

K2044 Comprehensive Plan Update

Revised Introduction Chapter I – Draft 4/25/2024

(Combines existing Introduction (Chapter I), Vision Statement-Guiding Principles (Chapter II) and General Chapter III)



Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the Southern Salish Sea region lies on the unceded and ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Suquamish and Tulalip tribes and other tribes of the Puget Sound Salish people, and that present-day City of Kirkland is in the traditional heartland of the Lake People and the River People. We honor with gratitude the land itself, the First People – who have reserved treaty rights and continue to live here since time immemorial – and their ancestral heritage.

Adopted Kirkland Land Acknowledgment

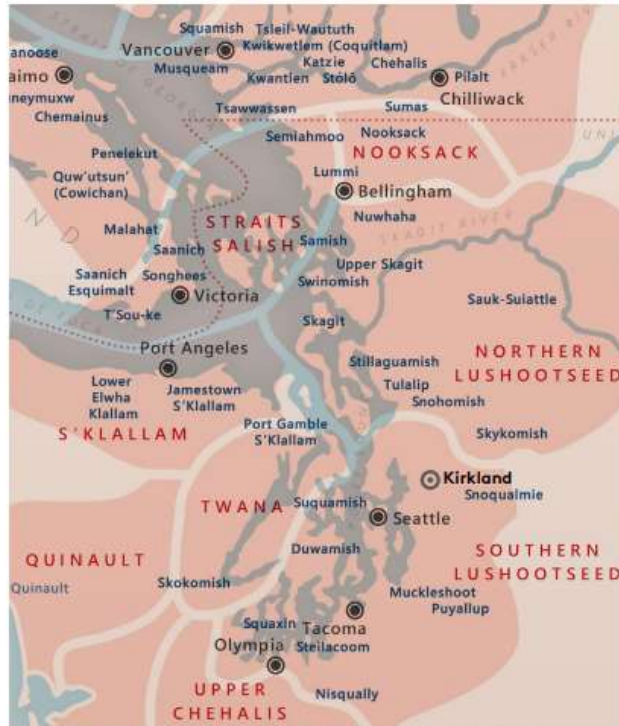


Image Source: LandLines Map, Burke Museum, USGS Topographic Map; Seattle quadrangle, 1906

Figure I-1 Regional Native Tribes

A. Overview of the Comprehensive Plan

The Kirkland Comprehensive Plan is the primary citywide guide for how we, as a community, will manage growth over the next 20 years (with a horizon year 2044), and is the policy basis that guides all related decisions. The Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies for how the city addresses land use, transportation, housing, sustainability and climate change, parks and open space, human services, and the public facilities and the services necessary to support growth. The Comprehensive Plan plans for expected growth of an additional 13,200 housing units and 26,490 jobs by the year 2044.

Purpose of this Chapter

This chapter is an orientation to the Comprehensive Plan (Plan). It describes how the Plan is consistent with State, Regional and Countywide planning policies, the City's community engagement process to update the Plan, the process for how the Plan is implemented, and current demographic data about the city. Most importantly, this chapter contains the city's Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for the year 2044 and citywide General goals and policies that describe how the Plan is updated and how decisions will be made.

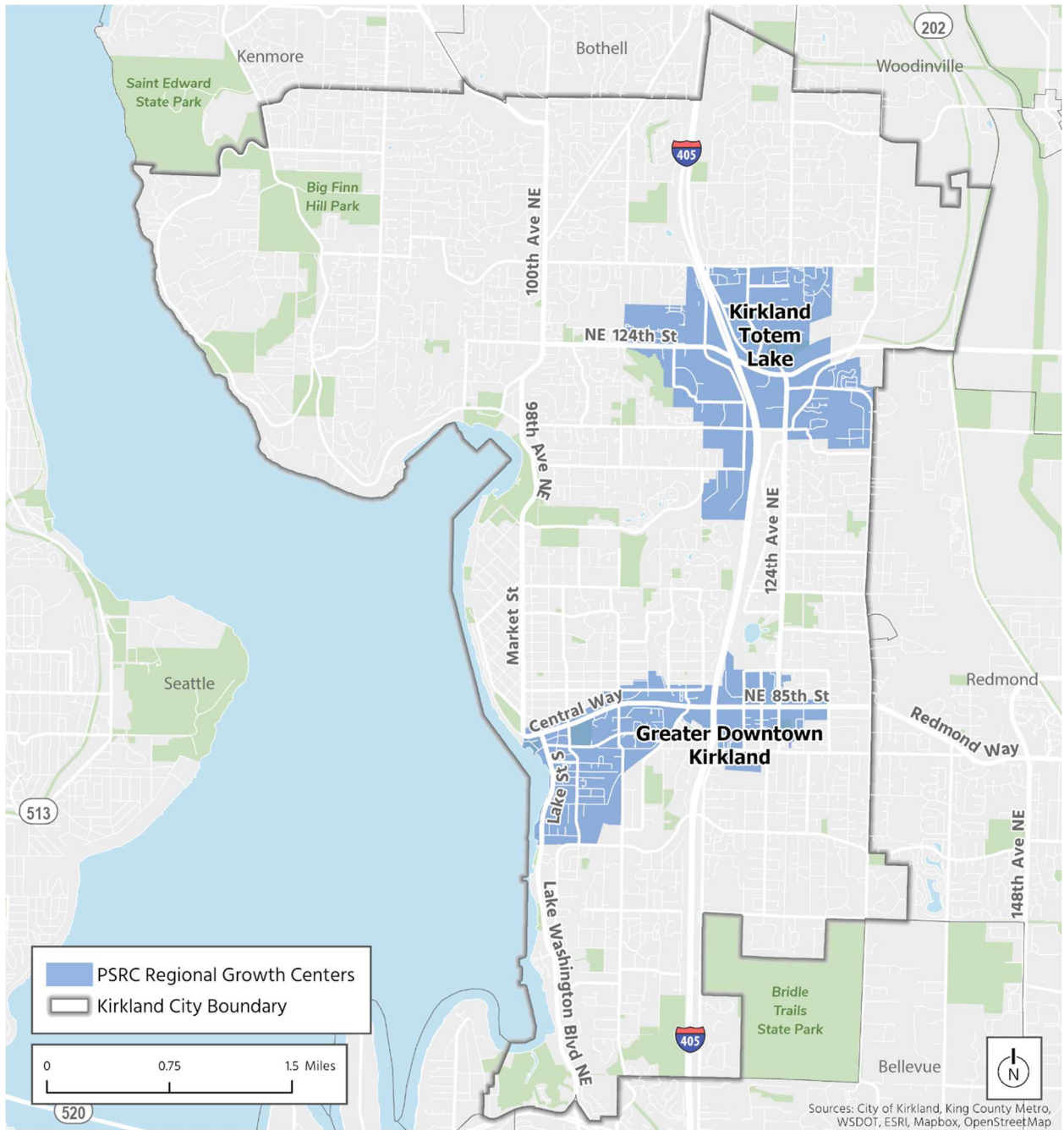


Figure I-2 Kirkland and Surrounding Area

B. Plan Applicability and Consistency

The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes Washington State's legislation for how the State will preserve and protect rural areas while focusing growth into cities. The GMA requires jurisdictions to periodically update Comprehensive Plans to reflect changes since the last update, and to plan for growth and development in a manner that is internally and regionally consistent, achievable, and sustainable. The Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2015, to plan for the year 2035.



Figure I-3 Regional Planning Context

One of the central tenets of the Growth Management Act is to require consistency in planning across jurisdictions and all different levels of government (e.g., local, regional, state). Consistency is determined in a number of ways. The City's Plan must be consistent and comply with the following:

- Growth Management Act Chapter 36.70A RCW
- Shoreline Management Act (adopted under the authority of Chapter 90.58 RCW and Chapter 173-26 WAC).

- Regional plans –multicounty planning policies adopted by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) in VISION 2050, Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Economic Strategy, and the Regional Center Framework.
- Countywide Planning Policies, including coordination with Plans of adjacent jurisdictions.
- All elements of the Comprehensive Plan must be internally consistent with each other.



Figure I-4 PSRC Vision 2050 Cover

Regional Consistency

VISION 2050 is the long-range growth and transportation strategy for the central Puget Sound region encompassing King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Kirkland’s Plan is updated based on residential and employment targets that align with the PSRC VISION 2050 and are assigned by King County Countywide Planning Policies described in more detail in the Land Use Element. Through a development capacity analysis, the City determined that it has the land capacity and zoning in place to meet the City’s assigned housing and employment targets for the year 2044.

Collaboration with surrounding jurisdictions, agencies, and Tribes

The City participates in a number of formal and informal planning and coordination forums, including State, Regional and Countywide technical forums, committees, and boards.

The GMA requires that the Comprehensive Plans of adjacent jurisdictions be consistent, and the City will continue to coordinate with Eastside cities and King County on a number of

planning activities encompassing land use, housing, transportation (traffic modeling, transit, and commute trip reduction), and human services.

The City coordinates with affected agencies and federally recognized Indian Tribes to gain a better understanding of mutual issues. This is accomplished through such techniques as interlocal agreements, joint meetings, and by providing opportunities for notification, review, and comment on major plans, programs, or development projects.

C. Guide to the Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan comprises two major parts. The first part contains the Vision Statement, Guiding Principles, and a series of plan elements and policies by topic area that apply Citywide. The second part contains plans for each of the City's neighborhoods, the NE 85th Street Subarea Plan, and the Market Street Corridor Plan (see Figure I-8). The Vision Statement and Guiding Principles in the plan are a reflection of the values of the community – how Kirkland should evolve with changing times.

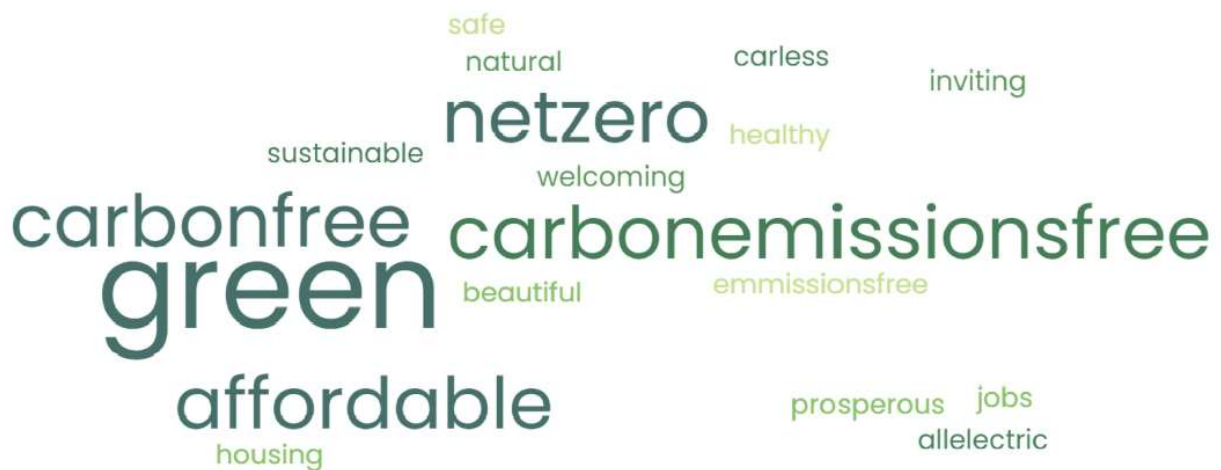


Figure I-5: Word Cloud From 2023 Visioning Event

Vision Statement- revised draft 3/5/2024

With the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update, after an extensive community-wide visioning process, the Vision Statements and Guiding Principles were revised from the 2015 version to reflect Kirkland in the year 2044.

Kirkland Vision Statement

Kirkland is a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, play, and visit. Safe, walkable, bikeable, and friendly, the entire community is connected to each other, as well as to

schools, parks, our scenic waterfront, and thriving commercial centers that provide jobs and services.

Kirkland is a place where all people are welcome and valued and feel that they belong. We are dedicated to protecting, encouraging, and celebrating diversity and inclusion, and we combat racism and discrimination. We honor our rich heritage, including the First People who have reserved treaty rights and have lived here since time immemorial, while embracing our future.

Kirkland is a community that is connected by local and regional transit services, new innovative modes of travel, and extensive walk and bike routes. Jobs, services, and housing are clustered around transit routes and trails, creating a connected, equitable, and walkable network that enables people of all abilities to move about the community. Neighborhoods have diverse housing to accommodate residents in every stage of life.

Kirkland is innovative and economically resilient, providing public services and capital infrastructure that accommodate growth, provide opportunities for the community to connect and help each other, and promote sustainability.

Kirkland is a sustainable city that preserves and enhances our natural and built environment for our enjoyment and for future generations. The city is filled with green roofs, community gardens, tree lined streets, daylighted streams, stormwater swales, and connected parks and open spaces that make Kirkland more resilient and livable in the face of climate change.

Guiding Principles

The [Guiding Principles](#) express the fundamental goals for guiding growth and development in Kirkland over the 20-year horizon of the Comprehensive Plan. They are based on the aspirations and values embodied in the [Vision Statement](#). The principles address a wide range of topics and form the foundation of the goals and policies contained in the elements of the Comprehensive Plan. They strive to make Kirkland in 2044 an inclusive, sustainable, vibrant, and inviting place to live, work, visit, and operate a business. Although the [Guiding Principles](#) broadly apply to all Comprehensive Plan elements, some of the principles are more applicable to certain elements than others.

Guiding Principles-revised draft 4/16/2024

LIVABLE AND WELCOMING

Promote a **high quality of life**, exemplified by a safe, accessible, affordable, and well-designed community planned for people of all abilities, with convenient access to parks, open space, recreational facilities, the waterfront, community gathering places, excellent schools, effective public transit, an abundance of housing options, jobs, and local services.

Foster an **inclusive and equitable community** where people of all income groups, stages of life, and life experiences can thrive in Kirkland and feel that they are valued and belong.

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT

Protect and enhance **natural environmental systems**, including forest land, lakes, wetlands, and streams; integrate green infrastructure into urban environments; achieve resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts; and seek to empower the community to protect the environment through sustainable actions and the values of environmental justice.

Support a vibrant **economy that is prosperous and resilient**, that provides access to opportunity for all people, provides needed infrastructure, and uses technology responsibly.

Ensure that City growth and services are **fiscally sustainable**.

Provide and develop collaborations with other partners to provide **health and human services** that fulfill the basic needs of all people in the city.

Create a more **resilient community** that can withstand and prosper after natural, human, and economic disruptions, and adapts to climate change.

CONNECTED AND INCLUSIVE

Build an **inclusive community** by engaging people in government, schools, community gathering spaces, civic events, and volunteer activities to create a sense of belonging and provide pathways for opportunity.

Create an accessible **multimodal transportation system** for users of all abilities, with a safe, effective, well-maintained, and extensive systems of roads, routes for bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles, pedestrian paths, and transit corridors for all people that connect housing, jobs, and services, parks, schools, and the region.

Support **appropriate technologies** that connect, inform, and involve residents, businesses, and visitors.

Guide to the Comprehensive Plan

Difference between goals, policies, and actions

The adopted goals and policies in the Plan guide growth and decision-making in a manner that will help achieve the City's Vision, consistent with the Guiding Principles. The goals within each Element identify the result Kirkland is aiming to achieve for specific topics. Policies address how

the community plans to achieve goals.

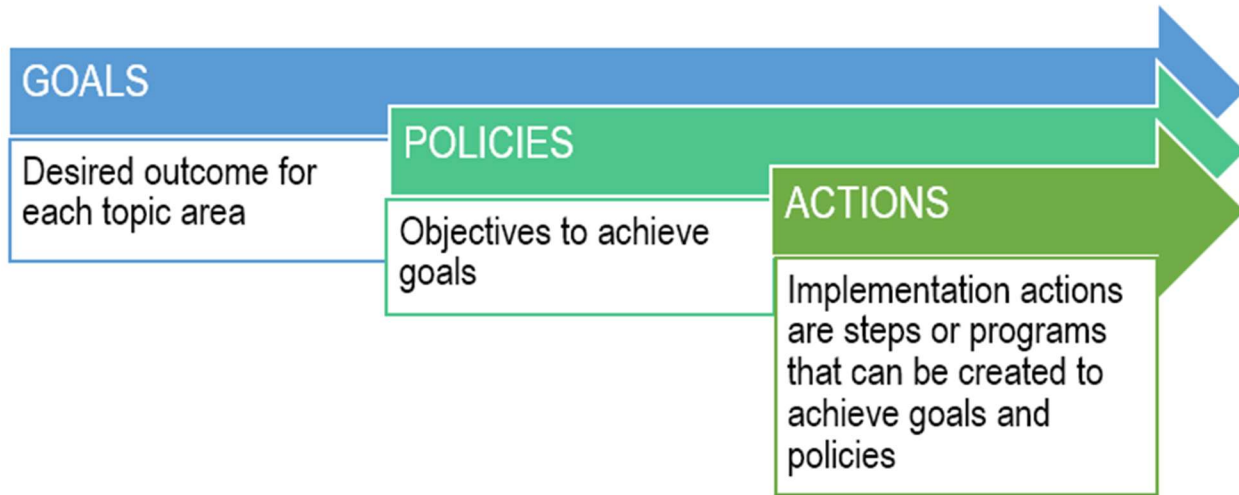


Figure I-6 Relationship to Goals, Policies, Actions Graphic

In addition to goals and policies, each Element may have a list of examples of action or implementation items that could be considered over time. The Implementation Strategies chapter consolidates those citywide implementation actions that should be undertaken by the City to accomplish the goals and policies.

All regulations pertaining to development (such as the Zoning Code and shoreline management regulations, and the Subdivision Ordinance) must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The outcome will be a community that has grown along the lines anticipated by the Comprehensive Plan.

Summary of Plan Elements

The following summarizes each Element:

- The **Sustainability, Climate, and Environment Element** contains policies that address maintaining, restoring, and enhancing ecosystems through habitat protection, water conservation, air quality improvement, low-impact development, high performance green building practices, addressing climate change and integrating the strategies from the Sustainability Strategic Plan. Both the Sustainability, Climate and Environment and Transportation Elements have policies to commit to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to reduce Kirkland's impact on climate change. The plan includes provisions that strive to ensure that a healthy, natural, and built environment remains available for current and future generations.
- The **Land Use Element** encourages more compact urban development and includes policies to enable housing production, and encourage mixed-use, transit-oriented,

walkable, and bikeable development connected to transit. The Plan includes policies to ensure a pattern of land use that accommodates growth and promotes a welcoming, connected, and sustainable community with ample housing and employment opportunities.

- The **Housing Element** establishes policies to support more diverse and affordable housing during this planning period. The Housing Element is revised to be consistent with new State law and commits to expanding housing production for all income levels and housing types, including middle housing, and permanent supportive housing to meet the diverse needs of both current and future residents.
- The **Economic Development Element** links community economic health with land use and growth policies, supports a sustainable, resilient, and environmentally friendly economy, supports diverse businesses, living wage jobs, and partnerships for education and job training.
- The **Transportation Element** advances cleaner and more sustainable mobility options with provisions for complete streets that include multimodal improvements and streets integrated with low impact, green, context-sensitive design. The City supports multimodal programs and strategies that advance alternatives to driving alone. Transportation planning is coordinated with neighboring jurisdictions through the Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond transportation forecast model and connections to the regional bike, pedestrian, and transit system.
- The **Public Services, Utilities, and Capital Facilities Elements** ensure infrastructure and services that support existing and future residents and businesses.
- The **Human Services Element** has goals to support organizations and programs that provide for those in need, youth, seniors, people experiencing homelessness, permanent supportive housing, and other social services.

Functional and Management Plans

Functional plans describe more detailed measures, technical specifications, and standards the implement the policies in Plan Elements. Functional plans are most commonly adopted as official City documents through a City Council adopted resolution.

Functional and Management Plans
City of Kirkland Fire Strategic Plan
City of Kirkland Police Strategic Plan

City of Kirkland Water System Plan
City of Kirkland General Sewer Plan
City of Kirkland Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
City of Kirkland Capital Improvement Programs
City of Kirkland Surface Water Strategic Plan
City of Kirkland Transportation Strategic Plan
City of Kirkland Active Transportation Plan
Totem Lake Urban Center Enhancement and Multimodal Transportation Network Plan
City of Kirkland Cross Kirkland Master Plan
City of Kirkland Safer Routes to School Action Plans
City of Kirkland Vision Zero Action Plan
City of Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan
City of Kirkland Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan
City of Kirkland Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan
City of Kirkland Electric Vehicle Strategic Plan
City of Kirkland Smart City Strategic Plan
City of Kirkland Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Five Year Road Map
City of Kirkland Sustainability Strategic Plan
City of Kirkland Commute Trip Reduction Basic Plan
City of Kirkland Natural Resource Management Plan
City of Kirkland Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan
City of Kirkland Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
City of Kirkland Downtown Strategic Plan
City of Kirkland Housing Strategy Plan

City of Kirkland Climate Protection Action Plan
City of Kirkland Shoreline Master Program
King County Solid Waste Division Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
Northshore Utility District Comprehensive Water Plan
Northshore Utility District Sewer and Water Plan
Woodinville Water District Plan
Lake Washington School District Capital Facilities Plan

Revised Figure 1-7 Functional and Management Plans

Neighborhood Plans and Subarea Plans

The Neighborhood Plans and Subarea Plans allow for a more detailed examination of issues affecting smaller geographic areas within the City and clarify how broader City goals and policies in the Citywide Elements apply to each neighborhood. See Figure I-4 for the name, location and boundary of each neighborhood.

Each Neighborhood Plan or Subarea Plan must be consistent with the Citywide Elements. The 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update includes revisions to the neighborhood plans to ensure consistency with the Citywide elements, the City’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging- (DEIB) goals, and development regulations. Neighborhood-specific historical documentation in each neighborhood plan was relocated or reduced to create a citywide Kirkland History document as an Appendix for this 2044 Plan. After Plan adoption in 2024, neighborhood plans will be updated during each 10-year State periodic review cycle (or with Plan annual amendments if warranted).

The Neighborhood Plans and Subarea Plans contain policy statements and narrative discussion, as well as a series of maps. The maps describe land use, natural environment elements, pedestrian and bicycle systems, vehicular circulation, urban design, and other graphic representations. In the event of a discrepancy between the neighborhood land use map and the narrative, the land use map will provide more explicit policy direction.

Note: Will update this map to remove figure number and draft with final

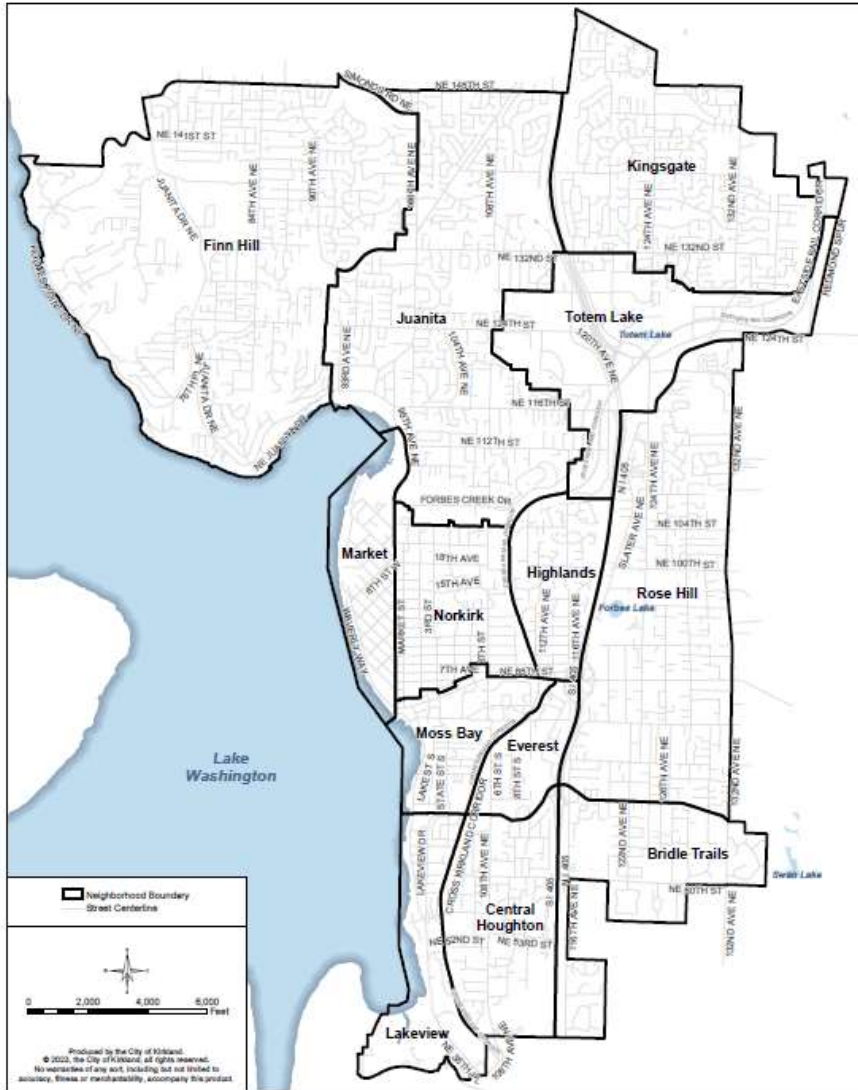


Figure I-11: City of Kirkland Neighborhoods

DRAFT

Figure I-8: Kirkland Neighborhoods Map

H. Citywide General Goals and Policies

The following General goals and policies guide how the Comprehensive Plan goals and policies are implemented:

Intergovernmental Coordination and Consistency

Goal GP-1: Cooperate and coordinate with all levels of government, agencies, and federally recognized Tribes to achieve equitable, effective, efficient, and responsive governance for Kirkland's community.

Policy GP-1.1: Maintain updates to the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations in conformance with GMA requirements and other legislation, VISION 2050, and the Countywide Planning Policies for King County.

Policy GP-1.2: Work with adjacent jurisdictions, other governmental agencies, and Tribes to coordinate planning activities, development decisions, and in planning for issues of common regional or subregional interest such as affordable housing, responses to homelessness, human services, transportation, and sustainability efforts.

Policy GP-1.3: Communicate Kirkland's land use policies and regulations to the King County Assessor's Office in order to ensure that assessment decisions do not conflict with land use decisions.

Policy GP-1.4: Integrate innovative and resilient smart technology across all City operations, to support citywide goals.



Comprehensive Plan Update Community Engagement Event

Equitable, Inclusive, Welcoming, Sustainable Community

Goal GP-2: Support diversity at all levels of City government and in the community by encouraging awareness, acknowledgement and intentional decision making, and by being inclusive of the entire populace.

Policy GP-2.1: Engage the diverse populations within Kirkland to create an inclusive community where people of all backgrounds are welcome.

Goal GP-3: Foster a City government and a community free of discrimination and committed to justice and social equity.

Policy GP-3.1: Work to achieve a community where everyone is treated with respect and everyone can thrive in Kirkland.

Policy GP-3.2: Prioritize services and access to opportunity for people of color, people with low incomes, and historically underserved communities to ensure all people can attain the resources and opportunities to improve quality of life and address past inequities.

Goal GP-4: Promote equitable and inclusive, community participation in all levels of planning decisions.

Policy GP-4.1: Foster public participation in all long range planning processes and provide tools to community members to enable them to understand and learn more about development projects in the City.

Policy GP-4.2: Utilize a broad range of public involvement techniques, community forums and communications to ensure that opportunities exist for all public views to be considered.

Policy GP-4.3: Work closely with community groups, neighborhood associations, business organizations, non-profits, and service clubs, while seeking input and elevating the voices of historically underrepresented people.

Policy GP-4.4: Encourage active community participation in the planning and design of public facilities, recognizing that these are city-wide resources.

Sense of Community

Goal GP-5: Enhance Kirkland's strong sense of community.

Policy GP-5.1: Support diversity in our population and welcome new community members of all backgrounds to Kirkland.

Policy GP-5.2: Establish partnerships with service providers throughout the community to meet the city's cultural, educational, economic, and social needs.

Policy GP-5.3: Support formal and informal community organizations.

Policy GP-5.4: Encourage and develop places and events throughout the community where people can gather and interact.

Policy GP-5.5: Create a supportive environment for art, historical preservation, and cultural activities.



City Hall on Wheels Event with Sustainability Ambassadors

E. Key Themes for 2044 Comprehensive Plan update

DEIB Focus

With the 2044 Plan update, the Comprehensive Plan text, goals and policies were revised using an equity and inclusion lens to reflect the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) goals. Several resources were used as guides for this work. An Equity Review Report prepared by EcoNorthwest (October 2022) provided an equity gap analysis of

the existing Comprehensive Plan and made recommendations for text and policy changes that reflect a more inclusive intent. The adopted Kirkland Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Five-Year Roadmap (2022), the K2044 community engagement plan prepared by Broadview Planning (2022), as well as State, Regional, and Countywide equity and inclusion planning policies were also used as guides.

Key Themes

The following graphic summarizes key themes that were prioritized in the update process and are interwoven into the 2044 Plan.



Figure I-9 Themes for 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update

F. Equitable and Inclusive Community Outreach and Engagement

The Comprehensive Plan is based on community input and should continue to reflect the priorities and values of people who live, work, play, and learn in Kirkland, as well as people who might want to live in Kirkland but don't yet.

It is critical that the public be involved in the early stages of the planning process, particularly in the development and adoption of the City's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations. The goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan, standards and requirements in the zoning and subdivision regulations, and shoreline master program provide the basis for individual review of development applications or the construction of public facilities. Community input is considered when establishing community-wide standards for development so that individual projects can proceed according to our established Vision and to help the City meet its housing, economic development, and other community goals.

Historically, our planning processes and decisions have privileged some voices over others. As a result, many planning processes fail to adequately consider the perspectives of marginalized or underrepresented communities that are often most impacted by planning decisions.

East King County and Kirkland are undergoing rapid demographic changes. In order to incorporate the strengths that a diverse population offers, the City engages residents of all ages, socioeconomic statuses, and racial and ethnic groups and faith traditions, and encourages partnerships among them, the City, businesses, schools, faith groups, civic organizations and human service providers. The City should continue to strive to increase participation in City programs, initiatives and activities among its diverse populations.

For the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update, an extensive, equity-centered community engagement process was implemented to support the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals with a motto "*You Belong Here: Sustainable – Connected - Welcoming*".

A Community Engagement Plan was prepared for the 2044 Comprehensive Plan update (Broadview Planning, October 2022). Key strategies were to increase participation from "priority populations," reach people who want to live in Kirkland but can't, help people understand the role of government in their lives, strengthen relationships between the City and community, and encourage those who have not participated in past update processes to be involved.

Community engagement strategies emphasized reaching the following priority populations:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC);
- People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual plus (LGBTQIA+);
- Seniors;
- Low-income households;
- People experiencing homelessness;

- Youth;
- Renters;
- People with disabilities or accessibility challenges; and
- Immigrant communities and people facing language barriers.

Kirkland utilizes a number of techniques and procedures to ensure a wide range of participatory public involvement. The City should continually look for innovative techniques as appropriate to ensure strong public involvement. Some examples that are being used today and should continue are:

- Mailing, email announcements, including use of listservs, and posting of notices to parties that may be affected by planning decisions;
- Notifying neighborhood, condominium and business associations, interested organizations and affected agencies;
- Creating and maintaining web and social media sites that provide information about plans and projects;
- Offering interactive virtual or web forums and other opportunities beyond traditional public meetings and community organizations;
- Hosting neighborhood meetings by applicants for development permits early in the process;
- Having community advisory commissions and focus groups to oversee the planning process;
- Using a broad range of media to inform residents and businesses of planning activities, including the This Week in Kirkland electronic newsletter, business listservs, videos, and podcasts;
- Having tables at farmer's markets, business events and neighborhood association events;
- Holding public workshops, open houses, community conversations and discussion focus groups;
- Conducting online surveys, allowing for email or written online comments, translated materials into different languages; and
- Providing opportunities for reconsideration or appeal of City decisions.



Figure 1-10 Public Informational Handouts In Several Languages

H. Environmental Review

Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) consistent with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) have been prepared for each of the past Comprehensive Plan updates, and included analyses of growth alternatives and impacts on a variety of topics. The 2015 Comprehensive Plan update also included a Planned Action EIS for Totem Lake. The NE 85th Street Station Area Plan Supplemental EIS was prepared in 2022.

For the 2044 Comprehensive Plan update, a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) was prepared building on the previous EIS's. The SEIS evaluated two alternatives: the No Action Alternative (a continuation of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan) and a Growth Alternative. The Growth Alternative studies greater residential and commercial density along transit corridors, in select commercial centers, Community Amendment Requests for land use changes, and implementation of policies and regulations to encourage the production of affordable housing citywide. The Growth Alternative analyzed implementation together with future multimodal improvements identified in the update to Kirkland's Transportation Strategic Plan and Transportation Element. Both alternatives studied accommodating Kirkland's assigned growth targets for 2044. A draft and final SEIS were issued in 2024.

I. Implementing the Plan

The City's legislative and administrative actions and decisions must be in compliance with the adopted Plan. To accomplish these actions and decisions, a number of tasks need to be completed. The Implementation Strategies noted in Chapter XIV list those steps. As the City updates the plan, the Zoning Map and development regulations may need to be revised to be consistent with, and implement, the Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is the policy basis for the development regulations. The goals and policies in the Plan themselves are not regulatory but are general guiding principles. Development regulations are the tools to be used in reviewing development applications and must be consistent with the Plan. In instances when the regulations appear to be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the regulations shall govern. However, any inconsistencies must be resolved either by amending the regulations or revising the Plan.

If there are conflicts or inconsistencies between the general Comprehensive Plan Elements (e.g., Land Use, Housing, Transportation) and a neighborhood plan, the general Plan Element goals and policies apply.

Along with development regulations, the City may use the Comprehensive Plan as the policy basis for decisions and determinations under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Even so, the City has sought to integrate SEPA into the zoning permit review process as much as possible.

The Comprehensive Plan is also used to guide the City in developing various functional plans, programs, and funding priorities.

J. Plan Amendment Process

The Growth Management Act specifies that the Comprehensive Plan may only be amended once a year, except for certain actions listed in Section 365-196-640 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), including amendments to the Capital Facilities Element that are part of adoption of the City budget. Amendments are to be considered concurrently so that the cumulative effect of the various proposals can be ascertained. The intent of this requirement is to ensure that piecemeal or individual amendments do not erode the integrity of the Plan and are integrated and consistent with the balance of the Plan.

The City generally reviews the Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis. Revisions are made to the Transportation and Capital Facilities Elements to update information and projects based on the City's Capital Improvement Program, and to all of the elements in response to amendments to the Growth Management Act and other State legislation or Countywide planning policies. Amendments are also made to correct any inconsistencies in the plan, to reflect any recently adopted functional plans, and to update general information.

The Kirkland Planning Commission is an advisory board appointed by the City Council that advises the City Council on matters relating to the Comprehensive Plan and land use regulations. The Commission takes the lead role for reviewing plan and code amendments and is responsible for conducting study sessions, the public hearing, and then transmitting a recommendation to the City Council. The Transportation Commission and Park Board also may

take public comment on amendment proposals and transmit recommendations to the Planning Commission and to the City Council.

Amendments are initiated in several ways: by the City or by a community member, business, neighborhood, or community group. A formal Community Amendment Request (CAR) process to amend the plan, consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act, has been established. The Zoning Code contains evaluation criteria and establishes the process for reviewing and deciding upon an amendment proposal. The process includes opportunities for public involvement and community participation.

The City amends the neighborhood plans and business district plans generally with each periodic Comprehensive Plan update or more frequently as needed given City Council priorities.

K. About Kirkland

An update to the Community Profile was completed in 2024 and includes relevant Kirkland data about demographics, housing, economics, land use and capacity (See Appendix ___). Below is a summary of key facts about Kirkland. This data was compiled from a variety of sources, including the American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau, Washington State Office of Financial Management, Puget Sound Regional Council, ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing), King County and the City of Kirkland Finance and Administration Department.



Figure I-11 Quick Facts About Kirkland From Community Profile

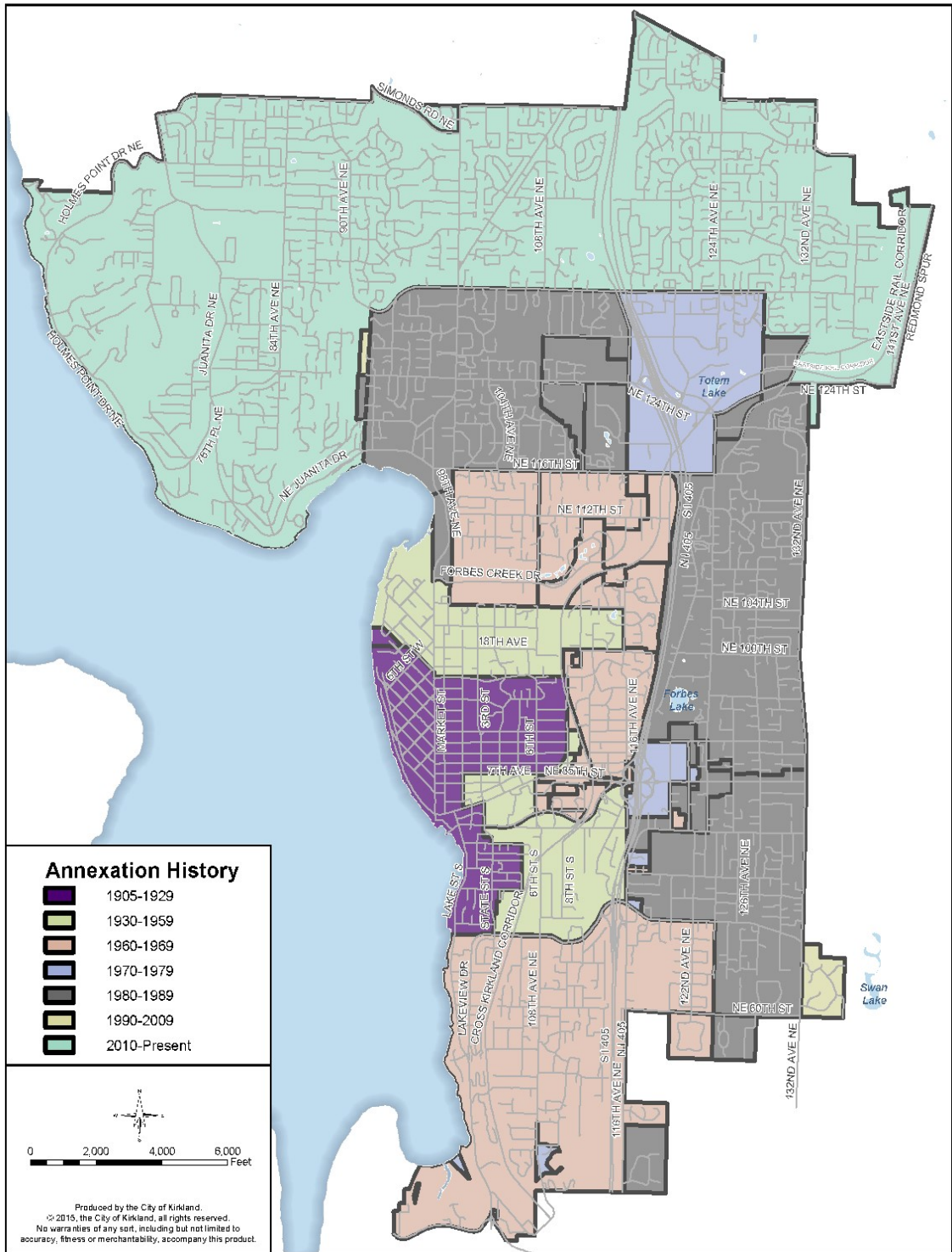


Figure I-12: City of Kirkland Historical Annexation Areas

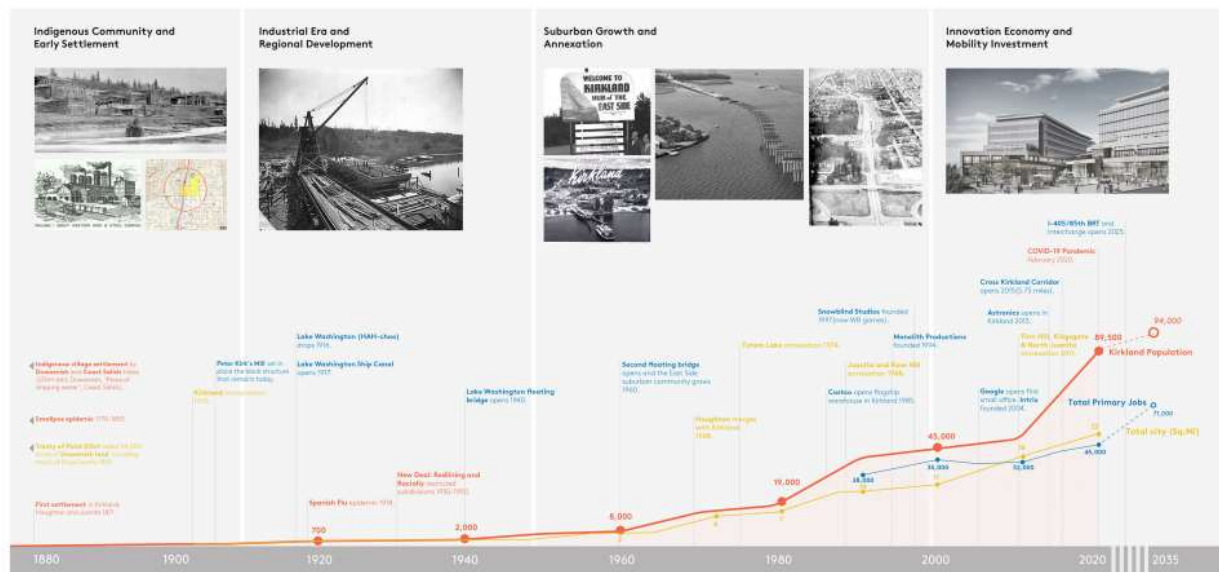


Figure I-13 Historical timeline of Kirkland (Source: NE 85th Street Station Area Plan)

L. Historical Perspective About Kirkland

Kirkland's Indigenous First People

The original inhabitants of the eastern shore of Lake Washington were the people of the Duwamish Tribe. The tribe called Tahb-tah-byook lived in as many as seven permanent longhouses between Yarrow Bay and Juanita Bay and at a village near Juanita Creek. Lake Washington and its environment provided a bounty of fish, mammals, waterfowl and plants. Small pox, brought by fur traders in the 1830s, eliminated much of the Native American civilization. However, survivors and their descendants continued to return to Lake Washington until 1916 when the lake was lowered for building the Ship Canal which destroyed many of their food sources. The salmon spawning beds in the marshes dried out and the mammal population, dependent on salmon for food, died off. With most of their food sources gone, the Native American population in Kirkland declined dramatically.

Early European Settlers

The first Euro-American settlers in what is now Kirkland arrived at Pleasant (Yarrow) Bay and Juanita Bay in the late 1860s. By the early 1880s, additional homesteaders had settled on the shore of Lake Washington between these two bays. Inland growth was slow because the land beyond the shoreline was densely forested and few decent roads for overland travel existed. By 1888 the population along the shoreline between Houghton and Juanita Bay was approximately 200. The settlement at Pleasant Bay was renamed Houghton in 1880 in honor of Mr. and Mrs. William Houghton of Boston, who donated a bell to the community's first church.

More information about the history of Kirkland can be found in Appendix X and the Land Use Element, including preservation of historic structures and places, past racial exclusion practices, restrictive covenants, exclusionary zoning, and how they affected the history of people and development of Kirkland.