

Appendix D: Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan Vision, Goals & Policies

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE (Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan, 2002)

Kitsap County citizens, through an extensive public involvement process, have described how they see their Kitsap County today and tomorrow, and what they do and don't like. They have made it clear what they want Kitsap County to look like 20 years from now.

They envision a future in which our natural systems are protected; the water quality in our lakes, streams and Puget Sound is enhanced; the village character of some of our smaller towns is preserved; the historical nature of our communities is respected in order to preserve our heritage for future generations; a diversified economic base supports good jobs, contributes to healthy downtowns in our cities and affordable housing choices; and the rural appearance of our county is perpetuated.

This vision of the future – which is shared by citizens and elected officials – includes the following elements:

- Protection and enhancement of the natural environment, including wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, water quality and natural resource activities;
- Creation of a system of open space, parks and greenbelts, that provide opportunities for recreation and that give structure and separation to urban areas;
- Healthy cities that are the region's centers for employment, affordable housing choices, and civic and cultural activities;
- A vital and diversified economy that provides living wage jobs for residents, supported by adequate land for a range of employment uses and that encourages accomplishment of local economic development goals;
- Maintenance of the traditional character, appearance, functions and lifestyles of Kitsap County's rural communities and areas;
- Creation of an efficient multi-modal transportation system – including roads and highways, ferries, and opportunities for non-motorized travel – that provides efficient access and mobility for county residents and supports our land use pattern; and
- An efficient and responsive government that works with citizens, governmental entities and Tribes to meet collective needs fairly; and that supports education, environmental protection and human services.

Natural Systems

Surface Water - Goals

- Develop a critical areas ordinance that protects surface water resource areas including fish and wildlife habitats and wetlands.
- Enhance and restore degraded wetland, stream and shoreline areas.

Plant, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas - Goals

- Preserve the biological diversity of Kitsap County and Puget Sound.
- Identify and protect habitat conservation areas and other important habitats throughout Kitsap County.
- Develop a critical areas ordinance and development regulations, which protect habitat conservation areas and important habitat elements.
- Protect, enhance and restore aquatic habitat areas, such as streams, wetlands, lakes, shellfish beds, herring and smelt spawning areas, and kelp and eelgrass beds.
- Encourage voluntary protection of species and habitat.
- Identify species of local importance within Kitsap County.
- Work to restore anadromous fish runs in Kitsap County.

Shorelines

Conservation and Resource Protection – Goals

- Preserve natural shoreline resources wherever possible.
- Promote shoreline conservation and resource protection.

Shoreline Use – Goals

- Encourage shoreline diversity by recognizing the distribution and location requirements of housing, commerce, industry, transportation, public buildings, education, recreation and natural resources.

Water Quality– Goals

- Protect and enhance water quality in Puget Sound, Hood Canal and inland lakes while allowing for compatible growth and development.

Natural Systems – Goals

- Minimize human interference of natural systems occurring along shorelines.

Circulation – Goals

- Create transportation systems that protect and enhance shoreline features and habitat.