

CITY OF KIRKLAND Planning and Building Department

123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3600 **~ www.kirklandwa.gov**

MEMORANDUM

To: Design Review Board

From: Aoife Blake, Associate Planner

Date: May 31, 2022

File No.: DRV22-00228

Subject: POLARIS AT TOTEM LAKE

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN CONFERENCE

I. MEETING GOALS

At the June 6, 2022, Design Review Board (DRB) meeting, the DRB should review the concept design for the Polaris at Totem Lake project. At the meeting, the DRB should determine:

- A. How the design guidelines affect or pertain to the proposed development.
- B. Determine which guidelines apply to the proposed development.
- C. Determine what other application materials are needed for the Design Response Conference.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The subject property is located at 12335 120th Avenue NE (see Attachment 1). The applicant is proposing to construct a two building, eight-story project with approximately 442 affordable housing units, 15,000 square feet of interior amenity space, 4,000 square feet of commercial space, and a parking garage with one-story below grade. Vehicular access to the property is proposed from 120th Avenue NE via an access easement over the property to the south of the site.

At the May 2, 2022, Design Review Board Meeting, the applicant provided a program description that included three building massing options (see Attachment 2). At the meeting, the Board requested that the applicant present additional massing concepts that incorporate greater modulation of the building form to break up the mass of the building, particularly along the 120th Avenue NE façade, to create a better scale with the pedestrian experience and the environs. The DRB concluded that none of the concepts adequately addressed this issue.

The applicant has provided additional massing options for the site and further refined their preferred massing option (Option #3) in response to the DRB's concerns (see Attachment 3).

III. SITE

The subject property is made up of two parcels (containing 171,211 square feet / 3.93 acres) and currently contains a single-story commercial building (Buick/GMC of Kirkland) with associate surface parking. The site has significant upward grade change

(approximately 115 feet) from its street frontage along 120th Avenue NE to the top of Welcome Hill in the south-west corner of the property. 120th Avenue NE is designated as a minor arterial, a major pedestrian sidewalk, and is part of the "circulator", a landscaped boulevard within the Totem Lake Business District.

The following list summarizes the zoning designation, uses, and allowed heights of properties adjacent to the subject property:

North: TL4B, Montessori School, 30-75 feet above Average Building Elevation

South: TL4B, Commercial, 30-75 feet above Average Building Elevation

East: DOT Right-of-way/ Interstate 405

West: TL 10A, Office, 55 feet above Average Building Elevation

Additional photographs prepared by the applicant that show the surrounding properties are contained in Attachment 2.

IV. KEY ZONING REGULATIONS

Zoning regulations for uses in the Totem Lake (TL) 4B zone are found in the use-zone chart (see Attachment 4). The following regulations are important to point out as they form the basis of any new development on the site.

A. Permitted Uses:

- i. Permitted uses in this zone include, but are not limited to office, retail, and stacked dwelling units (residential).
- ii. The street level floor of residential buildings adjacent to 120th Avenue NE are required to have commercial uses and have a minimum depth of 20 feet and an average depth of at least 30 feet (as measured from the face of the building). The Design Review Board may approve a minor reduction in the depth requirements if the applicant demonstrates that the requirement is not feasible given the configuration of existing or proposed improvements and that the design of the commercial frontage will maximize visual interest.
- iii. Residential lobbies are allowed on the street level provided they do not exceed 20 percent of the building's linear commercial frontage along the street.

<u>Staff Comment</u>: The applicant is proposing retail and residential uses. Staff will review the proposed buildings for compliance with the street level commercial requirements as part of the Design Response Conference application.

B. Height:

- i. The TL4B zone allows a maximum height of 75 feet as measured above the average building elevation (ABE) for a stacked residential use.
- ii. In addition to the height exceptions established by KZC 115.60, the following exceptions to height regulations in TL zones are established:
 - a. Decorative parapets may exceed the height limit by a maximum of four feet; provided, that the average height of the parapet around the perimeter of the structure shall not exceed two feet.
 - b. For structures with a peaked roof, the peak may extend eight feet above the height limit if the slope of the roof is equal to or greater than four feet vertical to 12 feet horizontal.

<u>Staff Comment</u>: The applicant will need submit height calculations with the Design Response Conference application. Staff will review the project for compliance with the City's height regulations during the Design Response phase.

- C. <u>Setbacks</u>: The required setbacks are 10 feet from the 120th Avenue NE.
 - <u>Staff Comment</u>: The applicant's preferred design scheme complies with the TL4b setback requirements.
- D. Open Space: The development is required to provide publicly accessible space(s) at the primary pedestrian frontage that extends the public realm while creating a transition between public and private spaces. These public spaces shall have no dimension less than 15 feet. The proposed development shall provide publicly accessible space(s) ranging from 1,500 to 2,000 square feet in size. Through design review, the City will review the location, size and dimensions, features and improvements (such as multi-use paths, plazas, seating, public art and water features) proposed for the publicly accessible space(s) as part of the Design Review approval. The City may also require or permit modification to the required publicly accessible space as part of the Design Review approval.

<u>Staff Comment</u>: Staff and the DRB should review the proposed development for compliance with open space regulations as part of the Design Response Conference application.

- E. <u>Parking</u>: The project is required to comply with the following parking standards:
 - Residential
 - 1.2 stalls per studio unit
 - 1.3 stalls per 1-bedroom unit
 - 1.6 stalls per 2-bedroom unit
 - 1.8 stalls per 3 or more-bedroom unit
 - Guest Parking: A minimum 10% of the total number of required parking spaces shall be provided for guest parking and located in a common area accessible by guests. If the required number of guest parking spaces results in a fraction, the applicant shall provide the number of spaces equal to the next higher whole number.
 - ii. Retail: 1 stall per 300 square feet of gross floor area

<u>Staff Comment</u>: The applicant will be required to demonstrate compliance with applicable City parking requirements as part of the Design Response Conference application.

F. <u>Sidewalks</u>: 120th Avenue NE is designated a major pedestrian sidewalk. KZC 110.52.3 requires a minimum 8-foot-wide sidewalk and adequate lighting.

<u>Staff Comment</u>: The final sidewalk configuration will need to be reviewed by Public Works and approved as part of the Design Response Conference decision.

V. TOTEM LAKE BUSINESS DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

In addition to the standard guidelines contained in the *Design Guidelines for the Totem Lake Business District*. The following is a list of key design issues and/or design techniques that should be addressed with this project.

- Building Location and Orientation
- Public Improvements (Sidewalks and Street Trees)
- Pedestrian Connections, Lighting, and Amenities

- Residential Open Space
- Parking Lots and Vehicular Circulation
- Blank Wall Treatment
- Architectural Style and Scale
- Human Scale
- Building Details and Materials
- Sians
- Visual Quality of Landscapes

See adopted Design Guidelines for Totem Lake Business District for complete text and explanations.

VI. CONTEXT

The context or setting in which the proposed development will be located is important in determining the appropriate design regulations that would apply. The following are several questions that are geared towards identifying the physical environment around and on the subject property. These questions will help supplement the discussion on the key design guidelines appropriate for the proposed project.

A. How does the site relate to its surroundings?

The applicant and Design Review Board should discuss the physical and built environment on and around the subject property. Topics include height of neighboring structures, topography, and landscaping.

B. What are the Opportunities and Constraints of the Site and Vicinity given the following topics?

- Streetscape
- Urban Form
- Activities and Uses in the area
- Pedestrian Patterns and Environment
- Character of Adjacent Buildings
- Landscaping/Open Space

VII. <u>DISCUSSION ISSUES</u>

The role of the DRB at the Conceptual Design Conference is to help determine how the design guidelines found in the *Design Guidelines for the Totem Lake Business District* apply to the proposed development. The following sections and questions below are representative of the City's design guidelines. These questions are to be used as a tool to help identify how design guidelines would apply to the proposed project.

A. Scale

- 1. What are the key vantages of the project?
- 2. Identify appropriate mitigation techniques for building massing of the proposed buildings. Possible techniques include vertical and horizontal modulation, corner treatment, and roof forms. The applicant has provided three massing schemes including a preferred option (Option 2) for the DRB's review and comment (see Attachment 2).

B. Pedestrian Access

1. How does the proposed massing and location of structures relate or respond to the pedestrian environment?

- 2. What are opportunities for pedestrian oriented spaces at the street level?
- 3. What are the key pedestrian connections?
- 4. How would the project engage pedestrians?

C. Open Space and Landscaping

What are opportunities for landscaping and/or open space on the subject property?

VIII. ITEMS REQUIRED FOR DESIGN RESPONSE CONFERENCE

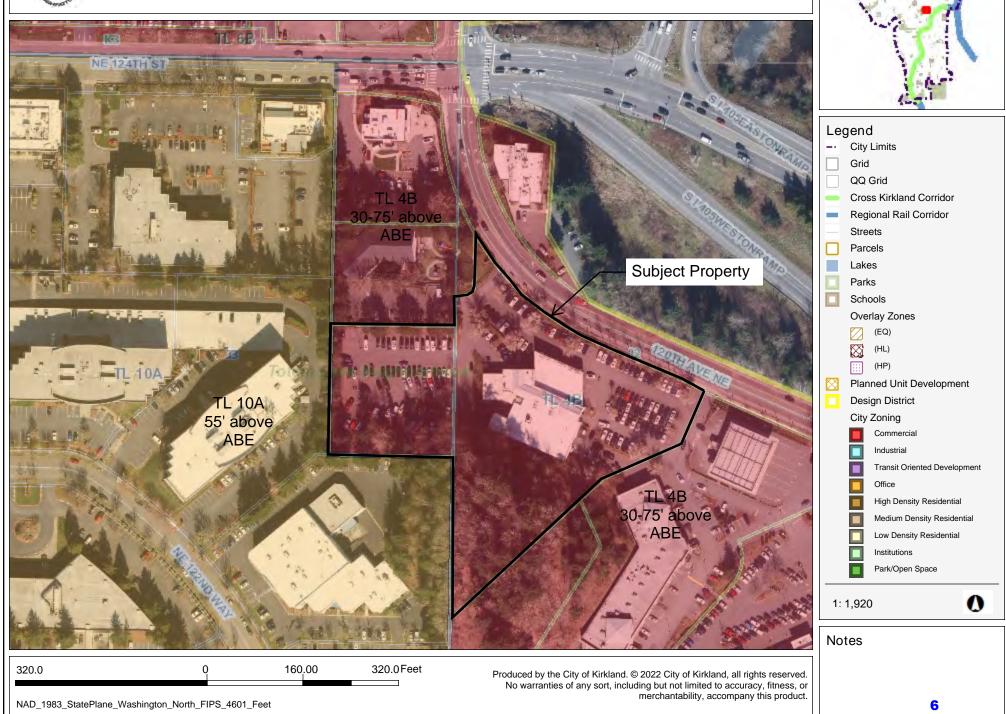
The Design Review Board shall determine what models, drawings, perspectives, 3-D SketchUp model, or other application materials the applicant will need to submit with the design review application.

IX. <u>ATTACHMENTS</u>

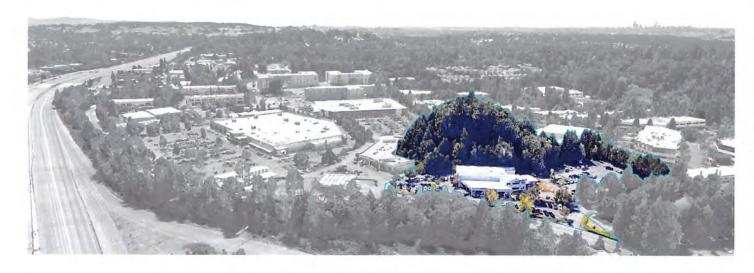
- 1. Vicinity Map
- 2. May 2 CDC Plan Submittal
- 3. Revised CDC Plan Submittal
- 4. TL4B Use Zone Chart



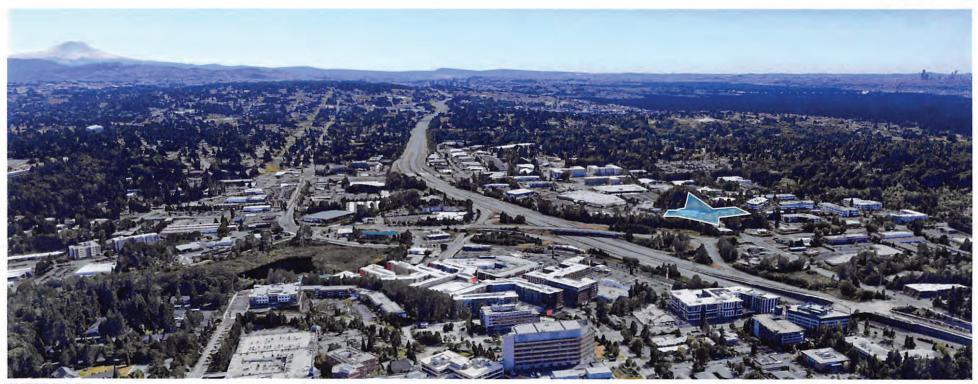
Vicinity Map



POLARIS AT TOTEM LAKE 12335 120TH AVENUE NE, KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON 98034 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN CONFERENCE PACKAGE 03.25.2022



PROJECT INFORMATION

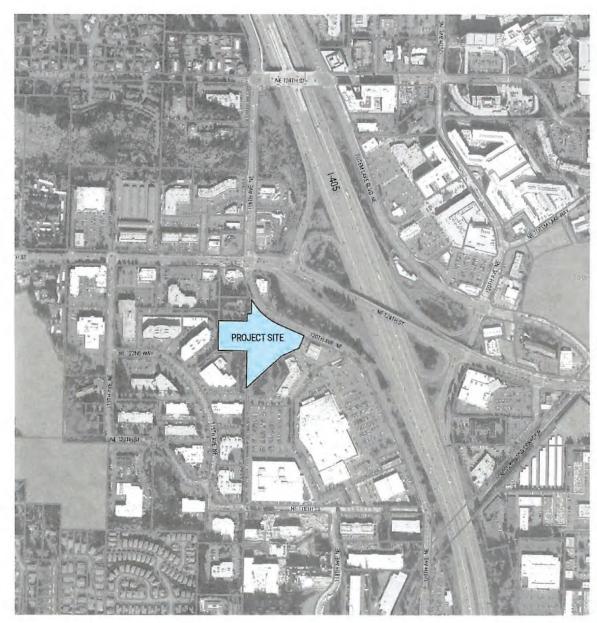


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PROJECT INFORMATION



PROJECT TEAM

DEVELOPER:
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TODD WALTON

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PROJECT SITE INFORMATION

PROJECT ADDRESS

12335 120TH AVENUE NE KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON 98034

PARCEL NUMBER:

2826059225 & 2926059232

SITE AREA

126,344 SF (2.90 ACRES) & 44,867 SF (1.03 ACRES)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

NWC ADD & LOT 3 TGW VAC 116TH AVE NE KIRKLAND SP #SS-90-29 REC #9104169001 SD SP DAF - POR SW 1/4 OF SEC 28-26-05 TGW POR LOT 1 TGW VAC ST ADJ OF NWC ADD DAF - BEG NW COR OF SD LOT 1 TH S 89-19-00 E 332.98 FT TO SW COR OF E 1/2 OF W 1/2 OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 (PT A) TH S 36-50-25 E 172 FT TH S 24-00-33 E 274.11 FT TH N 65-59-27 E 164.79 FT TH S 24-00-33 E 154.65 FT TAP ON A LN PLT & 34 FT NLY OF SLY LN OF TR CONV UNDER AUD FILE #5207488 TH S 89-19-00 E 516.82 FT TO WLY R/W OF 120TH AVE NE TH S 19-33-46 E 36.24 FT TAP ON SLY LN SD TR CONV TH N 89-19-00 W 1298.87 FT TO WLY LN OF SEC TH N 01-01-32 E 491.13 FT TO POB LESS RD (AKA POR LOT 1 NWC ADD KK SP #424 REC 7907130973) TGW W 1/2 OF W 1/2 OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LY SLY OF 120TH AVE NE EXIT LESS ST TGW POR OF E 3/4 OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LY SWLY OF 120TH AVE NE EXIT & NWLY OF LN DAF - BEG AT PT A TH N 01-06-53 E 258.12 FT TO TPOB & TAN CRV TO RGT RAD= 100 FT C/A 41-14-51 TH ALG SD CRV 71.99 FT TH N 42-21-45 E 165.38 FT TO TAN CRV TO LFT R=70 FT C/A 62-03-54 TH ALG SD CRV 75.83 FT TH N 19-42-09 W 5.18 FT TH N 65-59-27 E 272.52 FT TO SLY MGN OF 120 TH AVE NE EXIT & TERMS OF SD LN (AKA REV PCL D KK SP #424 REC #7907130973) LESS W 30 FT OF FOLG - BEG AT W 1/4 COR OF SD SEC 28 TH S ALG W LN THOF 223.37 FT TO NXN WITH SWLY MGN 120TH AVE NE EXTN & TPOB TH SELY ALG SD MGN & A CRV TO LFT RAD = 430 FT C/A 17-32-36 ARC DIS 131.66 FT TH S 06-10-59 W 7.13 FT TH S 50-44-53 W 22.38 FT TH S 42-40-38 W 37.04 FT TH S 82-21-42 W 14 FT TH N 88-58-28 W 10 FT TAP ON SD W SEC LN & 52 FT NLY AS MEAS ALG SD LN FR NE COR OF LOT 3 OF KCSP #579027 TH NLY ALG SD SEC LN 164.58 FT TO TPOB PER KIRKLAND LLA #LL-92-72 REC #9209280805

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The project site is a prime candidate to provide affordable living for hard working individuals and families at close proximity to various businesses and services and therefore further lessing the impact of rising standard of living costs.

Polaris at Totem Lake is a proposed high-impact, large-scale affordable housing development that will deliver approximately 442 total units split into a variety of different afford-ability ranges. The largest number of units, 300 in total, are aggregated into "Tower A" while another 142 units are located in "Tower B". Both towers provide a wide range of amenities and services for future residents.

The project is to comply with Evergreen Sustainable Development Standard (ESDS). The ESDS criteria enhances the quality of life of occupants, increases project durability, sustainability, and environmental consciousness through increased energy and water efficiency.

With that being said the goals of the development are as follows:

- Provide a safe and reliable residential community that can help to drive and develop a stronger Totem Lake Business District.
- Help to create a visual landmark along the I-405 corridor through the use of proper planning and execution of guidance from the City of Kirkland and other regional partners.
- Promote a sense of quality and craftsmanship through the use of durable materials and the detailing of those materials.
- Strive for the balance between "less is more" and "more is better" while still providing visual interest that compliments the surrounding/regional design language.
- Enhance the pedestrian realm along 120th Avenue NE by creating opportunities for public and resident seating and reflection.
- Maximize the overall development opportunities such as unit count, parking, resident amenities and open space

PROJECT DATA GOALS

RESIDENTIAL UNITS: 442 TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED 20% THREE BEDROOM UNITS 89 UNITS

INTERIOR AMENITY SPACE: 15,000 SF COMMERCIAL SPACE: 4,000 SF

PARKING:

SURFACE LEVEL (P2) PARKING: 7 STALLS
BELOW GRADE PARKING GARAGE: 559 STALLS

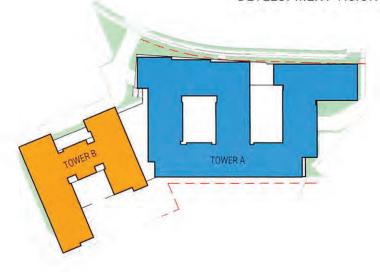
(50% COMPACT)

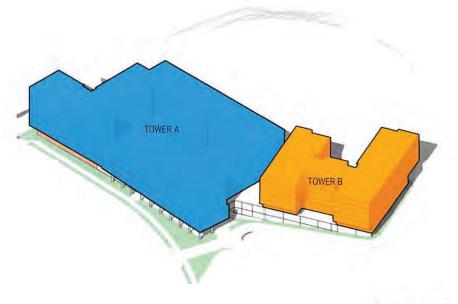
(PARKING REDUCTION/STUDY)

ATTACHMENT 2 DRV22-00228

PURPOSE

DEVELOPMENT VISION & GOALS



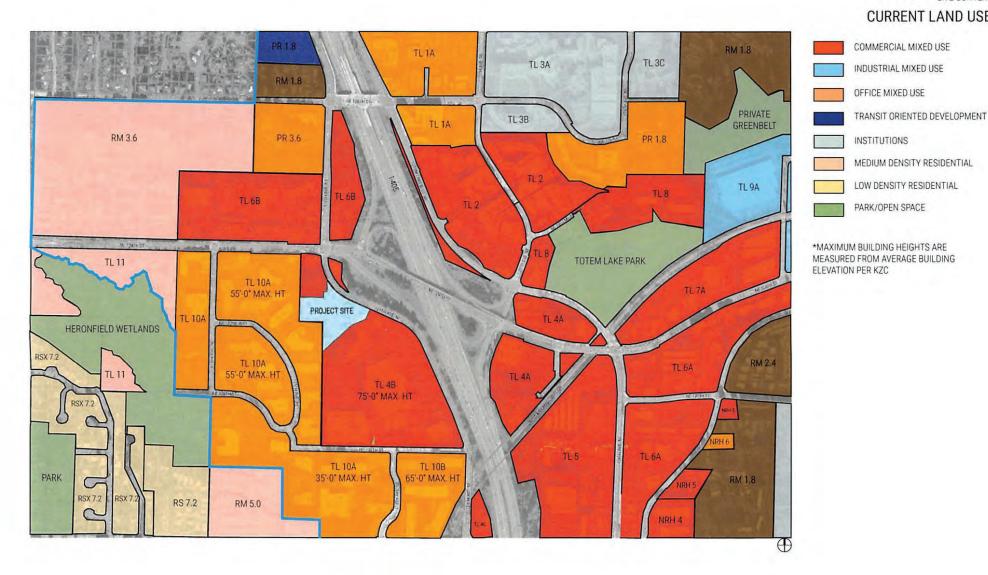


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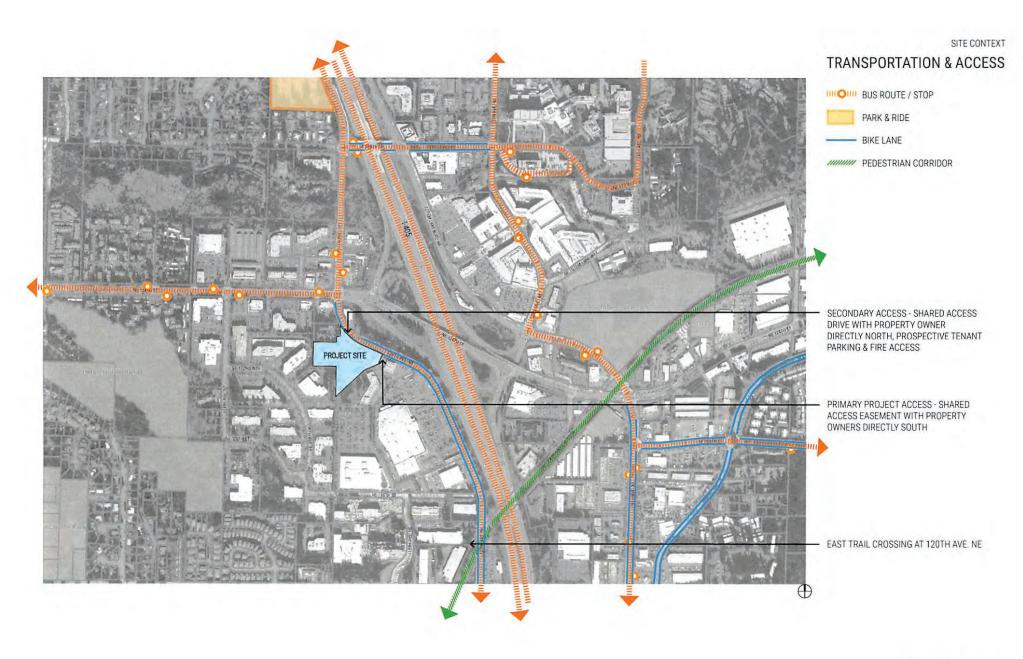
CURRENT LAND USE



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ZONING ANALYSIS

ZONE:	TL 4B		LANDSCAPING:	Category: D	
OVERLAY.	Totem Lake Neighborhood Design District		GROUND FLOOR BASE:	Ground floor adjacent to Pedestrian Walkway shall be 13'-0" high	
R.O.W. DESIGNATION: ADJACENT ZONING:	Plate 34B: Plate 34C: North: East:	Circulator Street Major Pedestrian Sidewalk TL 4B TL 4B	GROUND FLOOR COMMERCIAL:	include cor B. Street facir depth of 30	
	South: West:	TL 4B & TL 10A TL 10A	PEDESTRIAN ACCESS:	B. Trees at 30	ium unobstructed width '-0" spacing located in tree grates ather protection along the building facade
LOT SIZE	Parcel Number: Parcel Number: Total:	2826059225 = 2.90 Acres 2926059232 = 1.03 Acres 3.93 Acres (171,211 SF)	WEATHER PROTECTION:	B. Building En	estrian Walkways or sidewalks stries (including dwelling units if applicable) sum in width with a minimum height of 8'-0"
ALLOWABLE FAR:	Max. Lot Coverage:	80% = 3.14 Acres (136,969 SF)		0. 0 0 11111111	and in Mally Will a Milliman Height of a d
SETBACKS:	Front: Side: Rear;	10'-0* 0'-0* 0'-0*			
STRUCTURE HEIGHT:	<75'-0" Above Average	Building Elevation			
ROOFTOP SCREENING:	A Solid Screening Encl appurtenance is requir	osure equal to the height of the rooftop red			
PARKING	Vehicle Parking: Studio: One Bed: Two Bed: Three Bed: Guest: Compact Stal	0.75 Per Unit 1.00 Per Unit 1.60 Per Unit 1.80 Per Unit 10% of Required Stalls Is are allowed up to 50%			
	Bike Parking:	1 Bike Stall Per 12 Vehicle Stalls			



TRANSPORTATION & ACCESS

There are many options for public transit at the proposed project location. Within a short walk away, residents and users of the proposed project have access to multiple bus routes, a park and ride facility, neighborhood green ways and bike lanes.

For residents who own a vehicle, access to arterial roadways and state highways are in close proximity. The main access point into the project is in the form or a shared access drive/ easement with the neighboring properties to the South. There is a turn lane on 120th Ave. NE at this location making left-in and left-out traffic across 120th Ave NE an easier obstacle.









NEIGHBORHOOD AMENITY





WHOLE FOODS

(04) FRED MEYER - GAS STATION

05) 76 - GAS STATION

BECU CREDIT UNION

07) EVERGREEN ACADEMY MONTESSORI

(08) EVERBROOK ACADEMY OF KIRKLAND

LA PETITE ACADEMY OF KIRKLAND

10) KIRKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

UPLUND APARTMENTS

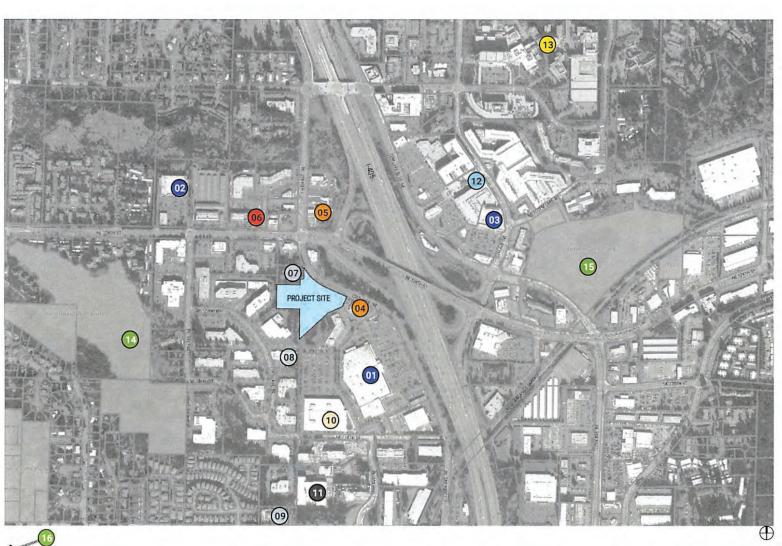
THE VILLAGE AT TOTEM LAKE

3 EVERGREENHEALTH MEDICAL CENTER

HERONFIELD WETLANDS/DOG PARK

TOTEM LAKE PARK

JUANITA BEACH PARK



NEIGHBORHOOD AMENITY



A few of these amenities include the Village at Totem Lake which offers a wide range of entertainment and dining options and is under a mile away. Heronfield Wetlands and Jasper's dog park is an amenity for our four-legged friends and in close proximity to the proposed project.





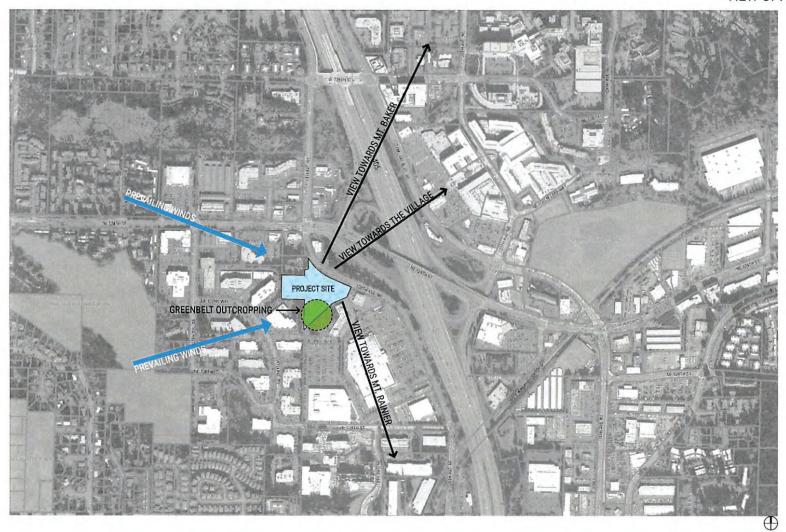








VIEW OPPORTUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT



VIEW OPPORTUNITIES

The project site is currently being used as a single story GMC dealership and service center. Once developed, the proposed project will be roughly 75 feet tall from 120th Ave. NE and provide residents with unobstructed views from the Northwest to the Northeast and potential views of Mt. Baker on a clear day.

The project site is nestled into a designated Greenbelt outcropping on it's Southern flank. The outcropping is an untouched dense vegetated hillside and will provide views of greenery for nearly a quarter of the residents. Lastly, some of the residential units along the Southeast of the proposed project will have potential views of Mt. Rainier.

ENVIRONMENT

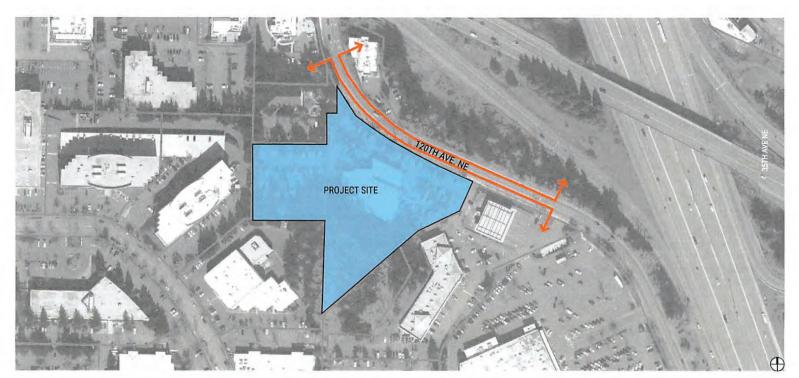
The project site provides the opportunity/ constraint for the main proposed building facade to be orientated parallel to 120th Ave. NE towards the Northeast. As mentioned earlier, the project site has a designated Greenbelt outcropping located at the West and South property lines. This outcropping provides significant challenges while also providing many opportunities to create views and much needed shade in the hot summer months.







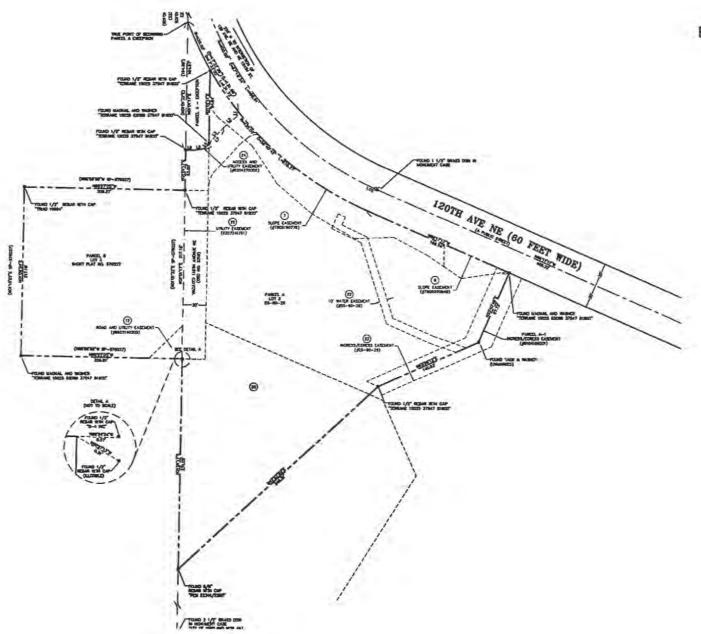
STREET CONTEXT VIEWS







120TH AVENUE NE - LOOKING NORTHEAST



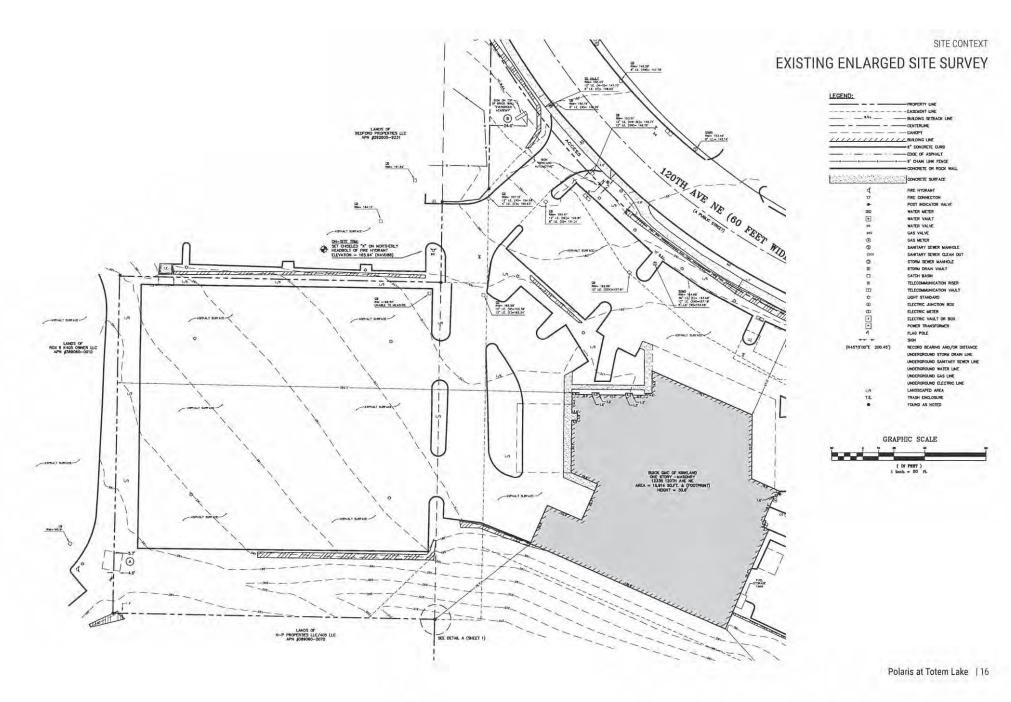
EXISTING SITE SURVEY & EASEMENTS

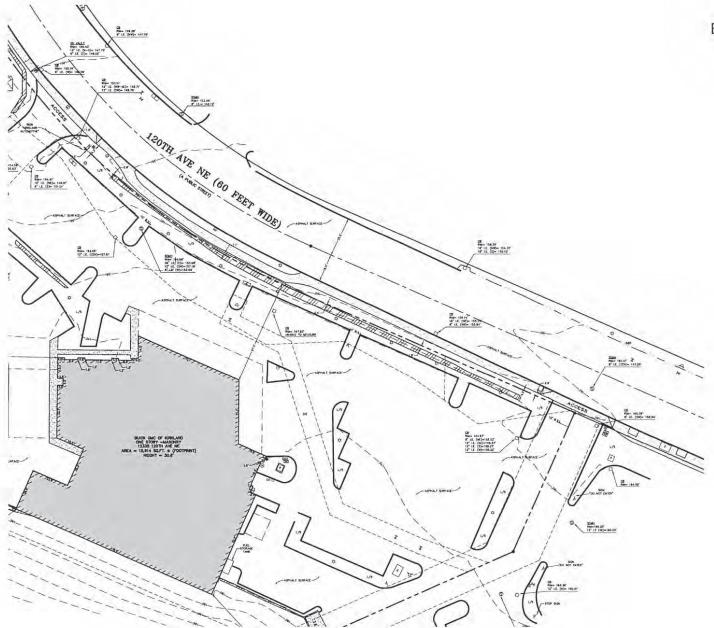






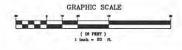
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EXISTING ENLARGED SITE SURVEY





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