

Finn Hill Neighborhood Visioning Comments

January 15, 2014

What makes your neighborhood a great place to live?

- Walkable
- Access to nature x3
- Friendly neighbors – long term
- Stable
- Feels safe like “Pleasantville”
- LWSD provides good schools
- Location
- Walkable
- Quiet
- Accessible and safe natural greenbelts
- Parks
- Good Schools
- Economic diversity
- Proximity to Seattle (arts, culture, night life)
- Views of Lake
- Proximity to mountains, Puget Sound, ocean
- Habitat for wildlife
- Cycling
- Trails and trail connectivity
- Rural enough
- Green spaces
- Animals
- Fir trees
- Good neighbors
- Volunteers
- Safe, friendly, warm people
- Cohesive
- The people
- Holms Point Overlay restrictions to retain trees
- Convenient location; close to other cities
- Close to employment
- Affordable
- People with good skills
- Lake access
- Access to larger systems

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What things would you like to see changed?

- Less traffic
- Improve commercial areas
- Less cut through traffic
- More bike lanes
- Add overpass over Juanita Dr.
- Increase pedestrian links to schools and parks
- Safer roads
- Pedestrian trail and bike connectivity
- Less road congestion
- More transit
- Improve Juanita Drive access
- Increase walking/biking pathways
- Less reliance on automobiles
- Improve transportation system and bus service
- Increase sidewalks
- Traffic calming
- Transit innovations (eg jitneys)
- Safe bike routes
- Safety of Juanita drive
- Widen 100th Avenue in Juanita
- Do not widen Juanita Drive
- Slow down development; Get ahead of change
- Center of Finn Hill contains 3 schools
- Less density
- Smart economic growth
- Comprehensive planning encompassing job growth/parking/transit
- More gathering places
- Environmental learning centers
- Citizen input on land development
- Design review for commercial & multifamily; not as tall as Juanita Village
- Involve youth in future planning
- Transition from strip malls to multi-use
- Less multi-family zoning
- Public pools
- More boat launches/marina
- Improve storm water standards
- More parks
- More off-leash dog runs/parks
- Art displays

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Land use

Where and how should growth occur in the city? Dispersed or targeted?

- Concentrated like Juanita Village with housing and businesses together with retail, restaurants
- In "Neighborhood Centers" with services, grocery stores, walkable, small urban areas. Need to build up "a little" so this can happen
- In areas that already provide transportation systems and transit hubs
- Start with more urban areas like Totem Lake
- Replace Totem Lake mall with style like Redmond Town Center
- Put urban village in Totem Lake
- Old Albertson's site in Juanita
- Juanita Village is good example
- Juanita village
- Redevelopment of defunct areas
- Targeted, some areas could use growth
- Downtown and Houghton –where there are amenities and existing growth
- Put growth in Totem Lake and Downtown
- Neighborhood commercial with retail centers, restaurants, amenities,
- Disperse power of decision making
- Dispersed growth spread the same all around city
- QFC, Albertson's sites could accommodate village
- Retain current zoning in Finn Hill
- Concentrate big box growth along major arterials and not in neighborhoods
- Establish mixed use centers
- Must set commitment from transit before building village
- Disbursed growth
- Include affordable housing
- Concentrated & vertical to retain open spaces
- Transform strip malls into mixed use; like U-Village at QFC 145th, 85th, Albertson's, Totem Lake, Houghton
- Redevelop parking lots (like QFC)
- Diverse zoning provide mixed use
- Build up, not out
- Watch out for buildings being too tall and not able to handle traffic. Greater than 3 stories is considered tall.
- Look for good examples from other cities how to handle density such as:
 - Carmel looks good
 - Boston Commons
 - Open space between buildings
 - European Villages

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- Accessible by walking
- More density in one place in neighborhood in exchange for green space surrounding
- Provide a shuttle to downtown Kirkland
- Need to handle traffic with roundabouts
- Keep traffic, congestion in mind – link land use and traffic
- No large industrial facilities (no room)

Environmental stewardship

What does it mean to be green or sustainable?

- Preserve parks and open space
- Retain trees! (but problems if views are blocked)
- Provide preservation master plans for natural areas for 50 years in future
- Trade more density in areas like QFC (Finn Hill) for retaining natural areas (transfer of development rights)
- Alternative energy
- Use photo film instead of solar panels (Japan)
- Use of green building products
- Continue recycling
- Preserve and enhance lake & streams
- Doing our part not to pollute
- Efficient use of natural resources
- Ensuring there are funds for maintenance of parks
- Maintain quality of neighborhood
- Nature centers for schools/parks

Community Character

The Vision Statement in the Comprehensive Plan refers to Kirkland as having a small town feel. What does small town feel mean to you?

- People living in downtown helps maintain the community character
- Neighborhoods without big box stores
- Relaxed Police Department.
- Hometown growing carefully
- Up zone Totem Lake lots
- Capitalize on redeveloping areas
- City Hall is responsive to citizens
- Incremental growth – we have time
- Tax credits to incentivize development
- Green buildings

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Transportation

In your transportation vision for Kirkland in the year 2035, what would you see? Do you see much change in how we get around now?

- More mass transit
- Light rail across SR-520
- Infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles
- Limit speed limit to 35 mph
- More bicycle trails – connectivity; develop a bicycle master plan
- Remove Juanita Dr. as a major arterial
- Make 84th Ave a main arterial
- Coordinate with regional/state/national transportation policy

By 2035, in the US 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?

- More transit for seniors (e.g. good access, shelters)
- Department of Licensing changes for seniors
- Comprehensive planning of transit systems
- Subsidize taxis
- Volunteer pick up ride services
- More marked, controlled crosswalks
- Increase ADA ramps
- Connected, safe, handicap accessible bicycle and hiking/walking trails
- Livable senior housing communities with accessibility to transit services
- Smaller cars
- Keep asking people
- Be careful with property tax levies

Housing

We may have up to 8,000 new housing units by 2035. In your neighborhood, what types of housing should we try to encourage?

- Pay attention to infrastructure when considering type of housing
- One story housing for seniors
- Housing needs to be constructed with materials that fit into the “natural” treed environment and fire safe
- Provide thru streets – not cul-de-sacs
- No mixed use zoning in residential neighborhoods
- More mother-in-law homes in existing lots

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- Consider providing adequate parking when building

Think about housing for lower to middle income people. What types of housing should it be? Where should it be located?

- Clustered near amenities, transit, grocery stores, services

Economic Development

What kind of jobs and businesses should Kirkland try to attract in the future?

- Small local businesses
- Niche markets (e.g. bakeries)
- Places for cottage industries
- More retail downtown
- 5-8 story office downtown
- No more big box
- High technology is the future; reuse industrial buildings
- Light rail on Cross Kirkland Corridor
- Jobs on lakefront serviced by ferry
- Redevelop QFC shopping center in Finn Hill with shops, jobs & residential (PCC and other grocery), gathering places and library