider the following questions about the existing vision statement:

- How has our community changed since the last vision statement was last updated?
- What are the future trends or additional ideas that are not reflected in the statement should be considered?
- The existing Vision Statement is two pages long. Is there a way to shorten the statement and still reflect the community's vision?

Completing the vision statement

The Comprehensive Plan Update Community Outreach Plan and work program describes the schedule, techniques and focus groups for the visioning process. Following the community outreach process, staff will compile the public comments and input and prepare a draft vision statement. The draft will be available to the public for review and comment. The Planning Commission may consider changes to the statement throughout the Plan update process.

For more information and other resources on community visioning see:

Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington at www.mrsc.org - see [Creating a Community Vision](#)

Washington State Department of Commerce at www.commerce.wa.gov/publications for document [Shaping Washington Growth Management Future- Citizen Participation and Community Visioning Guide](#).

Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions at www.anjec.org for document [Smart Growth Survival Kit Essential Elements of the Vision](#)



EXAMPLES OF VISION STATEMENTS FROM KIRKLAND AND OTHER COMMUNITIES

Vision statements come in all different formats. The following are examples of a vision statement for the Market Neighborhood and excerpts of vision statements from other communities. Website links to the full statement are provided below.

Kirkland Market Neighborhood Vision Statement

The last update of the Market Neighborhood Plan in the Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2007 after an extensive public participation process. Below is an excerpt from the [Market Neighborhood Plan](#) vision statement as an example of a neighborhood vision statement.

“The historic Market Neighborhood is a friendly, walkable neighborhood along the shores of Lake Washington that is close to downtown Kirkland. Its residents enjoy their proximity to the lake through public view corridors and viewing stations, as well as the park system. Waverly Way near the western boundary of the neighborhood has both pedestrian and bicycle routes which provide beautiful unobstructed views of the lake. The tree canopy in the neighborhood has been maintained and enhanced and it adds to the neighborhood’s natural setting with mature trees and wildlife habitat. The neighborhood’s five parks are within walking distance and offer both active and passive recreation for residents. Juanita Bay Park also provides an opportunity for people from the neighborhood, and from the broader community, to observe and enjoy wildlife habitat and open space.... See the link above for the entire vision statement.”

City of Tallahassee, Florida:

“When we think about the community that we want to become, we see a waterfront community with the following features:

- *A cleaner, more beautiful community that embraces and enhances its waterfronts*
- *A community that has maintained its heritage as a fishing and tourism center while adopting the newest technologies and strategies*
- *A community in which new development or redevelopment is compatible with the historic look of the community and protective of the natural environment*
- *A community that has maintained its tree canopy*
- *A community that provides family wage jobs*
- *A community that has recreational opportunities, medical services and shopping opportunities*
- *A community with an active civic life of fraternal organizations, social clubs and religious institutions*
- *A community of outstanding schools*

<http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/DCP/waterfronts/Meetings/TallahasseePMMeeting/WritingYourCommVision.pdf>



Sample Mission Statement to carry out the vision statement: (“Guiding Principles”)

“In seeking the vision, the community will employ the following guiding principles:

- *Protection of its culture, history, environment and natural resources.*
- *Adoption of new technologies and leadership in the use of best management practices to benefit the whole community while not exceeding the carrying capacity of the environment.*
- *Ensuring the local residents benefit from future growth and development.”*

City of Loveland Colorado:

Here’s an example of using a tagline and simple short vision statement that includes many of the key topics that should be included in a vision statement:

“Loveland a vibrant community surrounded by natural beauty where you belong”

“Loveland is a community:

- *That is characterized by welcoming neighborhoods and a sense of individual belonging;*
- *That embraces the heritage and natural beauty of the region and values its strategic location;*
- *That is well planned and environmentally sensitive, where all citizens are safe and secure and have equal access to services and amenities, including plentiful recreational and cultural activities;*
- *With an integrated system of technology, utility and transportation networks that support a vital economy and coordinates with regional plans;*
- *That is continuously developing partnership of citizens, business and educational communities, with a stable and diverse economic base;*
- *That offers ample employment and business opportunities to all;*
- *That encourages active public involvement and is responsive to the needs of its citizens.”*

www.ci.loveland.co.us

City of Bellevue:

The vision statement for Bellevue includes 14 focused ideas and then goes on to explain and expand upon the ideas presented in the statements.

Bellevue is one of the outstanding cities in the United States. It is:

- *A “City in a Park”*
- *A dedicated steward of environmental quality*
- *Where key natural features are preserved and restored*



“Community Vision Statements”

- *A model of superior urban design and “people places”*
- *A community of diverse and vibrant neighborhoods*
- *A city that meets the housing needs of all citizens*
- *A regional economic center with a strong and diverse economy*
- *A city with a great Downtown-viable, livable, and memorable*
- *The Eastside’s transportation hub, offering an array of mobility choices,*
- *The center of arts and culture for the Eastside,*
- *A community that cares for people and families in need,*
- *A safe and secure community,*
- *A city served by outstanding facilities and services,*
- *A leader in meeting regional challenges,*
- *An active and engaged community.*

http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/pdf/PCD/CompPlan_Vol_1_01.Introduction.pdf (pg. 20-26)

City of Bellingham:

The vision statement for Bellingham includes 9 areas of focus. It then takes each of these categories and gives a list of small goals that fall under each category. The categories are: Development Patterns and Community Character, Transportation, Economic Vitality and Employment, Housing, Schools, Education and Cultural Resources, Community Health, Welfare and Safety, Downtown and Waterfront, Environment and Natural Resources, and Parks and Recreation.

<http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/comprehensive-plan/2006-chapter1.pdf> (F1-F10)

City of Federal Way:

The vision statement for Federal Way gives a brief explanation of what the vision for the City aspires to be. It then goes on to give more specific characteristics that the City hopes to promote and grow. These characteristics are: Government For and By the People, Responsible Growth, Economic Vitality, Efficient Traffic System, Safety, Infrastructure, and Utilities, Caring for Our Own, Quality, Culture, Environment, and Play, and Regional Player.

<http://www.cityoffederalway.com/DocumentCenter/View/3678> (1-8 - 1-11)

City of Mill Creek:

The vision statement for Mill Creek gives an explanation of the vision statements that it has had in the past and large changes that their vision has faced. It then has a list of visions for varying issues that the city faces that are then expanded upon. The categories in this list are: City Image, Housing, Environmental Protection, Residential



Development, Commercial and Industrial Development, Mixed-Use Development, Town Center, East Gateway Urban Village, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Transit, Economic Development, Capital Facilities and Municipal Finance, Intergovernmental Coordination, Property Rights, Municipal Urban Growth Area.

<http://www.cityofmillcreek.com/DocumentCenter/View/64> (IV-1 - IV-8)

City of Seattle:

The vision statement for Seattle give a history of the comprehensive plan and then lists 4 core values that guide the vision statement and comprehensive plan. It then goes on to expand on those values and an overview of how the city will reach these goals. These four values are: Community, Environmental Stewardship, Economic Opportunity and Security, and Social Equity.

http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cms/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web_informational/dpdd016645.pdf (V-VII)

City of Tacoma:

The vision statement for Tacoma explains what the Comprehensive Plan is attempting to achieve then outlines 21 topics that explain what the city of Tacoma hopes to achieve as their city grows. These are divided into small one or two sentence statements.

<http://cms.cityoftacoma.org/Planning/Comprehensive%20Plan/1%20-%20Introduction%206-14-11.pdf> (Intro-2 – Intro-3)



*“The Benefits of **Smart Growth** Planning Principles”*

City of Kirkland Planning and Community Development Department

September 2013

Over the next two years Kirkland will be updating its Comprehensive Plan to reflect how the City should accommodate growth over the next twenty years. This paper looks at future trends that may affect Kirkland and how **“Smart Growth Principles”** can be used to respond to these trends to help create the type of community we may want.

What are Smart Growth Principles?

Like the State’s Growth Management Act, the term “Smart Growth” is an urban planning concept that advocates focusing growth in compact livable communities to avoid sprawl.

“Smart Growth Principles” were developed in the early 1990’s as an outcome of the [Smart Growth Network](#) founded by the U.S. [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#). The Network is made up of a consortium of 30 national organizations of government, business and civic organizations that promote smart growth and offer resources to help communities. For more information and resources, see page 6 of this document.

According to the Smart Growth Network, *“Smart Growth Principles can be considered best practices or tools that communities can use to grow in ways that support economic development and jobs; create strong neighborhoods with a range of housing, commercial, and transportation options; and achieve healthy communities that provide families with a clean environment.”*

In 2006, the Smart Growth Network looked at the key characteristics that make successful communities and developed the following 10 basic principles:

1. Mix land uses together
2. Take advantage of compact building design
3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
4. Create walkable neighborhoods
5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
8. Provide a variety of transportation choices
9. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective
10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

Smart growth is an alternative to [urban sprawl](#), [traffic congestion](#), [disconnected neighborhoods](#), and [urban decay](#). Its principles challenge old assumptions in urban planning, such as low density development, automobile focus and separating land uses.



*“The Benefits of **Smart Growth** Planning Principles”*

The Smart Growth Network developed a series of [implementation guidelines](#). These guidelines can be used as a checklist to determine how consistent Kirkland’s Comprehensive Plan goals, policies and development standards measure up to these principles.

How will our growth targets and future trends affect Kirkland?

The [Growth Management Act \(GMA\)](#) requires that cities plan for growth within a 20 year period. In 2011 Kirkland added 30,000 people with the Juanita/Finn Hill/ Kingsgate annexation. Today Kirkland’s population is 81,730. By our “target year” of 2035, Kirkland is expected to have 13,000 new residents for a total population of 94,000. Kirkland’s growth targets between the year 2013 and 2035 are 8,361 new housing units and 22,435 new jobs. The new residents will need housing and access to transportation, schools, shops and services, parks and entertainment. How and where should we accommodate these new housing units and employment?

How can Kirkland implement Smart Growth Principles to respond to these changes?

The following summarizes the trends we may see and how the City can apply Smart Growth Principles in planning for Kirkland’s future.

1. MIX LAND USES TOGETHER

Smart Growth Principles encourage mixing uses such as residential and retail in new developments or buildings on the same property. Redevelopment and new growth should be targeted to existing commercial areas that are close to transit and transportation hubs. A good example of this is Juanita Village located at NE 116th ST and 100th Avenue in the Juanita Neighborhood. As a result, the following benefits to the Kirkland community can be attained:



Juanita Village Mixed- Use Development

- Results in more efficient use of land
- Allows a variety of housing types and densities
- Reduces distances between housing, workplaces, retail businesses, and other destinations
- Encourages more compact development
- Strengthens neighborhood character
- Promotes pedestrian and bicycle friendly environments
- Provides opportunities to walk to services and jobs

Existing goals and policies in the [Kirkland Comprehensive Plan](#) reflect many of these Principles, such as promoting mixed-use residential and commercial development, buildings designed with the pedestrian in mind (pedestrian oriented development), walkable neighborhoods and [complete streets](#).



“The Benefits of Smart Growth Planning Principles”

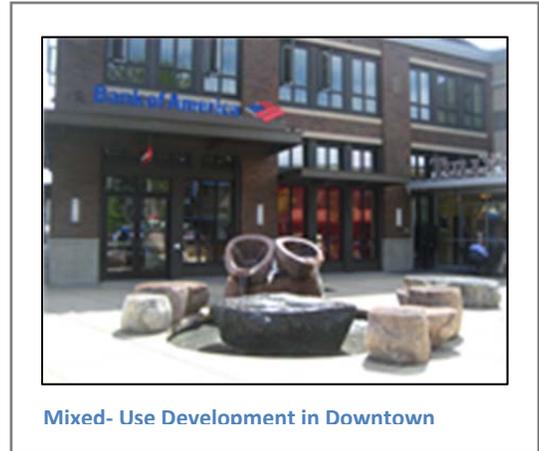
2. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COMPACT BUILDING DESIGN

As Kirkland grows we know there will be a decrease in availability of usable, undeveloped land. The cost of land will continue to increase. How the land is used most efficiently while balancing development with preservation of open space and natural areas will be a challenge. Planning for well designed, compact, mixed use development will be essential in making this work.

Young and older segments of our population will be attracted to smaller and more affordable housing options within close proximity to neighborhood shopping areas and transit. A young, educated workforce is attracted to living in denser urban areas with lively commercial districts, recreation, entertainment and good transit availability. The trend is for communities to be designed where all ages can work, live, attend school, shop, and play in an area compact enough to allow walking to most destinations.

Well designed, development with amenities that include “people places,” such as open space plazas, coffee shops, theaters, public art and vibrant commercial communities provide a strong sense of place.

There are economic development advantages to compact development. Businesses do better in strong business districts that provide goods and services directly to nearby residents. Refurbished outdated malls and commercial centers to incorporate a mix of uses and improve walkability should be encouraged.



3. CREATE A RANGE OF HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICES

Life expectancy is increasing (by about two years from 2000 to 2009.) By 2030, one in five Americans will be elderly. A greater proportion of seniors will have different needs from younger residents such as physical limitations for getting around town and desire smaller housing options. The cost of housing is increasing, at the same time, the size of housing and household size is decreasing.

Kirkland has become more diverse. As people of different cultural backgrounds and a broader range of income levels play a greater role in our community, there is a need for diverse housing types and both ownership and rental options. King County reflects a trend across the US toward more renting and less home ownership.



Encouraging housing choices such multi-generational housing, extended family housing, residential suites (very small apartments), backyard cottages, accessory dwelling units, senior housing, and smaller housing will be necessary accommodate people’s needs and desires.



“The Benefits of *Smart Growth* Planning Principles”

To respond to these trends and to increase the amount of affordable housing in Kirkland, Zoning Code regulations require 10% of residential units (4 or more) to be affordable in commercial and multi-family zones. The City also provides incentives for building additional units and allows for a variety of housing types such as cottage housing, small lot single family homes and accessory dwelling units.

4. CREATE WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

The nationwide increase in obesity rates suggests a need to encourage healthier lifestyles that include healthy food, exercise, and increased walking as a primary mode of transportation. As the City grows it will be important to provide many non-motorized transportation options, such as bike trails, pathways and sidewalks, and to encourage design of developments geared to the pedestrian rather than auto-oriented places.

Adding pedestrian improvements to create walkable neighborhoods reduces the use of automobiles, improves air quality, reduces noise, makes streets safer for pedestrians, and improves social interaction. Kirkland has been recognized as one of the top ten walkable communities in the country by the *Wall Street Journal*.



Lakeview Neighborhood Walk Route Sign

5. FOSTER DISTINCTIVE, ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES WITH A STRONG SENSE OF PLACE

Attractive, well designed communities with lively neighborhoods create distinctive unique places that attract new residents and businesses. In Kirkland many of the neighborhood and business districts require design review to ensure development is well designed, contains open spaces, has superior landscaping and reflects the character of the surrounding neighborhood.

6. PRESERVE OPEN SPACE, FARMLAND, NATURAL BEAUTY, AND CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS

Global climate change is generating more frequent extreme weather, damaging human-built structures and the natural environment. This trend cannot be ignored as Kirkland may experience increased flooding along streams and in the roadways and wind damage from storms. Finite world energy resources and the expense of developing new energy sources will increase the cost of running businesses, homes and automobiles.



Example of shoreline replacement of bulkhead with soft shoreline

Use of all sources of energy, but especially non-renewable sources, negatively impacts our environment. In the future there will be a greater emphasis on green building design and sustainable strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



*“The Benefits of **Smart Growth** Planning Principles”*

Balancing new development with protecting and enhancing critical areas and shoreline areas will be necessary to retain open space, surface water systems and habitat. Low impact development techniques where rainwater is collected, stored or recharged on-site helps reduce flooding and improves water quality. It will be necessary for us to consider how our natural environment is connected as one system and designed into the built environment through sustainable building practices.

In Kirkland we have adopted development standards and implemented programs to encourage sustainable and green building practices. The City is also exploring the use of “transfer of development rights” in the Totem Lake Business District whereby undeveloped land in King County is preserved while increasing development potential. We should continue to support shoreline restoration and initiatives to return Kirkland’s Lake Washington shoreline to a more natural state that can more readily handle increased stress from climate change.

7. STRENGTHEN AND DIRECT DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS EXISTING COMMUNITIES

Smart growth promotes directing growth to areas already served by infrastructure, such as roads, sewer and water. This approach is more cost effective and maintains the value of public and private investment. It is a more efficient use of land and infrastructure, can provide a stronger tax base, and promotes opportunities for jobs close to housing.

8. PROVIDE A VARIETY OF TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

Given our regional growth and Kirkland’s attraction as a place to live and grow a business, and with easy access to I-405 and SR 520, traffic will increase. Congestion on the roadways drives the need for more alternatives to car travel, as well as the need to improve the efficiency and safety of the roads we have. Traveling long distances to work and home reduces the quality of life, adds to the costs of fuel and makes it less sustainable for the environment.

Managing growth in Kirkland to keep work, home, shopping, and entertainment close to home should be encouraged. Over the years we have seen expansion of the Kirkland transit centers in Downtown, Totem Lake and at the South Kirkland Park and Ride, but we will need to look at new opportunities.

Alternatives to automobiles, such as bicycle paths, pleasant and safe pedestrian corridors, and convenient transit centers will be necessary. Recent acquisition of the Cross Kirkland Corridor (old railroad tracks) gives Kirkland a great opportunity to create a significant bicycle/pedestrian route through the city and to connect with other communities.





*“The Benefits of **Smart Growth** Planning Principles”*

9. MAKE DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS PREDICTABLE, FAIR, AND COST EFFECTIVE

Balancing the fiscal resources of operating a city with the services that residents and businesses expect will require the City to continue to look at greater efficiencies. Time is money for businesses and development. The City strives to improve permit review processes, and to address timing and regulatory amendments to make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost-effective. The City can also look at creating incentives to encourage use of Smart Growth Principles in the design of projects. For example the City has an expedited permit review process for projects for green buildings.

10. ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS

Public engagement in the planning and development review process makes for stronger communities because it brings a variety of interests into the discussion and people are invested in the outcome. Early engagement in the process is the best way to influence the decisions that are made by the City Council, Boards and Commissions. For example the City encourages developers to meet with neighbors prior to submittal of an application and to listen and incorporate resident concerns into a proposal.



Community Planning Day Summer 2013

In early 2013, the City launched an extensive comprehensive public involvement campaign, [“Kirkland 2035: Your Voice. Your vision. Your Future.”](#) The purpose is to engage community members in the update process of the Comprehensive Plan and to involve them in the development and update of other long-range plans like the Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan and Park Master Plan. The City will continue to explore innovative approaches to involve the community due to the importance of these plans and ensure that participation is meaningful.

Sources

- Wikipedia entry: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_growth
- American Planning Association - Planning and Community Health Research Center: <http://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/mixedusedevelopment.htm>
- *Livable New York Resource Manual*. <http://www.aging.ny.gov/LivableNY/ResourceManual/Index.cfm>
- 11I.2.g Paul Beyer, Director of Smart Growth · Governor's Smart Growth Cabinet, Albany, NY

Additional Resources

For additional information about Smart Growth see the following websites:

- American Planning Association www.planning.org
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov
- Smart Growth Organization www.smartgrowth.org

Draft General Visioning Questions
9/12/13

Land Use

Warm-up question

What neighborhood do you live or work in and how long have you been there?

Discussion Questions (solid bullet = main questions; open bullet = prompting questions)

- The Vision Statement in the Comprehensive Plan refers to Kirkland as having a **small town feel**. What does “small town feel” mean to you? What characteristics should Kirkland try to retain in the future?
 - *How do we grow gracefully while keeping the small town feel?*
- Most of the neighborhoods have **neighborhood business districts**. Looking to 2035, what should they look like and what should they contain?
 - *Are there specific services, amenities, aesthetics you'd like to see in these districts?*
 - *Should they be redeveloped? If so, should they contain residential above retail or office space, such as at Juanita Village or in the Downtown?*
- Many people want to see the Totem Lake shopping center redeveloped. What other changes do you think might make **Totem Lake** a more appealing place to live, work and visit?

Economic Development

Warm-up question

Do you work in Kirkland or have a business? If so, what type of work do you do or business do you have?

Discussion Questions (solid bullet = main questions; open bullet = prompting questions)

- What types of **jobs and businesses** should Kirkland try to attract in the future?
 - *More high tech, retail, office? Other?*
 - *What about light manufacturing?*
- Quality of life and **community image** bring businesses to Kirkland. What do you think are these important qualities and community image?
- Is it important to you to have a **local shopping center** near your home? If yes, what type of shops and services?

- What if anything should be changed in the **local shopping center** near to your home?
 - *Renovated? If so, what should it look like?*
 - *Add housing above retail stores and offices?*
- Currently the **height limit** in the Totem Lake Business District is 6-10 stories and in Downtown 2-5 stories depending on the zone. How tall should buildings be allowed to go in Totem Lake? What about in the Downtown?

Transportation

Warm-up question

When you move around the city to get from place to place what options work well for you?

Discussion Questions (solid bullet = main questions; open bullet = prompting questions)

- In your **transportation vision** for Kirkland in the year 2035, what would you see? What are your expectations? What will it look like? Describe it for us as specifically as possible? Do you see much change in how we get around now?
 - *More frequent buses and routes?*
 - *Other new modes of transportation?*
 - *Dedicated lanes for each type of mode?*
 - *More bike lanes? Pedestrian paths?*
- In 2010 13% of the U.S. population was 65 years and older. By 2035, in the U.S. at least 1 in 4 people will be **over the age of 65** with many people living past 80. How will the increase in the senior population influence how people get around? How will this change our transportation priorities in the future?

Environmental Stewardship

Warm-up question

What is your favorite natural area?

Discussion Questions (solid bullet = main questions; open bullet = prompting questions)

- What does it mean to be a **green or sustainable community**?
 - Energy efficiency?
 - Recycling?
 - Alternative transportation.

Housing

Warm-up question

What kind of housing do you live in today? What about other people you know - adult children, parents, brothers/sisters, and friends?

Discussion Questions (solid bullet = main questions; open bullet = prompting questions)

- We may have up to **8,000 new housing units** by 2035. In your neighborhood, what types of housing should we try to encourage?
 - *Duplexes and triplexes*
 - *Single family homes on small lots*
 - *Cottage housing (small homes around shared open space area)*
 - *Very small studios with common kitchen areas and limited parking*

- Think about housing for **lower to middle income people** (income not greater than 50% of the median household income for King County). What types of housing should it be? Where should it be located?
 - *Duplexes, triplexes, large complexes*
 - *Very small studios with common kitchen areas and limited parking*
 - *Built with market rate regular housing or separate development*

Schedule as of 9/05/13
Subject to change
2013-2015 KIRKLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Milestone Dates -

- **August 2013: Land Capacity study completed**
 - **October 2013: Community Outreach**
 - **October 2013: Community Profile completed**
 - **December 2014: Vision Statement and Framework Goals discussion to PC**
 - **January to August 2014: Review of Elements and Totem Lake Plan**
 - **September 2014: Complete Draft Plan**
 - **October 2014: Complete Draft EIS**
 - **November 2014: Issue Draft EIS and Draft Plan with 45 day comment period and hearing on Draft Plan and Draft EIS**
 - **December 2014 preliminary PC/HCC recommendation to Council**
 - **January 2015: Begin work on Final EIS**
 - **March 2015: Issue Final EIS and Final Plan and final PC/HCC recommendation**
 - **April 2015: Council Study sessions**
 - **May 2015: Council adoption**
-

✓June 2013

- City Council reviews Land Capacity Analysis
- PC reviews Land Capacity Analysis and Community Outreach Plan

✓July 2013

- PC/PB/TC meet at O.O. Denny Park to discuss Kirkland 2035 plans
- Teresa reviews Comp Plan for needed state GMA changes and assessment of other needed changes based on our Comp Plan file
- Staff completes plans for visioning program for Sept-Oct
- HCC sees Land Capacity Study and Community Outreach Plan

✓August 2013

- Staff prepares for visioning program in Oct
- Staff works on Community Profile
- Staff attends Neighborhood picnics, Wednesday and Friday Markets

September 2013

- Staff completes draft Community Profile
- PC reviews Final Land Capacity Study, Smart Growth and Vision Statement papers and Summary of Oct Visioning events

October 2013

- Visioning events held
- PC and HCC review draft Community Profile
- Teresa completes review of needed state GMA changes
- Staff begins review of elements for issue identification, general edits & other needed changes

- Community Profile finalized and make available on web site and print copies

November 2013

- Visioning program completed
- Teresa/Janice summarize main themes from visioning program
- Staff prepares draft revisions to Vision Statement and Framework Goals (Teresa/Janice) based on visioning comments
- Staff begins review Land Use Element (Jeremy/Angela) for changes based on visioning
- RFP or RFQ for EIS

December 2013

- PC studies Vision Statement and Framework Goals
- Staff prepares issue paper for Land Use Element, land use assumptions and growth alternatives
- Complete interviews and select consultants for EIS and sign contract. Discuss growth options.

January 2014

- PC completes draft Vision Statement and Framework Goals
- PC reviews issue paper on land assumptions, growth alternatives, Totem Lake Plan and Land Use Element
- Staff refines land use alternatives prepares preliminary updates to Land Use Element
- Staff prepares issue papers on Economic Development Element (Coogan) and Totem Lake Plan (Dorian)
- HCC reviews draft Vision Statement and Framework Goals

February 2014

- CC check on draft Vision Statement & Framework Goals
- PC and TC discuss land assumptions, growth options, Totem Lake Plan, Land Use Element and general approach to Transportation Master Plan
- PC discusses issue paper on Economic Development Element in conjunction with updates to Land Use Element
- Staff prepares issue papers on Human Services (Swan), Housing (Dawn) and Community Character (Angela)
- Staff prepares updates to Land Use Element and maps
- Staff prepares issue paper on Park Element (Teresa with Michael) based on PROS Plan
- Send out EIS scoping notice for comments

March 2014

- CC check on PC/TC discussion on growth alternatives and land use assumptions
- PC reviews revisions to Land Use Element and maps
- PC meets with Park Board on PROS plan and reviews edits to Park Plan
- PC reviews issue papers on Human Services, Housing and Community Character Elements
- Staff prepares updates to Economic Development Element and finalizes updates to Land Use Element and maps
- Staff prepares issue paper on Natural Environment Element (David)
- Staff begins work on revised Totem Lake Plan
- Public outreach on issue papers, revised Vision Statement and Framework Goals

April 2014

- PC review updates to Economic Development Element
- PC discusses Totem Lake Plan
- Staff prepares revisions to Human Services Element, Housing Element and Community Character
- Staff finalizes Land Use Element and maps if not done by now
- HCC reviews updates to Land Use Element and Park Element. Check in on PC discussion on growth alternatives and approaches to Transportation Master Plan

May 2014

- PC reviews updates to Human Services, Housing and Community Character Elements
- PC gets update on status of Transportation Master Plan from TC chair
- PC discusses neighborhood plan approach (*now?*)
- Staff identifies zoning code amendments relating to draft plan

June 2014

- PC finalizes Economic Development
- PC reviews issue paper on Natural Environment
- Staff prepares revisions to Totem Lake Plan
- Staff continues to work on code amendments
- HCC reviews updates to Economic Development, Community Character, Housing and Human Services Elements

July 2014

- PC review revisions to Natural Environment and maps, and General and Introduction Elements (Teresa)
- PC reviews revisions to Totem Lake Plan
- Staff prepares issue paper on Capital Facilities Plan (Teresa and other dept. staff)
- Staff prepares zoning code amendments
- Consultants begin work on Draft EIS
- HCC reviews updates to Natural Environment, General and Introduction Elements

August 2014

- PC and TC meet on draft Transportation Plan, revisions to Transportation Element and proposed project lists (*this gives them 4 months following PC meeting – question to David is this enough or can they finish it sooner*)
- PC continues discussion on Totem Lake Plan
- PC discusses revisions to Utilities, Public Services, and Capital Facilities Elements along with revised maps

September 2014

- PC finalizes Transportation Element, Capital Facilities Element and CFP, and Totem Lake Plan along with revised maps
- PC reviews code amendments
- HCC reviews updates to Transportation and Capital Facilities, Utilities, Public Services Elements and maps

October 2014

- CC committees review Draft Plan and Totem Lake Plan with detailed summary

- CC check in on Land Use Element, Transportation Element and CFP and Totem Lake Plan
- Finalize Draft Plan, maps and code amendments
- Complete Draft EIS

November 2014

- Issue Draft EIS and Draft Plan
- 45 day EIS comment period
- On-line survey of Draft Plan
- Open house or some forum before hearing
- Joint PC and Eric hearing on Draft Plan/Draft EIS. TC at joint meeting for Transportation Element?
- HCC courtesy hearing (or held jointly with PC?)

December 2014

- PC and HCC make preliminary recommendations to City Council on Draft Plan and related code amendments

January 2015

- End of Draft EIS comment period
- Begin work on Final EIS
- CC check in on Draft Plan and code amendments

February 2015

- 60-day notice to Commerce on Draft Plan and code amendments

March 2015

- Issue Final EIS and Final Draft Plan
- PC and HCC consider any needed changes to Draft Plan and code amendments based on the Final EIS and make final recommendation

April 2015

- Council study sessions on Draft Plan and code amendments

May 2015

- Council final adoption of Plan and code amendments
- HCC final approval of Plan and code amendments

**Assumes 3 ½ months to prepare draft EIS and 3 months to issue final EIS*