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2044 Comprehensive Plan Update

Planning Commission

July 27, 2023



Agenda



- Upcoming community engagement
- Report back on City Council comments
 - Draft revised Vision Statement
 - Potential study issues and policy changes
- Next steps





Community Engagement



Upcoming activities 2023-2024



- Farmers markets booths
- City Hall for All event – fall 2023
- Economic Development engagement and outreach, focus group, surveys, business organizations - September-October 2023
- Seasonal tabling events
- Open houses/forums outreach with housing facilities, organizations
- Open Houses on draft Plan, study sessions, public hearing and other meetings with Planning Commission
- Coordination with Juanita and Kingsgate Neighborhood Plan updates



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Draft Vision Statement

Current Vision Statement 2015



Kirkland is one of the most livable cities in America. We are a vibrant, attractive, green and welcoming place to live, work and play. Civic engagement, innovation and diversity are highly valued. We are respectful, fair and inclusive. We honor our rich heritage while embracing the future. Safe, walkable, bikeable and friendly neighborhoods are connected to each other and to thriving mixed use activity centers, schools, parks and our scenic waterfront. Convenient transit service provides a viable alternative to driving. Diverse and affordable housing is available throughout the city. Kirkland strives to be a model, sustainable city that values preserving and enhancing our natural environment for our enjoyment and future generations.



Draft Vision Statement Themes



Draft revised Vision Statement



Kirkland is a vibrant, attractive, and welcoming place to live, work, play, and visit. Safe, walkable, bikeable, and friendly neighborhoods are 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. We honor our rich heritage, including the First People who have reserved treaty rights and have lived here for time immemorial, while embracing our future. We are dedicated to protecting, encouraging, and celebrating diversity and inclusion, and we combat systemic institutional racism and discrimination.

Kirkland has connected communities through dependable local and regional transit services, and extensive walk and bike routes. Jobs and housing are clustered around transit routes and trails creating a connected, equitable, and walkable 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.



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Study Issues Potential Policy Changes

Land Use Element-Council Comments



- More **prescriptive citywide affordable housing requirements** for income levels; requirements in low-density zones;
- Consider **social justice impacts of locating concentrations of high- density housing along transit corridors**
- **Improve vegetation and wildlife habitat** along Lake Washington; other natural areas;
- Incorporate new legislative requirements and **advocate** for middle housing, affordable housing, and climate change;
- **Expand the study area of the Parmac CAR to other parcels in Parmac south of NE 116th ST**
- **Study how to enable 10 min neighborhood concepts ½ mile around Bridle Trails Shopping Center**
- Balance of jobs to housing needs
- **Streamline permit review** to increase development of affordable housing and high- performance building
- Encourage **adaptive reuse of old office or retail buildings** (including self storage)



Housing Element-Council Comments



- Encourage more middle housing and **other types** in compliance with new State requirements
- **Require large homes to have ADU unit ready designs;**



Sustainability, Climate, Environment Element



- Incorporate sustainability and environment requirements from **SAP in rest of the city** (min. thresholds for high performance building etc)
- Add preserve and enhance tree canopy and other open spaces to reduce carbon emissions **into Parks Element**



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element



- Update the Level of Service (LOS) standards and **gap analysis per the 2022 PROS Plan**
- Add preserve and enhance tree canopy and other open spaces to **reduce carbon emissions into Parks Element**
- Include what the goals should be for **Green Kirkland restoration moving forward?**



Human Services Element



- **Add new policies to support mental health, drug addiction, community responders, homeless outreach (in Human Services or Public Services Element?) City or County provide?**



Economic Development Element



- **Study changing nature of home-based businesses** and potential code amendments to support a variety of home-based businesses, including sidewalk facing businesses (2023-2025 Planning Work Program);
- **Study future of workforce** (internet sales, housing, reuse of office space)



Community Character Element



- Incorporate recommendations from the Equity Review of the Comp Plan (prepared by ECONorthwest), such as:
 - Incorporate more accurate recounting of histories of discrimination and Kirkland Native History; and
 - Revise language to be more inclusive (see examples in Equity Review Report)
 - **While describing the recent history;**



Next Steps

- Land use capacity analysis underway
- Planning staff are revising Elements and general Chapters of Plan
- August – Juanita, Kingsgate Neighborhood Plan update process overview
- August- October Economic Development Element Engagement (Focus group recruitment, 2-3 meetings, surveys, tabling event)
- September 28- TMP update process overview
- October 25 joint meeting with TC/PC
- Environmental Analysis; likely SEPA Addendum
- Start cycle of briefings with PC to discuss draft policy changes to each Element



Discussion Questions?



- Thoughts about revised draft Vision Statement?
- City Council comments about study issues-policy changes?
- What questions do you have about the TMP for the October joint meeting with Transportation Commission



Land Use Element



- **More prescriptive** citywide affordable housing requirements for **income levels**; requirements in low-density zones;
- Policies to stimulate production of missing middle housing types;
- Consolidate low-density residential zones for more uniform development regulations in similar zones citywide;
- Potential density increases in existing neighborhood commercial-oriented sites, along transit corridors; CAR's **consider social justice impacts of locating concentration of high density housing along transit corridors**
- Introduce small-scale neighborhood commercial uses and/or home-based businesses in low-density residential neighborhoods;
- Explore appropriate uses and densities on sites such as the Houghton Village Shopping Center;
- Reduce and/or restructuring parking standards;
- Increase public access, **improve vegetation and wildlife habitat** along Lake Washington; other natural areas;
- Concepts that will enable Kirkland to become a more “Complete City” (*definition*)
- Incorporate new legislative requirements **and advocate** for middle housing, affordable housing, and climate change;
- Establish policies to mitigate restrictive covenants or homeowners association restrictions that may be contrary to City policies like encouraging ADUs and middle housing.
- **Study how to enable 10 min neighborhood concepts ½ mile around Bridle Trails Shopping Center**
- **Balance of jobs to housing needs**
- **Streamline permit review to increase development of affordable housing and high- performance building**
- **Expand Parmac CAR study area**

Housing Element



- Encourage more middle housing **and other types** in compliance with new State requirements;
- Reduce the number of residential zoning districts to encourage regulatory consistency citywide;
- Simplify development standards; incorporating Form-Based Code principles; increase predictability and encourage more development;
- Study how to encourage more housing near existing and planned future transit:
 - Compact development: medium to high density (anticipate return of transit-oriented development (TOD bill)) and upper middle housing (up to 12-unit multiplex);
 - Eliminating maximum densities (in terms of numbers of units per acre) in multifamily and mixed-use districts (i.e., densities would be governed by building envelopes);
- Study minimum densities for more efficient use of available land;
- Up-zone key residential areas (near transit and to build out 10-minute neighborhoods) to increase housing choices affordable to a wider range of incomes (mixed use/mixed income);
- Rezone or incentivize the redevelopment of religious organization-owned properties to increase affordable housing;
- Reduce parking requirements to reduce housing costs;
- Anticipate increased density with Community-Initiated Amendment Requests
- Study city-wide inclusionary zoning requirements; **require large homes to have ADU unit ready designs;**

Sustainability, Climate, Environment Element



- Analyze impacts on the electrical grid of policies moving the entire community towards electrification and elimination of the use of fossil fuels in homes, businesses and vehicles including public transit (electric buses);
- Encourage more intense water conservation measures that reduce the impact on our potable water supply and transitioning to black, grey and reclaimed water supplies for non – drinking water uses;
- Update policies for installing charging stations for electric vehicles at public facilities, parks, public rights-of-way (adjacent to sidewalks), along major transportation corridors, and near freeway entrances/exits;
- Update climate policies that promote mitigating impacts related to climate change (for example: higher temperatures and more heat days and wildfire smoke days) – required by current legislation;
- Update climate policies that make the community more resilient to climate change – required by current legislation.
- **Incorporate sustainability and environment requirements from SAP in rest of the city (min. thresholds for high performance building etc)**
- **Add preserve and enhance tree canopy and other open spaces to reduce carbon emissions into Parks Element**

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element



- Update policies to ensure consistency with relevant functional plans:
 - Update the Level of Service (LOS) standards and **gap analysis** per the 2022 PROS Plan
 - Update 10-year projects/facilities list per the 2022 PROS Plan and Capital Facilities Plan;
- Improve ADA accessibility at parks;
- Improve pedestrian/bicycle/transit connections to parks;
- Preserve and enhance the tree canopy;
- Increase the resiliency of the City's parks, open spaces, and natural areas to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing climate;
- Support equitable distribution of parks and recreation opportunities throughout the city.
- **Add preserve and enhance tree canopy and other open spaces to reduce carbon emissions into Parks Element**
- **Include what the goals should be for Green Kirkland restoration moving forward**



Human Services Element



- Update policies to ensure consistency with relevant plans;
- Encourage siting of childcare facilities (issue of affordability) – may also be addressed in the land use element;
- Encourage siting of grocery stores in areas that are lacking them – may also be addressed in the land use element;
- Supportive policies for affordable housing and housing for seniors that will be addressed in the housing element update.
- **Add new policies to support mental health, drug addiction, community responders, homeless outreach (in Human Services or Public Services Element?) City or County provide?**



Public Services Element

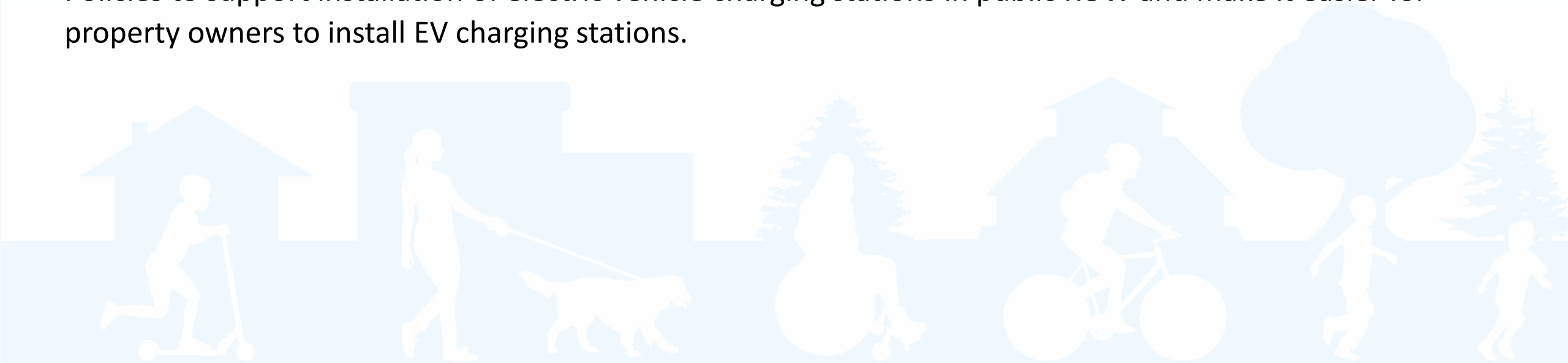


- Update policies to ensure consistency with relevant functional plans;
- Increasing public school capacity – 2022-2024 Planning work program includes working with the Lake Washington School District on increasing school capacity and related code amendments. For example:
 - Adopt an incentive zoning program that creates development bonuses for new development to provide school space;
 - Adopt development standards that can provide Lake Washington School District with more development capacity to build additional school space or workforce housing on current district-owned sites;
 - Remove potential development barriers in current regulations that might preclude siting of school facilities on private properties as part of mixed-use developments;
 - Encourage publicly-accessible rooftop or ground level recreational facilities on school properties
 - Conduct a Citywide assessment of zoning regulations to remove potential barriers to Lake Washington School District capacity projects on current district-owned sites and possible public/ private partnership sites.

Utilities Element



- Update policies to ensure consistency with relevant functional plans;
- Ensure consistency with the 2025 Comprehensive Water System Plan – if information is available during EIS & K2044 Comp Plan work;
- Strengthen water conservation policies regarding construction of new buildings and retrofitting of existing buildings;
- Consider the impacts of climate change and fisheries protection on the region’s water supply;
- Policies to support installation of electric vehicle charging stations in public ROW and make it easier for property owners to install EV charging stations.



Capital Facilities Element

- Update to incorporate long- range capital and transportation projects



Transportation Element



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The Transportation element updates will be informed by the City’s planning process to update the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) led by the Transportation Division and Transportation Commission. See the May 24, 2023, Transportation Commission meeting materials for more detail about the TMP update process.

<https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Commission-Transportation/TC-Meeting-Archive>



Economic Development Element



- Incorporate the City Manager’s Office Economic Development Strategic Action Plan goals and actions into the Element;
- Policies to support women and minority owned businesses and other diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging goals (incorporate Equity report by EcoNorthwest recommendations);
- Explore allowing small-scale commercial uses in residential neighborhoods (in tandem with Land Use Element);
- Consider zoning changes to allow light manufacturing in Downtown. Allow for “make” retail experiences which draw people to shop in person (jewelry making, coffee roasting, open kitchens, brewing, distilling, etc.);
- Restructure parking requirements for retail and change of use to reduce required stalls (designate downtown as a “mall”; allow accessing public city lots after hours, the library lot, etc.);
- Study changing nature of home-based businesses and potential code amendments to support a variety of home-based businesses, **including sidewalk facing businesses** (2023-2025 Planning Work Program);
- Study Zoning constraints to encourage and support urban farming.
- **Study future of workforce (internet sales, housing, reuse of office space)**

Community Character Element



- Incorporate recommendations from the Equity Review of the Comp Plan (prepared by ECONorthwest), such as:
 - Incorporate more accurate recounting of histories of discrimination and Kirkland Native History; and
 - Revise language to be more inclusive (see examples in Equity Review Report)
 - **While describing the recent history;**
- Explore renaming the element to more clearly reference the intent of the chapter;
- Identify ways to celebrate Native history and culture through landscape design and protection;
- Review historic preservation policies.

<https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/equity-review-report-kirkland-comprehensive-plan-econorthwest-final20221108.pdf>

