

# Report Out - Takeaways & Common Themes

## What do you love about Kirkland now that you think should persist 20 years into the future?



## In 20 years, how do you imagine Kirkland will change?



## What challenges do you think Kirkland will face over the next 20 years?



## What ideas do you have for opportunities and strategies we can employ to address these challenges?



## How can we improve the City's vision statement?

Energy to go to next-step as community. Let's start to discuss the performance measures to track if we are making progress towards Vision

Better define "Green"

Add: places to gather (more specific than existing statement)

Add: **public safety** component

Add: statement on **fiscal responsibility**

Add: being a **leader** in the region/state/nationally

# Breakout Group #1 Community Comments

## What do you love about Kirkland now that you think should persist 20 years into the future?

- Efficient Transit (no car)
- Libraries
- Abundant Housing
- Downtown; keep low-rise
- Walkable parts of the City
- Parks
- CKC, possibly more development like coffee shops
- Business Partnerships
- Inclusive and involving people in the processes
- Lightrail or trolley

## In 20 years, how do you imagine Kirkland will change?

- Question on how climate change will impact the city.
- More dense
- Open spaces, public spaces (like Park Lane)
- Abundant housing
- People who work here, live here (affordability)
- Amenities due to increased businesses
- More inclusive
- More parks and community centers
- More pressure on resources: parks, pools, events
- Change in demographics (possibly younger people)
- More expensive

## What challenges do you think Kirkland will face over the next 20 years?

- Climate change, stress to trees and environment, water resources
- Expand educational opportunities
- Affordable meeting rooms for non-profits and small businesses
- Increased population
- Income disparity; limited people in service industry
- Dependent on automobiles; more transit opportunities
- Affordable office space for non-profits
- Manage traffic
- Workforce training; job training back in high schools
- Wide range of business spaces in places like Kirkland Urban
- Pedestrian and bike safety; crosswalks
- Retain small business; attract
- We are a consumer based society, get away from that

## What ideas do you have for opportunities and strategies we can employ to address these challenges?

- Contraception and education for family planning; population control
- Climate change: city do more with PSA for solar energy, and Seattle water conservation
- Reduce consumer spending
- Amend City zoning laws to allow for percentage of homes are left affordable.
- Add a trolley to main areas
- Housing first approach to mental health (low barrier to accessing homes, don't kick them out)
- Business retn subsidies
- Encourage buying local, less online shopping
- Wide variety of abundant housing. All types and sizes. Work force housing.
- Invest in mental health and homeless
- More support for better mental health; partner with health care/behavioral health
- Add an income tax
- Build low-income housing

# Breakout Group #2 Community Comments

Ability to give input/civic engagement

access to open spaces, CKC, Parks, Green spaces

Kirkland is livable and walkable

**What do you love about Kirkland now that you think should persist 20 years into the future?**

waterfront access

feel safe in kirkland

smaller /narrower streets

protected, separated bike facilities for all of Kirkland

denser, more business traffic

change in detached accessory units without impacting greenspaces

**In 20 years, how do you imagine Kirkland will change?**

more people = more density & multimodal transportation

even more welcoming to all groups

ability to age in place

pave and light the CKC

Move towards electrification, less gas vehicles/equipment

information/education of the first peoples

green loop around finn hill completed

balance between density and commercial, to keep 'kirkland'

Keeping a Kirkland 'small town' feeling

not a company town

**What challenges do you think Kirkland will face over the next 20 years?**

who isn't at the table

keeping public engaged, not surprising the public, getting their input

working towards being less car-centric

better transit options

biking

increase diversity at city events

CLIMATE CRISIS - being resilient

mobility in the region

**What ideas do you have for opportunities and strategies we can employ to address these challenges?**

getting public to recognize they have a say in the future

focus on implementing the 10 minute neighborhoods in underserved neighborhoods

get back to in person events

federal/state funding for climate crisis

street festivals, public events that people 'stumble upon' (retain small town feel)

not just summer months

opportunity for public engagement

finding avenues to help people attend city events, childcare, stipends, food

# Breakout Group #3 Community Comments

## What do you love about Kirkland now that you think should persist 20 years into the future?

love nature, high priority for maintaining a balance between development, people, and natural environment

sense of community and respect for each other

walkability

impressed with how the City governed and showcase for how local government can work

city is very responsive and appreciative of input from residents

great leadership in tackling the issues of today. covid, homeless

exceptional place to live

transit hubs to easily take the bus and get around not using a car

## In 20 years, how do you imagine Kirkland will change?

maintaining places to walk, waterfront, CKC

concerned that kirkland will lose downtown character, **look like every other suburban city**

communities and building to reflect a unique place - biking & busing

concept of form-based code as a method of developing cities - a lot about aesthetic and use

direct service to seattle - more expansive services

price itself out of where our kids and others can afford to live

best bird watching sites - maintaining this as a recreation form. Walk & Birdwatch

traffic will be worse

Experience of living here will change - want to prevent that

trails for golfcarts to get around on electric vehicles

smart growth - how to change and maintain the character and what is good about the place. in touch with values and environment. **Quality**

more pickleball courts

maintaining balance between natural environment & housing/density

lightrail!

don't want 5 story buildings with residential on top - expand walkability

create a vision that balances

## What challenges do you think Kirkland will face over the next 20 years?

climate change

watering grass at parks

having representatives that hold the line with balancing growth

balancing large development and increased traffic

growth compromising the quality of life

becoming too dense, even if we put thought into growth

safety & preparedness for emergencies & disasters

how do we keep developers from defining the way kirkland is in the future?

do we have enough people to keep up with city amenities?

not knowing what it will be like in 20 years - planning for resiliency

community outreach/involvement

kirkland is desirable and beautiful and will be a challenge - people want to live here. How do we balance progress with livability?

how do we convince leadership that having large companies move into the city is not the best solution to generate revenue/taxes

training money - what do residents need to do to keep what they love?

maintaining the balance

unknowns about our economy

## What ideas do you have for opportunities and strategies we can employ to address these challenges?

form based code

juanita has electrification in parking stalls

lots of old apartment buildings that aren't wired for electric vehicles

how do we equitably address climate change issues like providing electrification services in areas with lower economic vitality

totem lake gave Kirkland street cred

how are buildings with gas going to make that transition? how to incentivize building owners & not increase rent too much

lack of county support

changing systems over quickly to keep up with electrification

juanita, kingsgate - clustering decided before kirkland took them over

maintaining affordability

lack of robust transportation

problems with how transit serves Kirkland

how do we support our community to make those changes that are lower income?

# Breakout Group #4 Community Comments

## What do you love about Kirkland now that you think should persist 20 years into the future?

- City Council has been responsive (example keeping scale on waterfront)
- walkability
- access to the waterfront preserved as development occurs
- transit service (need more)
- great programs. Need more ways that people can access and hear about programs
- access to both DT and Juanita
- multi-generational community

## In 20 years, how do you imagine Kirkland will change?

- with population growth, density will significantly increase
- CKC should be both transit and multimodal corridor
- fewer cars, more bike and pedestrian corridors, shuttles and alternative transit
- incentives for developers to provide more housing options
- expanding high-paying industries may exacerbate housing affordability
- missing middle housing
- amenities should be more diverse
- services should be sustainable without overtaxing
- more communal areas for dogs, particularly with smaller housing, not just housing and transportation
- GHG emissions down
- amenities that serve quality of life
- housing affordability may still be an issue (particularly with service industries)

## What challenges do you think Kirkland will face over the next 20 years?

- affordability, particularly with property taxes
- raising temperatures and access to relief
- political tensions
- traffic
- how to serve the most people in the best way
- prioritization and funding to make the community affordable with all the amenities that everyone wants
- Loss of trees (through development and climate related events)

## What ideas do you have for opportunities and strategies we can employ to address these challenges?

- engage more people in the discussion process (well defined participation process) - meet people where they are, more info to work from, diverse views
- confidence when knowing when people share info that they will be heard
- engagement in person (even face to face virtually) is usually more civil than strictly on-line social media type of communication
- Communication example - linear parks
- more opportunity to receive federal funds, also directly to residents for climate resiliency (for example)
- more sidewalks and bike lanes/ paths (all ages facilities)
- make systems more efficient / less onerous (such as permitting)
- point to point shuttle
- better street lighting
- shuttles, alternative transit
- gathering opportunities year round (keep bathrooms open all year)
- staying firm with developers such as with affordable housing, amenities such as trails and green spaces (need to support infrastructure)
- more charging stations

# Breakout Group #5 Community Comments

Walkability/Ease of movement around the City

Unique neighborhoods anchored by a grocery store and small shops

Green space around the lake

**What do you love about Kirkland now that you think should persist 20 years into the future?**

Maintaining small town/community feel

Accessibility to parks/green space

Diversity of businesses and people

Great non-profits and community orgs

Less cars to get around

Connections to the region: Light rail to Kirkland

More progressive revenue collection system

Diversity of human-powered vehicles

**In 20 years, how do you imagine Kirkland will change?**

A diversity of people.

Concerned there won't be enough green space

Greater diversity of housing options

A lot more vertical growth to handle population increase

How do we transition from a car-dependent environment to a non-car dependent environment (i.e. biking, walking, public transit)?

How to incentivize social behaviors to make change happen?

Tax structure disproportionately impacts those with low income

**What challenges do you think Kirkland will face over the next 20 years?**

Kirkland is dependent on car dealerships; how will transitioning away from a car-centric Kirkland impact tax revenue?

Maintaining urban forest canopy and green space

Adapting social services and public safety to the needs of the community

Using parks/trails to enhance ecological value of the City

Impacts to wildlife; open space must be designed to provide value to wildlife

Listen to people that can't afford to live in Kirkland today or don't have the opportunity to live here

Don't overlook neighborhoods that aren't in the downtown (i.e. Kingsgate)

Hire an Economic Business Development Director

Regional connections of the CKC

**What ideas do you have for opportunities and strategies we can employ to address these challenges?**

Working with neighboring jurisdictions and different levels of government

Need someone at City level to encourage and support diversity of small businesses

Working with small and large businesses

Cross Kirkland Corridor; opportunities to utilize space along corridor (i.e. small parks and other programming)

Working with schools, churches, non-profits, community orgs, etc.

Intense experimentation on neighborhood pilot projects that could be expanded Citywide

# Breakout Group #6 Community Comments

Transit in Kirkland that takes you just about everywhere you want (but we still need more transit!)

Parks & Trails

Good Trees and Tree Canopy

**What do you love about Kirkland now that you think should persist 20 years into the future?**

Walkability and Bikeability. Can access just about everything you need walking or biking.

Intention to be a diverse and welcoming community (We've made progress, and we still have work to do!)

Possibly a sprawl of corporate campuses (want to avoid/should be balanced with needed housing)

Likely to become more expensive and more congested with less tree canopy.

Less car-centric infrastructure

Learning from the growing pains of other places

May not include many current residents, will likely be mostly new residents in 20 years

**In 20 years, how do you imagine Kirkland will change?**

If we don't plan for it, how might Kirkland change?  
-Bay Area  
-have to drive everywhere  
-awful place to be

More E-bikes!

Diversity will grow, we will be a minority-majority City

Zero-carbon (direct mitigation, zero carbon emissions, eliminate at source)

More connected green spaces

More creative housing: co-housing, shared resources

More clustered housing, more urban centers that support public transit (and preservation of existing green spaces)

Kirkland is zoned as if it will be a suburban, bedroom community. We need to pivot and allow more MF housing

Zoning focused on private property rights. Expectation of property rights.

Housing Affordability. In particular, meeting needs across the affordability spectrum.

Leveraging market rate housing development to meet affordable housing needs.

Housing. Need more and we have limited land (will have to go up).

**What challenges do you think Kirkland will face over the next 20 years?**

Getting folks to tap into creativity, and engage with planning processes, abandon the status quo.

Caution against taking too much feedback from people that live here now but might not in 20 years.

Challenge is we tend to be passive

Transportation

Climate Change

Reverse engineering multi-modal transit on our streets. We have to re-do streets and re-think car culture.

Costs of construction (how they relate to building affordable housing)

Preserving neighborhood character

Deciding what kind of housing we want!

To achieve our vision, there needs to be a cultural shift

Set aggressive goals

Have to be active and intentional to achieve our vision!

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

Reconsider what the ownership of private property means, and some type of reward for contribution to community goals/vision

Leverage pre-existing transit to build more housing with access to transit

Positive Vision. Look at examples of positive change.

**What ideas do you have for opportunities and strategies we can employ to address these challenges?**

Double down on Missing Middle Housing! We still haven't seen uptake on duplexes and triplexes

Car-free Downtown

Reduce Minimum Lot Sizes

Find ways to communicate a positive vision. EXAMPLE: Feriten Spur Park as a new great amenity embraced by community.

Rethink Transportation Corridors. Don't just amend.

Reinforce the idea of creative missing middle options. Co-housing; shared facilities; go beyond duplexes and triplexes!

Remove barriers to enable housing production

# Community Comments on the City's Vision Statement

The following pages show feedback we gathered on the City's existing Vision Statement. For this exercise, we asked community members to look at each individual part of the Vision Statement and consider the following questions:

- Are there changes we should make to the text?
- Can it be explained better?
- Are there parts that should be removed?
- Are there important points missing from the current statements?

The other side of this page points out how to read the following pages completed in each breakout room.

The smaller, red boxes show comments about that part of the existing Vision Statement

The large boxes show each part of the existing Vision Statement





# Breakout Group #1 Community Comments

Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America

For people of all income levels

Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued

Homeowners, retired people are the loudest voices. Listen to other demographics as well. Remove "rich".

Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city

We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future

We are respectful, fair, and inclusive

Most vocal influence City Council. Go to where other demographics are and get input.

"Proactively inclusive"

Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving

Convenient and accessible

Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving mixed use activity centers, schools, parks, and our scenic waterfront

We are a vibrant, attractive, green, and welcoming place to live, work, and play

Sustainable in addition to green

Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations

Natural and human environments. Not just strive but accomplish. "We are" Achievement

## Breakout Group #2 Community Comments

Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America

getting there but slowly

feel lucky to have bought in Kirkland before the price boom

too many people that work in Kirkland but can't live in Kirkland

Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued

i.e. Park Lane, can cause people to disengage

valued but not taken advantage of... \$\$

Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city

We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future

We are respectful, fair, and inclusive

what we say becomes action

Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving

going backwards

Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving mixed use activity centers, schools, parks, and our scenic waterfront

We are a vibrant, attractive, green, and welcoming place to live, work, and play

Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations

get sustainability out to community

more implementation of plans

# Breakout Group #3 Community Comments

Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America

too vague, and boastful

because...

too long, be more succinct, get to the core (1-2 words) for each subject?

does this vision statement really tell people what Kirkland is about if they are moving here?

Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued

living what we're discussing right now. desire for input from the City is above the norm

Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city

transit

is available the right word? this is a goal

We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future

different word than "rich". delete rich?

no statements about indigenous origins

rich heritage is really vague

want to look for a place where their family fits in and there is diversity

diversity, inclusivity

We are respectful, fair, and inclusive

Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving

Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving mixed use activity centers, schools, parks, and our scenic waterfront

love this

Kirkland is one of the most livable cities because it is...

We are a vibrant, attractive, green, and welcoming place to live, work, and play

Love this

model for sustainability

Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations

how are we going to create sustainability and making that our #1 goal for future generations

# Breakout Group #4 Community Comments

Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America

what do we mean by 'livable'? Such as criteria that they use in most 'livable cities'

public safety component (is this part of livability)

Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued

fiscally responsible

politically responsive

civic AND community engagement

Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city

We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future

We are respectful, fair, and inclusive

Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving

reduce negative impacts on the limited resources we have (less pollution, preservation of air and water, conservation)

Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving mixed use activity centers, schools, parks, and our scenic waterfront

We are a vibrant, attractive, green, and welcoming place to live, work, and play

Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations

# Breakout Group #5 Community Comments

Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America

Kirkland is a leader/model for smart growth in both the state and nationally

Kirkland will grow in a responsible way

Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued

Expand on how we ARE diverse

Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city

We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future

We are respectful, fair, and inclusive

Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving

Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving mixed use activity centers, schools, parks, and our scenic waterfront

Generalize to include all modes of future transportation

Include places and businesses to gather

Educational institutions change over time

We are a vibrant, attractive, green, and welcoming place to live, work, and play

Definition of 'green' needs to be expanded

Missing word 'sustainable'

Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations

# Breakout Group #6 Community Comments

Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America

We need to be clear about how this all knits together!

Include statement of how things in vision are prioritized. Clear statement of how policy follows.

Performance measures!

Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued

Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city

We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future

Agrees with other note that we can add more warmth to this statement

Reads as post-settlement/white heritage. We should address.

What does "rich heritage" mean? Is it Peter Kirk? Is it native heritage?

Talk about diverse population, and honor heritage of future residents

We are respectful, fair, and inclusive

These words don't completely capture what we mean in "WELCOMING". Welcoming is ACTIVE, inclusive can just mean letting someone in.

Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving

We should reverse that driving is a possible alternative to convenient transit.

Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving mixed use activity centers, schools, parks, and our scenic waterfront

We are a vibrant, attractive, green, and welcoming place to live, work, and play

Specific goal for tree canopy

Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations

Want to see a specific goal for a "Zero Carbon City by 2044"