

## **Draft Updated Kingsgate Vision Statement**

The following vision statement is a description of the character and qualities of the Kingsgate Neighborhood at a future time when the goals and policy direction expressed in this neighborhood plan are realized.

Kingsgate is an inviting, age-inclusive neighborhood in which all people can grow up and grow old comfortably. The predominately residential neighborhood has a strong community feel. The neighborhood is composed of a community that prioritizes inclusivity, safety, and accessibility for residents of all ages, backgrounds, and income levels, fostering a cohesive and supportive environment for everyone. Kingsgate remains affordable for the existing residents while also providing a diverse mix of housing opportunities that meet the needs of the older population as well as future generations. Infill housing and additional density are concentrated along transit routes, near amenities, and where the most infrastructure exists to support it.

Kingsgate residents, employees, and visitors value the mixed-use neighborhood commercial center as a way to meet their retail, service, and housing needs. The Neighborhood Center is recognized as a central community gathering place. The dynamic, pedestrian-oriented commercial center is complemented by a nearby community center and public library that provide a place for public events, collective activities, and cultural celebrations. Future development of the Kingsgate Neighborhood Center has highlighted the interdependent relationship between the built environment and the natural environment. The community's intrinsic appreciation of nature is honored through creative, environment-focused design principles that shape the local living and working environments within the commercial center.

Improved and well-maintained parks and open space are distributed equitably throughout the neighborhood and offer a variety of spontaneous recreational opportunities. Trees are preserved and replaced as they are removed to encourage a healthy vegetative canopy throughout the neighborhood, connect greenbelt corridors, and support wildlife. Public and private partnerships provide access to greenspace within Kingsgate to be appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Extensive transportation networks for pedestrians, public transit, bicycles, wheelchairs, and vehicles allow everyone opportunities to walk, bike, and roll to destinations with ease. The networks prioritize safety and connect people to amenities, neighboring areas, and to the Cross Kirkland Corridor/Eastrail. Traffic is evenly distributed through well-planned road connections, with targeted traffic calming measures near schools and to address potential congestion. The neighborhood benefits from convenient, reliable and frequent transit services connecting community members internally, citywide and to regional transit networks.

### **Existing Kingsgate Vision Statement (adopted in 2015)**

Kingsgate's character is predominately low density residential with a small neighborhood feel. In addition to efforts in preserving affordable housing, varied housing choices help to expand housing opportunities for all residents within the neighborhood. Local residents value the Kingsgate mixed use commercial center as a way to meet their shopping and service needs and as a community gathering place. A community center and public library provide a place for public events and activities. Improved and well maintained parks in each part of the neighborhood offer a variety of recreational opportunities. Trees are preserved or replaced to provide a consistent vegetative canopy throughout the neighborhood, connect greenbelt corridors and support wildlife.

Transportation facilities for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians provide extensive access within the neighborhood, to other neighborhoods, and to the Cross Kirkland Corridor/Eastside Rail Corridor. These facilities include bike greenways with signage and markers along neighborhood roads parallel to major streets. Through road connections spread traffic evenly throughout the neighborhood. Traffic calming improvements on neighborhood streets are installed as needed to ensure safety near schools, and to minimize "by-pass" traffic due to congestion along the I-405 corridor. Transit service provides frequent bus service within the neighborhood and to the rest of the City.