

CHAPTER 12

PLAN AMENDMENTS

This Chapter provides information about the process for amending the Comprehensive Plan and related plans.

Appendix D includes, for reference, the adopting resolutions for all amendments to the Comprehensive Plan since its initial adoption in 1975. All amendments are incorporated into this revised Comprehensive Plan.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW

1. All amendments to this Comprehensive Plan must conform to Washington State Constitution.
2. All amendments to this Comprehensive Plan must conform with the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW.
3. All amendments to this Comprehensive Plan must conform with the requirements of other applicable state laws. Other state laws that may apply include the Planning Commission Act (Chapter 35.63 RCW), State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW), the Subdivision Act (Chapter 58.17 RCW), the Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 RCW), the Watershed Management Act (Chapter 90.82 RCW), and other laws regarding drinking water, water rights, municipal services, and pollution control.

B. TIMING

1. Proposed amendments to this Comprehensive Plan will be considered no more frequently than once per year, and all proposals will be considered concurrently so the cumulative effect of the various proposals can be ascertained. Information about the County's annual schedule for processing Comprehensive Plan amendments is available from the Community Planning & Economic Development Department. The table shown below describes, in general, the amendment review process.
2. The County may adopt amendments more frequently than once per year if an emergency exists, or if otherwise permitted by law.
3. In addition to the amendment schedule described above, the Comprehensive Plan will be updated pursuant to the timelines established in RCW 36.70A.130.

II. TYPES OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Thurston County Comprehensive Plan is composed of numerous separate plan documents, including this Comprehensive Plan which focuses on the rural area, joint plans for each Urban Growth Area in the County, subarea plans for specific geographic areas of the County, and

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functional plans, such as the Sewerage General Plan and the Grand Mound Water General Plan. Joint plan amendments require review by both the County and the city or town for which the urban growth area is established. In some cases, the city, town, or County proposes the change; in other cases, the amendment is proposed by a member of the public. All amendments are reviewed by the Thurston County Planning Commission, with final decision by the Board of County Commissioners.

The docketing process for considering amendments to the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan is in Growth Management Public Participation, Chapter 2.05, Thurston County Code. Docketing refers to the process of establishing and maintaining a list of proposals that may be considered by the Board for possible amendment of the Comprehensive Plan. Dockets are useful for providing information about amendment proposals that may be considered by Thurston County in advance of public hearing and other review procedures. This chapter also establishes the County's minimum public participation and notification requirements when amending the Comprehensive Plan and associated development regulations.

For information about the different processes for amending the Comprehensive Plan, contact the Community Planning & Economic Development Department or check the Community Planning website www.thurstonplanning.org.

III. APPEALS

A. GROWTH MANAGEMENT HEARINGS BOARD REVIEW

Challenges to amendments to the Comprehensive Plan or related plans that are within the jurisdiction of the Growth Management Hearing Board, shall be processed according to the law governing such challenges.

B. JUDICIAL REVIEW

Judicial appeals to review any decision concerning the amendment of the Comprehensive Plan, including related plans, must meet all procedural requirements provided by law. The plaintiff bringing any such action shall pay the full cost of transcription of the record prepared for judicial review.

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Table 12-1. General Steps for Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments

County-Initiated Amendments	Joint Plan Amendments*	Citizen Initiated Amendments
Staff Development of Proposals and Public Involvement	Staff Development of Proposals and Public Involvement and Cities/Towns Submit Amendments	Applicant Prepares Complete Application and SEPA document(s)
Placement on the Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Docket	Placement on the Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Docket	Placement on the Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Docket
Internal Staff Review and Initial County Commissioner Review	Internal Staff Review and Initial County Commissioner Review	Internal Staff Review and Initial County Commissioner Review
Public Review of Preliminary Docket	Public Review of Preliminary Docket	Public Review of Preliminary Docket
Final Docketing Decision by the Board	Final Docketing Decision by the Board	Final Docketing Decision by the Board
Thurston County Planning Commission (TCPC) Briefing	Thurston County Planning Commission (TCPC) Briefing	Thurston County Planning Commission (TCPC) Briefing
TCPC Public Hearing(s) and Recommendation	TCPC Public Hearing(s) and Recommendation	TCPC Public Hearing(s) and Recommendation
Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Briefing	Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Briefing	Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Briefing
BOCC Public Hearing(s) and Action	BOCC Public Hearing(s) and Action	BOCC Public Hearing(s) and Action

*Each city will conduct its own review and decision on joint plan amendments.