

2044 Comprehensive Plan Update

Introduction Chapter I – Revised draft 9/24/2024



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

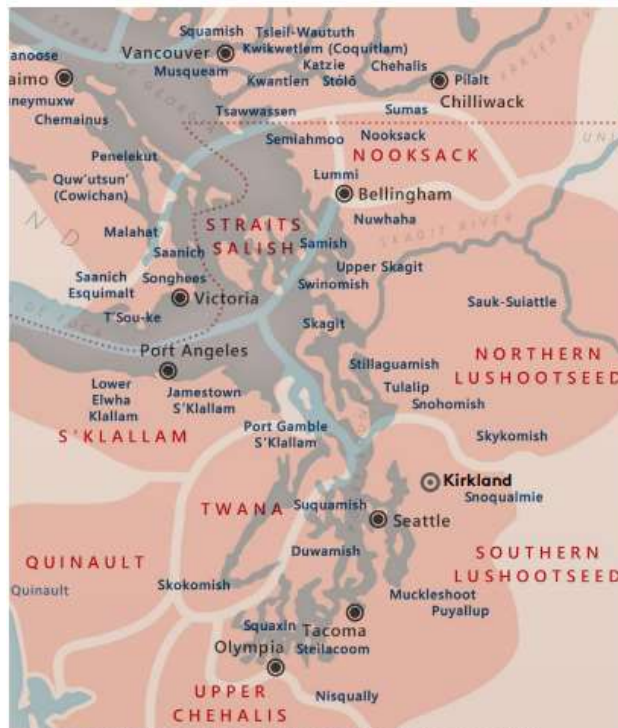


Image Source: LandLines Map, Burke Museum, USGS Topographic Map; Seattle quadrangle, 1906

Figure I-1 Regional 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 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 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; citywide General goals and policies; and how the Plan is implemented. Most importantly, this chapter contains the city's Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for the year 2044.

B. About Kirkland

In 2024, an update to the Community Profile was completed that includes relevant Kirkland data about demographics, housing, economics, land use and capacity. 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. History of Kirkland document was also completed. The Community Profile and History of Kirkland documents are available in Appendix.



Figure I-2 Quick Facts About Kirkland From Community Profile

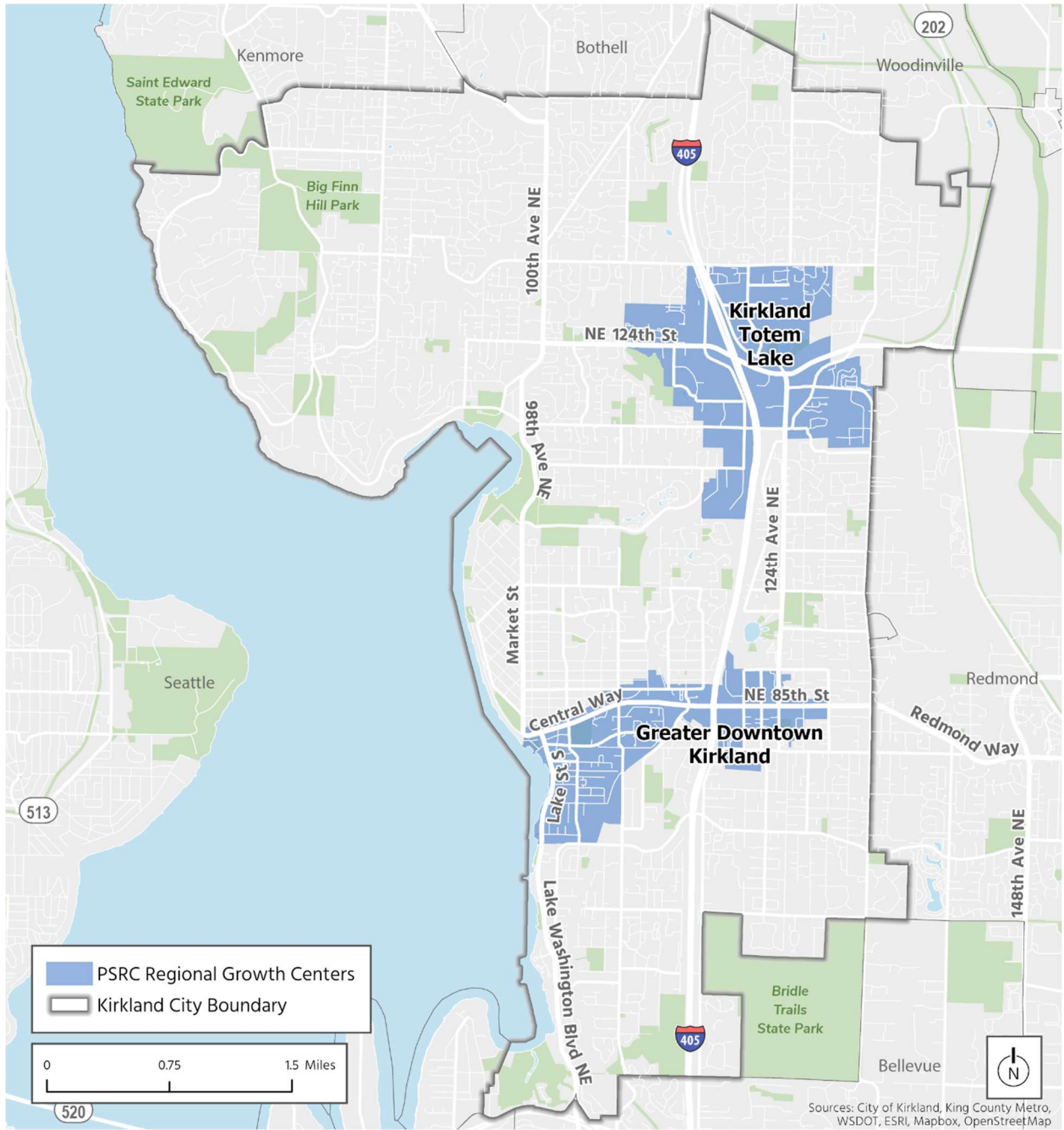


Figure I-3 Kirkland and Surrounding Area

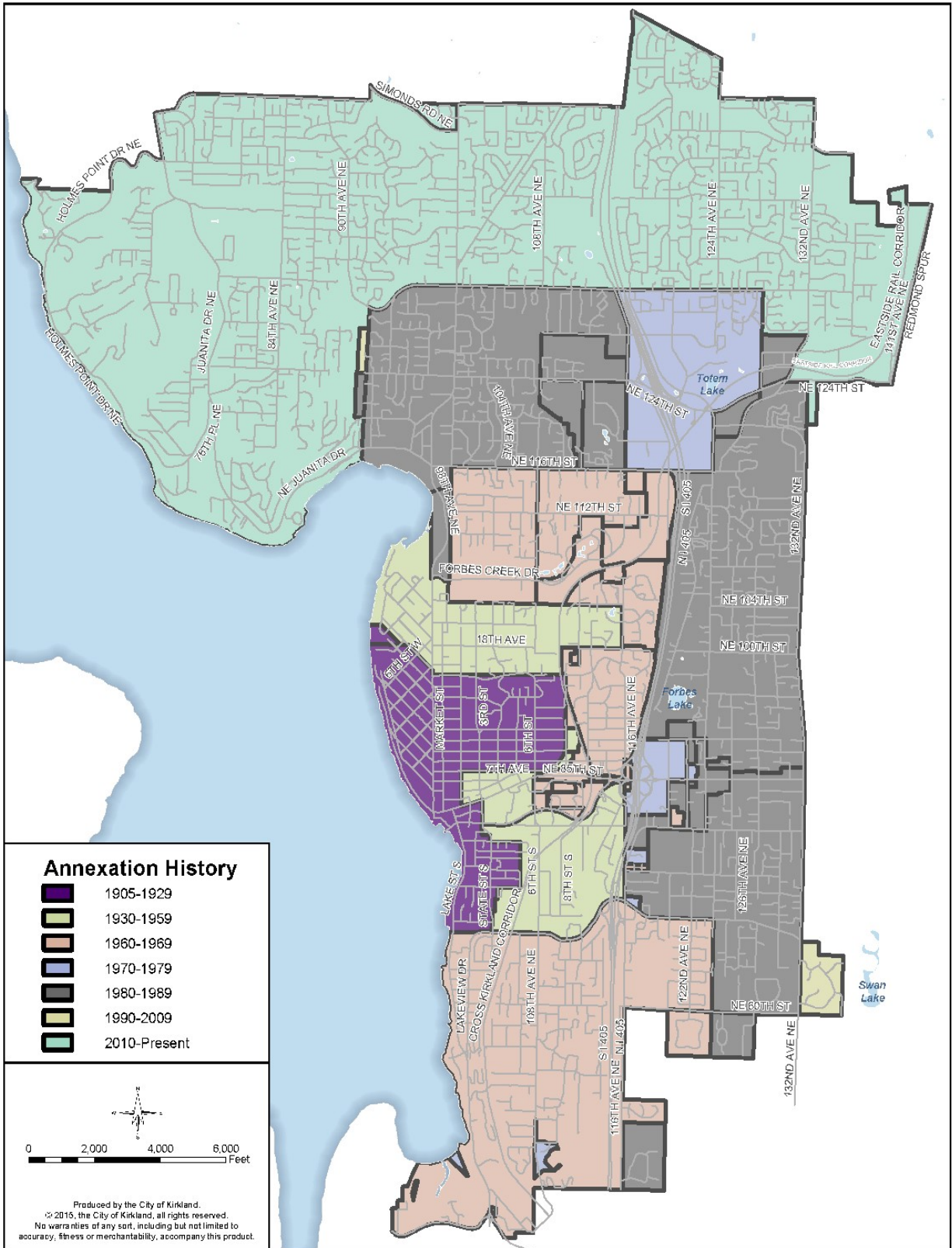


Figure I-4: City of Kirkland Historical Annexation Areas

C. 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. Prior to this 2044 Plan, the Plan was last updated in 2015 to plan for the year 2035.



Figure I-5 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 Comprehensive 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.

In addition, all elements of the Comprehensive Plan must be internally consistent with each other.



Figure I-6 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 planning activities encompassing land use, housing, transportation (traffic modeling, transit, and commute trip reduction), and human services.

The City coordinates with affected agencies and 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.

D. Guide to the Comprehensive Plan

The 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.

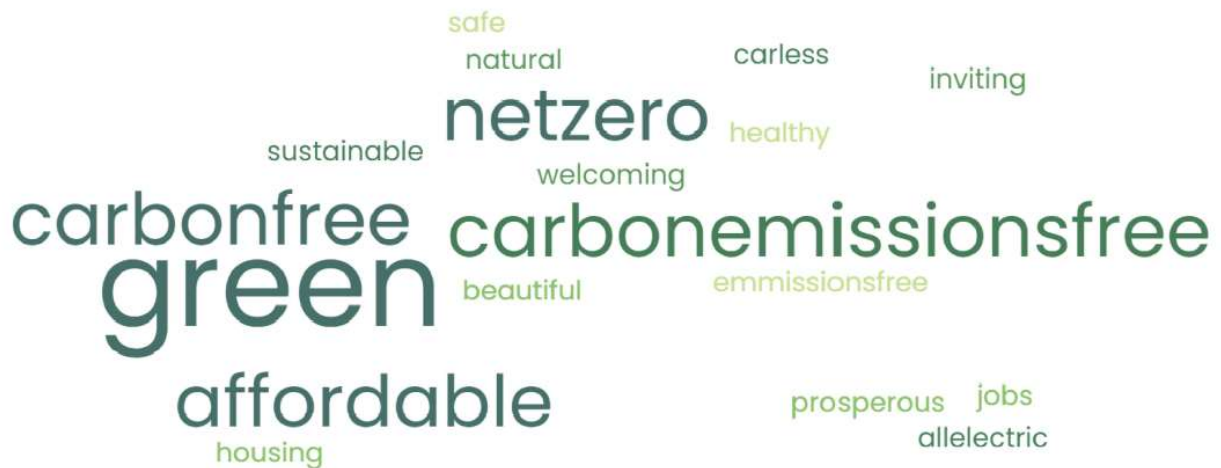


Figure I-7: Word Cloud From Participants at the 2023 Visioning Event

Vision Statement

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 is a place where all people are valued. The city is dedicated to celebrating diversity and inclusion while combating racism and discrimination.

Kirkland is accessible for people of all abilities to walk, bike, roll, utilize transit services, and new innovative modes of travel. Diverse housing accommodates residents in every stage of life and is accessible to shops, services, and job opportunities citywide.

Kirkland is innovative and economically resilient, providing public services and capital infrastructure that accommodates growth.

Kirkland is a sustainable city that preserves and enhances our natural and built environment for current and future generations. Kirkland is 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 Plan. They are based on the aspirations and values embodied in the Vision Statement.

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 that connect housing, jobs, and services, parks, schools, and the region.

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

Overview of 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.

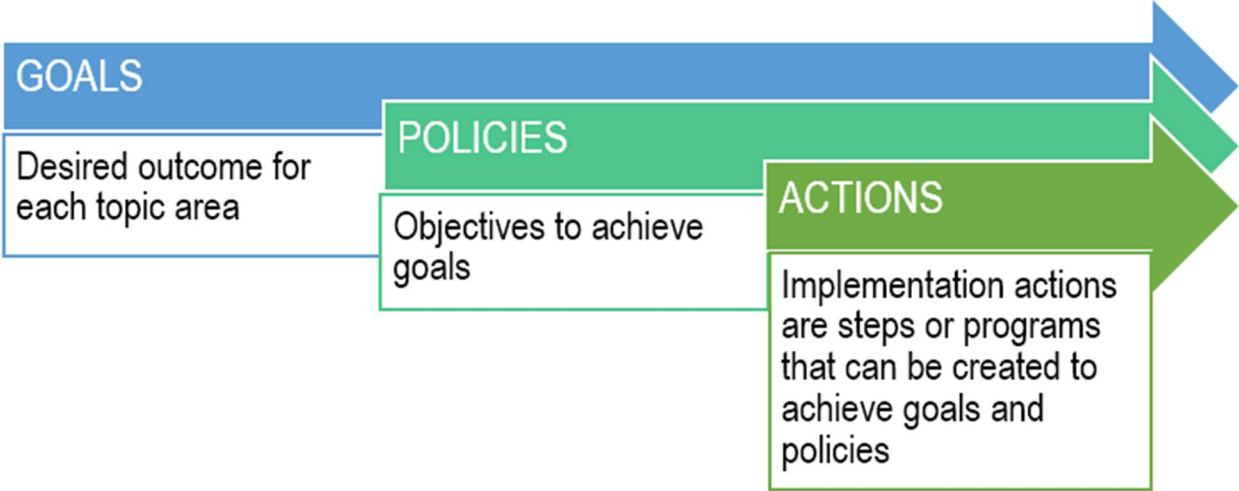


Figure I-8 Relationship to Goals, Policies, Actions Graphic

In addition to goals and policies, each Element may have a list of examples for action or implementation items that could be considered over time. All regulations pertaining to development (such as the Zoning Code, shoreline management regulations, and the Subdivision Ordinance) must be consistent with the Plan. The outcome will be a community that has grown along the lines anticipated by the 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.

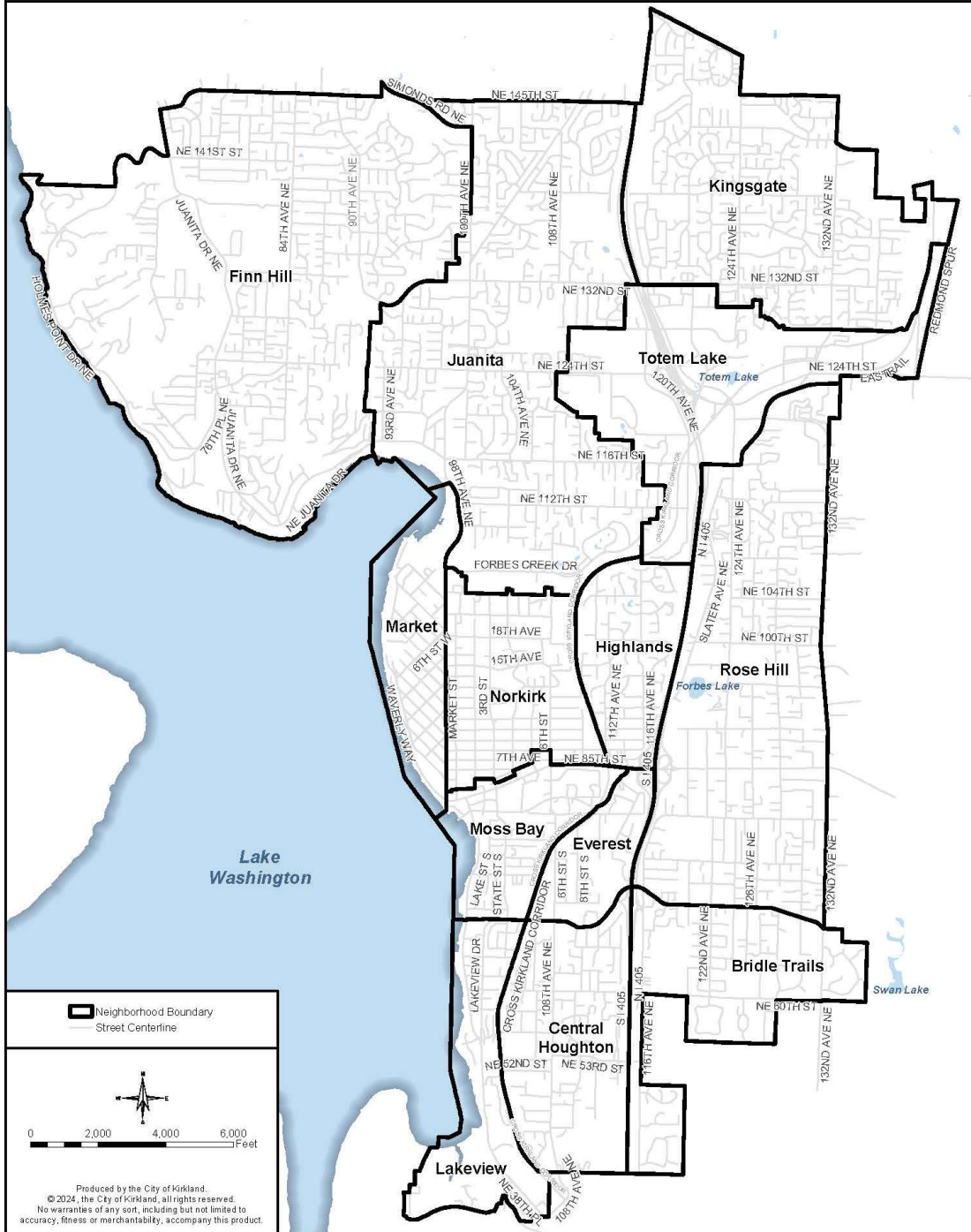
- The **Housing Element** establishes policies to support more diverse and affordable housing during this planning period. The Housing Element is revised to be consistent with new State law and commits to expanding housing production for all income levels and housing types, including middle housing, 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 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 use of 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.

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-7 for the name, location and boundary of each neighborhood.

Each Neighborhood Plan or Subarea Plan must be consistent with the Citywide Elements. The 2044 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.

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, and urban design characteristics that are specific to neighborhoods and subareas. 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.



City of Kirkland Neighborhoods

Figure I-9: Kirkland Neighborhoods Map

E. 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 addressing 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 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 that allows to thrive.

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

F. Key Themes for 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update

DEIB Focus

With the 2044 Plan update, the 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 Plan and made recommendations for text and policy changes that reflect a desire to ensure the community is characterized by inclusion and belonging. 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-10 Themes for 2044 Comprehensive Plan

G. Environmental Review

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

For the 2044 Plan update, a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) was prepared building on the previous EISs. The SEIS evaluated two primary alternatives with many additional iterative 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 and market-rate housing citywide. The Growth Alternative analyzes implementation of 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. These two alternatives establish “bookends,” enabling adoption of a Comprehensive Plan Update that has a set of policies that reflects the

community's vision for growth over the next 20 years. A draft and final SEIS were issued in 2024.

H. Implementing the Plan

The Vision Statement and Guiding Principles describe the desired type and character of growth in Kirkland during the next 20 years. They do not, however, tell us precisely how to create the kind of community envisioned by the Plan. Unless appropriate actions are taken, the plan will remain unrealized.

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.

The City's legislative and administrative actions and decisions must be in compliance with the adopted Plan. 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.

In instances when the regulations appear to be inconsistent with the 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 Plan Elements (e.g., Land Use, Housing, Transportation) and a neighborhood plan, the general Plan Element goals and policies apply.

Implementation Methods

There are a broad range of measures necessary to implement the Plan involving a wide variety of people and organizations. It is the responsibility of the City to put in place the mechanisms that will promote the actions needed for implementation. Listed below are the methods that will be used to implement the Plan over the 20-year planning horizon.

Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The Growth Management Act specifies that the Plan may only be amended once a year, except for certain actions listed in Section 365-196-640 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The City's annual update of the Plan typically includes amendments to the Transportation and Capital Facilities Elements to update information and projects based on the City's Capital Improvement Program and budget and in some years includes amendments to elements in response to amendments to the Growth Management Act or other State legislation or Countywide planning policies. Amendments can also be made to correct inconsistencies in the plan, to reflect any recently adopted functional plans, and to update general information.

If feasible, 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 Kirkland Planning Commission is an advisory board appointed by the City Council that advises the City Council on matters relating to the Plan and land use regulations. The

Commission takes the lead role in 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.

Regulations

Regulations set the legal requirements for development. The vast majority of these regulations are found in the Kirkland Zoning Code (including the official Zoning Map and shoreline management regulations), and the Subdivision Code within the Kirkland Municipal Code. Local administration of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is also a regulatory tool. The Growth Management Act requires that development regulations must be consistent with the Plan. Keeping Kirkland's regulatory documents updated for consistency is a high priority, and should be undertaken as appropriate on a regular basis.

Budgeting and City Work Program

Governmental expenditures play an essential role in implementation. The City's biennial operating budget allocates resources for personnel and supplies needed to carry out implementation measures; and the six year Capital Improvement Program targets the resources for transportation facilities, parks, utilities, and other public facilities necessary to implement the Plan.

The City Council adopts a biennial City Work Program in conjunction with the budget. The City Work Program prioritizes major cross-departmental efforts with significant impacts designed to maintain and enhance the public health, safety, and quality of life in Kirkland. The Work Program establishes a two-year "action plan" by which the public can measure the City's success in accomplishing its major policy and administrative goals. Many of these Work Program items will implement Plan objectives. Other Plan implementation work consisting primarily of Zoning Code amendments may be included on the 3-year Planning Work Program that is updated annually.

Neighborhood Plans

The plans for Kirkland's 13 neighborhoods and Subareas are part of the Plan. Proposals to update each Neighborhood Plan or Subarea Plan may be considered during any annual Plan update process, with more substantial updates scheduled as part of major Comprehensive Plan updates occurring every 10 years . A Neighborhood Plan Framework document describes the update process.

Community-initiated Amendment Requests (CAR)

Amendments to the Plan, Zoning Map, or Zoning Code may also be initiated by the City or by a community member, business, neighborhood association, or community group. A formal Community-initiated Amendment Request (CAR) process to amend the Plan, land use map, or Zoning Code must be consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act. 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.

Programs

City programs and staff teams provide services to help achieve the goals and policies in the Plan. Examples of these programs are the Neighborhood Traffic Control Program, Neighborhood Service Team, the Green Team, and the Tree Team.

Ongoing Administrative Activities

Implementation also depends on a variety of day-to-day actions such as development permitting and code enforcement. Ongoing monitoring of land capacity, demographics, development trends, housing costs, traffic levels, transit usage, levels of service for public facilities, and other factors affecting growth are also necessary.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Many of the goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan cannot be achieved by Kirkland alone. Because Kirkland is part of a much larger and growing metropolitan area, issues involving growth rates, housing demand and supply, climate change, and transportation systems increasingly require intergovernmental responses. Kirkland engages with regional agencies and neighboring jurisdictions at a variety of levels, including:

- Ongoing communication with neighboring cities and adoption of interlocal agreements where appropriate;
- Participation in subregional organizations such as A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) and the Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP);
- Participation in Countywide organizations such as the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), King County Climate Change Collaborative (K4C) and Metropolitan King County;
- Participation in multicounty organizations such as the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) (Sound Transit).

Functional and Management Plans

Functional and management plans in Figure I-11 provide additional detail and implementation actions for subjects discussed in the Comprehensive Plan. Functional and management plans are both guided by, and help to guide, the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan sets the broad policy framework for the objectives in functional and management plans, and inversely, functional and management plans can raise issues and ideas that help to shape amendments to Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. General consistency between the Comprehensive Plan and functional and management plans is important, as is regular updating of functional and management plans to maintain their currency.

Functional and Management Plans
Fire Strategic Plan
Police Strategic Plan
Water System Plan
General Sewer Plan
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
Capital Improvement Programs
Surface Water Strategic Plan

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

*Figure 1-11 Functional and Management Plans
(City of Kirkland documents unless otherwise noted)*

Equitable and Inclusive Community Outreach Engagement and Education

The 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 any long- range planning process, particularly in the development and adoption of the City's Plan and development regulations. The goals and policies of the 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 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). Where feasible, community outreach and engagement activities for the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Strategic Plan were conducted concurrently. Key strategies were to increase participation from "priority populations," reach people who want to live in Kirkland but cannot afford to, 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 and should continue with future Plan updates:

- 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.

The City of 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 major development permits early in the process;
- Facilitating 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, translating materials into different languages; and
- Providing opportunities for reconsideration or appeal of City decisions.



Public Informational Handouts In Several Languages