



## Breakout Room Questions and Responses

### 1. Visioning Priorities

The purpose of this multiple-choice question was to gain more information by subject matter about a participants' vision for the future, sense of their priorities, and values in order to update or create new vision statement and policies.

**Question: For your neighborhood, in the next 20 years what are your top 3 priorities? (choose three letters).**

# of responses	
I	a. Restoring natural areas such as shorelines, aquatic systems, habitat
	b. Inviting new services and more diverse businesses
I	c. Allowing other businesses types in addition to retail on ground floors of buildings
	d. Building new community amenities, such as public plazas, art, playgrounds
IIII	e. *Creating new parks or refreshing existing ones
	f. Pursue an Aquatic Center/Recreational Center
III	g. Building bicycle connections
IIII	h. *Creating and maintaining trails
IIII	i. More mobility options (pedestrians/bikes) to get around the city and to transit centers
II	j. Targeting new green, energy efficient developments or retrofitting of existing buildings
IIIII	k. Increasing affordable housing and a variety of housing choices that promote equity and inclusion in the neighborhood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Laurel park area could increase density).</li> </ul>
	l. Equitable and inclusive community (provide definitions for group)...
III	m. Other priorities not listed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote feelings of community and gathering spaces (walking and talking to each other on the street, gathering spaces)</li> <li>• Amplifying the family friendly aspects of this community</li> <li>• More usable and safe pedestrian connections: Can't walk under 405 without crossing on/off ramps. Seems like trail that goes toward Kirkland Urban is unsafe. It's slippery, steep, and unsafe.</li> </ul>

## 2. Neighborhood Uniqueness

*Question: Name 1 thing that describes what makes your neighborhood unique from other neighborhoods in the city?*

- **Geographically Compact** – but diverse and wonderful, has a bit of everything: park, residential, some retail and industrial.
- **Community** – friendly neighbors, close knit
- **Park like**
- **Convenient Access-** to everything (I-405, park, downtown), yet a very residential area
- **Neighborhoodly-** hosts neighborhood picnics, community is intimate and comfortable
- **Little League World Series** is held at Everest Park
- **Excellent parks**
- **Hidden gem-** not a lot of people come to visit the area and it has an intimate feel
- **Very accessible** -with excellent access to freeway and CKC
- **Sense of community and cohesion-** People may not know everybody, but we recognize everybody. Recognize that we are neighbors. Sense of belonging.
- **Everest is hidden and secluded/private-** We are not on a thoroughfare, so most people don't know we're here. Close to Downtown and secluded at the same time.
- **Quiet, family-oriented, green area, yet it is a quick walk away from the city center.** It's a great neighborhood for those that enjoy walking.
- **Enjoys running into neighbors on walks- Many wetlands and streams in Everest** that make you feel like you're in a more rural area. The sensitive areas buffer you from the noise of the City center.

## 3. Neighborhood Challenges

*Question: Name 2 challenges in your neighborhood that need to be addressed?*

- **\*\*Lack of connectivity to Downtown-** (lacking sidewalks in certain areas; aka along Kirkland Avenue from 85th into Downtown)
- **\*\*Traffic** congestion– log jams with school around Houghton; ingress and egress at Everest Park where it can get congested. Vehicle traffic needs to be considered and has to connect with mobility.
- **\*\*Slow down traffic** in residential areas with lots of pedestrians and kids
- **Unknown with the 85<sup>th</sup> St Station plan-** difficult to anticipate future challenges or plan accordingly with little information about the SAP recommendations.
- Difficult for current residents to expand or remodel; **loosen building codes or streamline process for permitting** (especially for property constrained with wetlands/streams)
- **\*More playgrounds for kids**
- **\*\*Can we improve truck-eating bridge?**
- **\*\*Need for more sidewalks and safe pedestrian access downtown**
- Desire a **more diverse and welcoming community**
- Housing in the neighborhood is **unaffordable**

- Neighborhood is being taken for granted by the City and **encroached upon with nearby land uses (Station area plan, high density uses adjacent to low density uses)**, neighborhood is small and fragile – the community should be preserved
- Compatible uses in **commercial areas should match character of residential neighborhood**
- **Parking in neighborhood will become a problem with the Station Area Plan** new development. Can't put trash cans out on trash day because cars are parked on streets.
- Neighborhood is maturing gracefully. We **must adapt to changes that are coming in an inclusionary way**. It's important that everyone feels like they are part of the neighborhood. The end goal is to continue to **evolve in ways that maintain the "good parts."**
- When we pass the Cross Kirkland Corridor on our walks, the noise from I-405 is awful on the hill. **If a third level is being added to I-405 interchange, the noise will get worse.** Noise is stressful.
- The I-405 on-ramp causes so much noise. People are driving beyond posted speed limit onto 85<sup>th</sup>. **Can noise abatement be included in the Station Area Plan?**

#### 4. **Neighborhood Opportunities**

*Question: Name 2 opportunities in your neighborhood for creative changes you would like to see for the future?*

- **\*\*Improve bicycle infrastructure.**
- **\*\*Mobility & connectivity** from 405 to downtown - yes to gondola
- **\*\*Encourage multi-modality for land use** so we can bring in new opportunities
- More **retail around Everest Park or on CKC** for people to gather (i.e. Bring some storefront into industrial area (like Deru), or coffee shop at the train depot, or around the park, food truck location, etc.)
- Leverage **partnerships with Google and local business to create jobs** or intern programs for teens that are exclusive to local residents (job shadowing, etc)
- Provide **nature programs in Everest Park** for younger kids, camps, etc.
- **\*Off leash dog park is needed at Everest Park**
- Push for **green building focus that emphasizes bike-oriented development.** Less parking; bicycle loft...
- **Increase retail and business space along the CKC** to promote connections and hang out spaces for pedestrians and bicyclists
- **\*Everest Park – add a bike/walking path loop** around the fields as a safe pathway for kids
- Commercial space on **8th St and Railroad opportunities for retail/restaurant spaces**
- **\*\*Pedestrian walkway/skyway connecting buildings from eastside of Google to Everest park** with retail mixed in
- **\*\*Expand the CKC at the CKC and Kirkland Way intersection and add sidewalks under the truck eating bridge**
- North of the Everest Park pickleball courts (zoned LIT), are opportunities for **restaurant and retail uses**

- **\*\*Dig the street lower under the truck eating bridge** and add sidewalks
- **Laurel Park –increase density and/or height** to add to the affordable housing in the neighborhood
- No continuous sidewalk to downtown, **need a safe route for walking downtown**
- **Developers not developing sites to their full potential.** Multi-family zoned sites being built out as large detached homes that don't maximize density
- **Laurel Park (along NE 68<sup>th</sup> ST) is grossly underutilized.** There are about 12 buildings with about 200+ apartments. We could increase density at Laurel Park from 2 stories to 4 stories and include affordable housing that could give you 2x the living space on the same plot of ground. The lack of affordable housing in Kirkland is an issue.
- We need a **smooth transition in physical structure of the commercial centers.**
- **\*\*Improve bicycle safety to Downtown-** Would love to ride bikes and not feel like going to get hit by car. A wider lane would increase comfort level. Does not feel comfortable biking to downtown. Kirkland Avenue has a lot of fast-moving cars and is dangerous. Going toward South Rose hill is tough. Increase width of bike lanes to increase safety.
- **Leave Kirkland like it is for next few years.** Kirkland is growing too fast. First thought when we heard about new BRT station was to move. **The more growth you encourage with the Comprehensive Plan, the more negative changes may happen.** Not anti-growth but is concerned about what the future growth going to look like. Thinks **Kirkland Urban is too dense. Preserve the neighborhood's current assets.**
- **\*\*Kirkland Way/Ohde Ave is a horrible intersection.** That would be the only intersection that would feed into higher density zones. It's almost impossible to traverse as a pedestrian or bicyclist. There isn't a bike lane. Need sidewalks under the railroad tracks (its only about 6 inches on each side). We need more signs that are out of the norm – don't just use yellow and black warning signs. The **clearance for trucks is too low.**
- **Concerns about capacity for sewer and water.** How is the water and sewer capacity for new growth? Is there enough water? *As part of the Station Area Plan, Mithun is looking into sewer and water capacity; fire and police services*
- **Don't be like Redmond.** Old commercial areas in Kirkland have the redevelopment capability. Redmond lost its character and is no longer a desirable City to live in. We need **creative development** rather than more of the same.

Notes:

\* These comments will be forwarded to the City of Kirkland Parks and Recreation Department for consideration with the citywide Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan that is currently being updated.

\*\* These comments will be forwarded to the City of Kirkland Transportation (multi-modal programs), Capital Improvement Program Division, and Neighborhood Safety program for consideration.