

KIRKLAND 2044 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Land Use Element

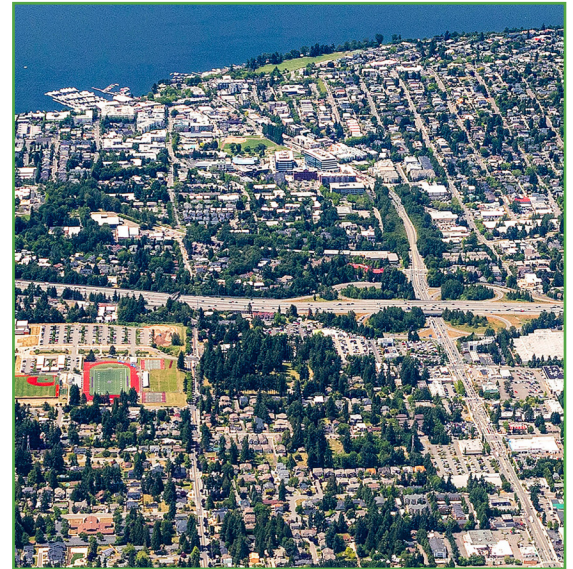
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What does the Land Use Element do?

The Land Use Element in our Comprehensive Plan guides future growth in Kirkland and helps establish the appropriate locations where certain types of development and open space preservation should be located. Kirkland exists within a larger region and the decisions that we make about how much housing can be built and where jobs are located (two topics addressed in the Land Use Element) have implications elsewhere. While Kirkland has historically been a primarily residential place where people commute to other places for work, that is rapidly changing as Kirkland, and the Eastside in general, has become a major employment center.

In Kirkland's Comprehensive Plan, the Land Use Element policies promote:

- Addressing regional population and employment targets and needs
- Community growth and redevelopment in an orderly and balanced manner
- Equitable access to jobs, housing, services, parks, and economic opportunity
- The protection of Kirkland's natural environment and resources
- Open spaces that are connected and utilized by people and wildlife
- The development of government, public, and community facilities



Kirkland Today!

- 17.81 square miles
- More than 50% of the land area in the City is Low-density Residential land uses
- ≈ 60% of our housing today are single-family homes
- 92,107 residents, 39,594 housing units, and 49,280 jobs
- 9.5 miles of Lake Washington shoreline (≈43% of our shoreline area is Parks or Open Space!)

Sources: WA State Office of Financial Management (July 2021); 2016-2020 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; 2021 King County Urban Growth Capacity Report (Buildable Lands Report); and King County Countywide Planning Policies

Did you know?

Per the WA State Growth Management Act, the City must provide capacity for 13,200 more housing units and 26,490 more jobs than exist in Kirkland today under our 2044 Comprehensive Plan?



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Planning for the Future

Important Land Use Topics for our Kirkland 2044 Update

Kirkland is a rapidly growing community with much-loved open spaces, a vibrant Downtown and other urban centers, and improving transit and bike access. Although Kirkland is an immensely livable place, job growth in the region has led to escalating housing costs and increased commutes for community members who can no longer afford to live in Kirkland. The primary challenge in the Land Use Element will be designing future growth in a way that keeps and improves what people already love about Kirkland, but provides additional opportunities for new housing and jobs that are well connected to the region. Other key issues and questions the Land Use Element will address include:

- **10-minute neighborhoods.** 10-minute neighborhoods are places where you can live while accessing goods and services easily without having to get in a car. What are ways to build more 10-minute neighborhoods in Kirkland?
- **Housing choice.** Where should the capacity for housing be increased so that more of it can be built, helping address the housing affordability crisis?
- **Lake and open space access.** Lake Washington is a major recreational and natural amenity in Kirkland, and as the City's population grows, more people desire access to the lake to relax and play. Are there ways to guide private development in a way that provides more people access to the lake and other open spaces?
- **Connecting Land Use and Transportation.** What development patterns could provide more opportunities for jobs and housing while reducing reliance on transportation modes that create traffic?

Land Use Survey



To submit comments or ask a question contact
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