

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION REPEALING AND REPLACING THE ROCHESTER SUBAREA PLAN, AMENDING POLICY E.5 OF THE NISQUALLY SUBAREA PLAN, AMENDING THE THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MINERAL LANDS, FORESTRY, PARKS AND HEALTH ELEMENTS, AND FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WASHINGTON STATE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Thurston County is required to plan under Chapter 36.70A RCW, the Growth Management Act (GMA), which contains fourteen goals that are intended to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans, which relate to urban growth, rural development, reduced sprawl, transportation, housing, economic development, property rights, permits, natural resource industries, open space and recreation, environment, citizen participation and coordination, public facilities and services, historic preservation, and shoreline management act goals and policies; and

WHEREAS, Thurston County first adopted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan in 1975 and completed its last periodic update in 2019 with Resolution No. 15836; and

WHEREAS, the GMA requires the comprehensive plan to demonstrate and uphold the concepts of internal consistency, conformity, and concurrency; and

WHEREAS, the GMA also requires a process of early and continuous citizen participation for amending comprehensive plans; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan must be processed in compliance with the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) has made findings of fact relating to the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Plan amendments referenced in this resolution supporting said amendments which are set forth below for adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THURSTON COUNTY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS. For the purposes of effective land use planning, the Board adopts the following legislative findings of fact for adopted amendments:

A. GENERAL FINDINGS

1. Thurston County is required to plan under Chapter 36.70A RCW, the Growth Management Act (GMA), and has performed professional review, public notice, and comment with respect to these amendments; and

2. The GMA requires counties to adopt county-wide planning policies to guide the adoption of comprehensive plans. The principle purpose of these policies is to ensure that the comprehensive plans of counties and the cities within them are coordinated and consistent with each other. The amendments to the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Plans

adopted by this resolution were prepared, considered and adopted in compliance with the county-wide planning policies; and

3. The Thurston County Comprehensive Plan, as amended, collectively includes joint plans with the cities of Bucoda, Lacey, Olympia, Rainier, Tenino, Tumwater, Yelm, and other subarea plans, with chapters on land use, natural resource lands, housing, transportation, capital facilities, utilities, economic development, the natural environment, archeological and historic resources that govern development throughout unincorporated Thurston County and comply with GMA requirements for comprehensive plans; and

4. The amendments were included on the 2020-2021 Official Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docket as required by Chapter 2.05 Thurston County Code (TCC), Growth Management Public Participation; and

5. The County uses several methods to ensure early and continuous public participation and open discussion in the review of proposed amendments including but not limited to direct mailing, email lists, internet information pages, and posted public notices; and

6. The amendments to the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan adopted by this resolution were the subject of a series of public hearings before the Thurston County Planning Commission and the Board and separate work sessions by each body as required by the GMA and the Thurston County Code; and

7. In formulating its recommendations, the Thurston County Planning Commission considered public comments received through public hearings and the public process; and

8. In formulating its decision, the Board considered public comments received through the public hearings and the public process; and

9. Pursuant to 36.70A.106 RCW, the State of Washington Department of Commerce was notified of the proposed changes contained in this resolution on October 1, 2020; and

10. The adoption of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan and related subarea plans must be processed in compliance with the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); and

11. This resolution will amend the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan and related subarea plans; and

12. The Board believes adopting the amendments is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, and general welfare of Thurston County residents.

B. FINDINGS

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT GOALS

1. Chapter 36.70A RCW provides 14 goals “to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations” under the GMA. The goals are not listed in order of priority; and

2. In formulating the Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Plan amendments adopted by this resolution, the Board has considered the goals contained in RCW 36.70A.020. The Board has weighed the goals as they apply to the subject matter of this resolution; and

3. The findings in this resolution below and the record generated in the public hearing process and during the adoption of this resolution show that this measure is consistent with the GMA goals.

C. FINDINGS

ROCHESTER SUBAREA PLAN

1. In 2017, the Board added the Rochester Subarea Plan Update amendment to the 2017-2018 Official Comprehensive Plan Docket as Docket Item CP-7; and

2. This item was maintained on the official comprehensive plan docket and renumbered to Docket Item 7b in early 2020, and in April of 2020, the Board prioritized Docket Item CP-7b Rochester Subarea Plan Update as the highest priority, ranked at 1 out of 6 board-initiated amendments; and

3. The Rochester Subarea Plan was first adopted on July 15, 1996 under Resolution 11236, and has not been amended since; and

4. The Rochester Subarea Plan as contained in this resolution has been updated with new formatting, including but not limited to font style, headers, footers, table nomenclature, map nomenclature, and citations; and

5. The Rochester Subarea Plan as contained in this resolution has been updated for consistency with the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan; and

6. Four public open house events were held with residents and businesses in the Rochester and Grand Mound communities on February 24, March 8, and November 7, 2018 and November 13, 2019; and

7. The Thurston County Planning Commission reviewed the proposed amendment over four work sessions from April 3, 2019 through November 6, 2019 and held a duly noticed public hearing on January 8, 2020; and

8. On January 8, 2020, the Thurston County Planning Commission unanimously (8-0, 1 absent) recommended approval to repeal the 1996 Rochester Subarea Plan, and replace with a new proposed Subarea Plan; and

9. In formulating its recommendations, the Planning Commission considered public comments received through public hearings and the public process; and

10. The Board held one work session on February 12, 2020 and held a duly noticed public hearing on July 28, 2020; and

11. The Board considered public testimony and recommendations by the Planning Commission in light of GMA, including its goals, the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan, the Rochester Subarea Plan, and other related plans; and

12. On August 19, 2020, the Board provided direction (3-0) to repeal and replace the Rochester Subarea Plan without further changes; and

13. The Board concurs with the Thurston County Planning Commission's recommendation for the reasons stated herein and the information provided during the public process; and

14. A SEPA Determination of Non-Significance was issued June 2, 2020 (SEPA No. 2020100410) under SEPA (Chapter 43.21C RCW) for the changes contained in this amendment.

The SEPA comment period ended on June 16, 2020 with one public comment received. The SEPA appeal period ended on June 23, 2020 with no appeal of the determination received.

D. FINDINGS

POLICY E5 NISQUALLY SUBAREA PLAN

1. On November 15, 2016, Thurston County received a citizen-request from Lakeside Industries, Inc. for a comprehensive plan amendment, requesting the County consider amending Policy E.5 of the Nisqually Subarea Plan to allow for recycled asphalt processing (RAP) within the Nisqually Subarea; and

2. In 2017, the Board added the Recycled Asphalt Policy amendment to the 2017-2018 Official Comprehensive Plan Docket as Docket Item CP-11. The Board also added a wholesale update to the Nisqually Subarea Plan as a separate docket item, CP-6; and

3. Both items were maintained on the official comprehensive plan docket, and in April of 2020, the Board prioritized Docket Item CP-11 Recycled Asphalt Policy amendment as a medium priority, ranked at 3 out of 6 citizen-initiated amendments, while Docket Item CP-6 Nisqually Subarea Plan was prioritized as the lowest priority, ranked at 6 out of 6 county-initiated amendments; and

4. At the time of application, the Nisqually Subarea Plan stated that "... the reprocessing of asphalt shall not be allowed due to water quality concerns"; and

5. This policy was included in the original adoption of the Nisqually Subarea Plan under ordinance 10199 on November 16, 1992, and in the subsequent Nisqually Subarea Plan amended under Resolution 11322 on December 23, 1996; and

6. Ordinance 09316, passed November 6th, 1989, established interim zoning and the planning process for the Nisqually Valley Planning Area; and

7. An open house was held on July 27, 2017 to provide an overview to the public of the proposed amendment; and

8. The County issued an RFP in October 2017 to seek proposals from qualified firms to conduct analysis of potential environmental and public health implications of asphalt recycling based on existing scientific information; and

9. Thurston County hired Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc. to conduct an analysis of potential environmental implications of recycled asphalt; and

10. The consultant literature report, "Literature Review: Contaminant Leaching from Recycled Asphalt Pavement" was finalized on May 14, 2019. This report could only draw broad summaries from the research; and

11. The consultant report concluded that as a source of contaminants, recycled asphalt pavement is highly variable, dependent on the manufacturing process, source, duration and degree of weathering, exposure, and how long it's stored. Some contaminants were leached at levels above Washington State Groundwater Standards, and these exceedances typically occurred during the initial flushing of recycled asphalt pavement; and

12. Although the consultant report did not include an assessment of potential environmental impact from the application of Best Management Practices or from fate and transport of

contaminants, a number of researchers suggested that impact to the environment would be negligible if dilution and assimilation were considered; and

13. Existing policy language within the Nisqually Subarea Plan aims to preserve water quality, rural character, and agricultural/pastoral character, but also recognizes resources uses within the subarea; and

14. With the amendment contained in this resolution, operators, including the applicant for this amendment, are still required to go through the permit process and must meet all applicable county, state and federal regulations prior to recycling asphalt; and

15. Hydrogeologic conditions vary considerably across the Nisqually Subarea. Specific conditions and critical areas are evaluated when a permit application is received for a development proposal, and may limit locations within the Nisqually Subarea where these types of uses can occur; and

16. Existing policies within the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan support the amendment of policy E.5 as contained in this resolution; and

17. Thurston County's Solid Waste Management Plan includes recommendations for reducing construction and demolition debris, including promoting the availability of existing construction and demolition recycling facilities and supporting establishment and expansion of these facilities countywide; and

18. A public information meeting was held on June 20, 2019 to provide an overview of Herrera Environmental Consultant's report; and

19. The Thurston County Planning Commission reviewed the proposed amendment over three work sessions on July 17, August 5, and September 2, 2020; and

20. The September 2, 2020 Thurston County Planning Commission work session included a guest panel of stakeholders that spoke directly to the Planning Commission about their concerns. The stakeholders that participated were Karen Deal and Bill Dempsey from Lakeside Industries, and David Troutt from the Nisqually River Council; and

21. The Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on October 7, 2020 for the changes contained in this resolution; and

22. On October 7, 2020, the Thurston County Planning Commission unanimously (9-0, none absent) recommended approval of the amendment, as denoted in Option 3. The amendment under Option 3 included the applicant's requested amendment to policy E.5 that would remove the prohibition on asphalt recycling, and additional language to policy E.5 and Chapter 20.54 TCC that would require best management practices for covered storage of RAP in the Nisqually Subarea; and

23. In formulating its recommendations, the Planning Commission considered public comments received through public hearings and the public process; and

24. On October 29, 2020, the Board held a work session to consider the amendment and review the Planning Commission recommendation; and

25. On December 1, 2020, the Board held a duly noticed public hearing on the amendment; and

26. The Board considered public testimony and recommendations by the Thurston County Planning Commission and considered GMA objectives, including its goals, the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan, the Nisqually Subarea Plan, and other related plans; and

27. At a work session on December 2, 2020, the Board provided direction (2-0, 1 abstained) to amend Policy E.5 of the Nisqually Subarea Plan with additional language requiring best management practices for storage; and

28. The Board concurs with the Thurston County Planning Commission's recommendation for the reasons stated herein and the information provided during the public process; and

29. SEPA documents focused on environmental issues associated with recycled asphalt as a land use generally while deferring analysis of site-specific issues associated with future recycling proposals until after an application is received, including any that may be submitted by the applicant of this amendment; and

30. A determination of non-significance was issued by Thurston County under SEPA (Chapter 43.21C RCW) on October 9, 2020 for the changes contained in this resolution for the amendment to policy E.5 of the Nisqually Subarea Plan (SEPA No. 2016105567). The SEPA comment period ended on October 23, 2020 with two public comments received. The SEPA appeal period ended on October 30, 2020 with no appeal of the determination received.

E. FINDINGS

2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE AMENDMENTS

I. General

1. In 2017, the Board added the Comprehensive Plan Update to the 2017-2018 Official Comprehensive Plan Docket as Docket Item CP-1; and

2. This item was maintained on the official comprehensive plan docket, and in April of 2020, the Board prioritized Docket Item CP-1 Comprehensive Plan Update as a lower priority, ranked at 5 out of 6 board-initiated amendments; and

3. The Board approved a Scope of Work for the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update on February 14, 2017 under Resolution 15436; and

4. Under the Scope of Work adopted with Resolution 15436, the Board directed staff to take a targeted approach to updating the Comprehensive Plan that focuses on completing required elements of the plan to ensure compliance with state law, and included a few strategic optional updates that focus on addressing current information and needs within the County; and

5. In May 2019, management directed staff to approach the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update using a core and continuing approach to allow completion of mandatory core elements of the Comprehensive Plan as required under RCW 36.70A.070, while providing additional time for public review for a number of continuing items where additional time is desirable to our community; and

6. Core items of the Scope of Work included mandatory elements required under RCW 36.70A.070, and a few additional elements that were ready to proceed. The core items included updates to background and format of 11 chapters: Chapter 1-Introduction; Chapter 2-Land Use; Chapter 3-Natural Resources; Chapter 4-Housing; Chapter 5-Transportation; Chapter 6-Capital

Facilities; Chapter 7-Utilities; Chapter 8-Economic Development; Chapter 9-Environment and Recreation; Chapter 10-Historic and Archaeological Resources; Chapter 12-Plan Amendments; Glossary; Appendices A through F; one proposed land use amendment and associated rezone of the Evergreen State College and new zoning standards for a Major Educational Institution district; related maps; and a review of policies and development regulations for manufactured housing; and

7. The core items of the scope of work were complete with the adoption of Resolution 15836 and Ordinance 15837 on November 12, 2019; and

8. The continuing items of the scope of work are on-going, and include updates to the mineral resource lands designation map (M-43, renamed as N-2); updates to policies on mineral resources; updates to acreages on mineral lands in land use and natural resources chapters; updates to the long-term forestry designation in the natural resources chapter; updates to the parks strategy and Level of Service; updates to the health chapter; and updates to the Joint Plans for Lacey, Tumwater, Olympia, Yelm, Rainier, Tenino, Bucoda, and respective UGA codes in the Thurston County Code; and review and update of related development regulations; and

9. The amendments contained in this resolution compose the mineral lands, long-term forestry, parks, and health elements of the continuing items, and collectively are referred to as the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update; and

10. The changes to background information, goals, policies, and objectives contained in this resolution have been reviewed for consistency with existing plans, state law, and court rulings; and

11. The changes to the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan adopted by this resolution consider growth and plan over a 20-year planning horizon, projecting out to 2040; and

12. Two open houses were held in Spring of 2017, and a third online, virtual open house was held in July and August of 2020; and

13. More than fifty presentations were given to external community groups, including but not limited to Thurston Thrives Action Teams, Olympia Master Builders, Sierra Club, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board, Historic Commission, and South Thurston Economic Development Initiative; and

14. The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed amendments over 21 public work sessions from May 2017 through September 2020; and

15. Thurston County issued notice to adjacent jurisdictions on July 27, 2020 of the proposed amendments to designated natural resource lands (forestry and mineral), consistent with WAC 365-190-040; and

16. The Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on August 19, 2020 for the changes contained in this resolution; and

17. On September 2, 2020, the Thurston County Planning Commission unanimously (6-0, three absent) recommended approval of the amendments of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update and associated code changes, as denoted in Options A-2, C-1, D-3 as amended, E-2, and F-2 (with all 7 parcels included); and

18. In its recommendation, the Planning Commission made some minor amendments to Chapter 11, Chapter 20.54 TCC-Table 1, and Chapter 20.30B.015(e) TCC (option D-3); and

19. In formulating its recommendations, the Planning Commission considered public comments received through public hearings and the public process; and

20. On October 1 and October 15, 2020, the Board held work sessions to consider the amendments and review the Planning Commission recommendation and all other options; and

21. On November 24, 2020, the Board held a duly noticed public hearing on the amendment; and

22. Significant public comment was received throughout the public process regarding proposed changes to mineral lands, forestry, parks and health. From the beginning of the project in 2017 through 2020 up until its final adoption, 444 comments were submitted regarding the amendments; and

23. The Board considered public testimony and recommendations by the Thurston County Planning Commission and considered GMA objectives, including its goals, the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan, and other related plans; and

24. At work sessions following the public hearing on December 2 and December 9, 2020, the Board reviewed testimony from the public hearing and on December 9, 2020 provided direction (2-1) to include the Planning Commission recommendations in the final plan, code, and resolution; and

25. The Board concurs with the Thurston County Planning Commission's recommendation for the reasons stated herein and the information provided during the public process; and

26. A determination of non-significance was issued by Thurston County under SEPA (Chapter 43.21C RCW) on September 23, 2020 for the changes contained in this resolution for the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update (SEPA No. 2020100957). The SEPA comment period ended on October 7, 2020 with no public comments received. The SEPA appeal period ended on October 14, 2020 with no appeal of the determination received.

II. Administrative Chapters

1. The Title Page, Table of Contents, Chapter 1, and Appendices C and D include administrative information as part of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan and have been amended; and

2. Editing and organizational changes are made to delete outdated text and references, and to update and clarify language.

III. Mineral Lands of Long-Term Commercial Significance

1. The Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map (M-43) was last updated in November 10, 2003 with Resolution 13039; and

2. The Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map (M-43) designates 5,623 acres and only maps existing mining operations; and

3. In 2010, the County adopted substantial changes to the mineral lands designation criteria under Resolution 14401 and Ordinance 14402; and

4. The criteria adopted under Resolution 14401 and Ordinance 14402 were subsequently challenged by several parties to the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board (Case Number 10-2-0020c); and

5. The County adopted amended designation criteria on April 17, 2012 under Resolution 14739 and Ordinance 14740. While the County generally met the previous Compliance Order requirements, some issues still needed further consideration; and

6. Additional amendments to the designation criteria were adopted on January 8, 2013 under Resolution 14847 and Ordinance 14848. On March 15, 2013, the Growth Management Hearings Board found the County had achieved compliance and closed the case; and

7. The mineral lands designation criteria amendments adopted on January 8, 2013 under Resolution 14847 and Ordinance 14848 were the last amendments to the designation criteria; and

8. Between 2010 and 2013 when the County adopted updates to the mineral lands designation in Chapter 3-Natural Resources, the County did not update the Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map (M-43). The County deferred the review and update of this map until the next periodic update; and

9. The Board considered options for the scope of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, including the mineral lands element on June 22 and August 4, 2016, and February 1, 2017; and

10. The original scope of work for the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update was adopted by the Board on February 14, 2017 under Resolution 15436 and included an update to the Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map. The scope of work states “update map of designated mineral lands, based on adopted criteria”; and

11. Under 365-190-070 WAC, State law requires counties and cities to approach designation as a county-wide or regional process, rather than a parcel-by-parcel basis. This State regulation also establishes minimum guidelines that jurisdictions must consider in classifying and designating mineral resource lands; and

12. Thurston County convened a stakeholder group for the mineral lands update on April 19, 2017 and held 12 meetings with the stakeholder group from 2017 through 2020 to review the mineral lands inventory, designation criteria, background information and policy language in Chapter 3-Natural Resources, and Thurston County Code language relevant to designated mineral lands and mineral extraction. Stakeholders from the agriculture, environment, adjacent cities, regulatory agencies, tribes, industry, and citizens were regularly invited to participate in the meetings; and

13. Thurston County conducted extensive review with elected officials from 2017 through 2020, holding fourteen work sessions with the Planning Commission and sixteen meetings with the Board to review the amendments. This included review of the mineral lands inventory adopted in 2019, and the designation criteria, background and policy language, map amendments, and related Thurston County Code amendments; and

14. Thurston County contracted with a team of consultants (Associated Earth and Sciences, Inc or AESI, and Weinman Consulting) composed of geologists, hydrogeologists, and an economic geologist to complete an inventory and classification of mineral resources in Thurston County. To develop the inventory map, resource data from Washington State Department of Natural Resource Division of Geology and Earth Resources, Washington State Department of Transportation, and

United States Geological Survey was used, supplemented by information obtained from AESI and published thesis information. A public map was made available for review on May 1, 2017 and a comment period on the draft inventory was held from May 1 through May 24, 2017, where all properties affected by the draft inventory were notified by mail of the open comment period. Additionally, an open house was held on May 17, 2017 for the public to review the draft inventory maps and materials. The consultant compiled this process and information in a report titled “Mineral Resource Lands of Long-Term Commercial Significance Inventory Study”, dated August 30, 2017; and

15. The Planning Commission reviewed the draft mineral lands inventory and classification on May 17, 2017, following the public open house; and

16. At a briefing on June 14, 2017, the Board reviewed the draft mineral lands inventory and classification scheme of mineral resources, and next steps regarding designation and conservation of mineral lands; and

17. The Planning Commission reviewed guidelines for mineral lands under WAC 365-190-070, options related to designation criteria, and options regarding the scope of the mineral lands designation and map update on June 21, October 18, November 1, November 15, and December 6, 2017; and on January 17, March 7, and March 21, 2018; and

18. The consultant developed an issue paper, titled “Designating Mineral Resource Lands Under the Growth Management Act”, dated September 1, 2017 to consider designation in the context of GMA; and

19. In reviewing the current designation criteria within Chapter 3-Natural Resources, the Planning Commission considered minimum guidelines for classification and designation established under 365-190-070 WAC, and found that the County’s designation criteria are consistent with the state’s minimum guidelines; and

20. The Planning Commission considered additional criteria in designating mineral lands of long-term commercial significance that was a divergence from the already established criteria within Chapter 3-Natural Resources, including co-designation with agriculture, exclusion of FEMA flood zones, exclusion of 1-, 5-, and 10-year wellhead protection areas, exclusion of community system Group B wellhead properties, exclusion of landslide hazard areas, exclusion of habitat areas, exclusion of LAMIRDs, and exclusion of Mima Mounds; and

21. The Planning Commission considered supply and demand of mineral resources in Thurston County, estimating a 20-year need for Thurston County to be just over 88 million tons and a 50-year need just over 261 million tons. Draft designation maps ranged from an estimated supply of 826 million tons for the map with the narrowest scope, excluding the most criteria from designated mineral lands, up to an estimated supply of 6.1 billion tons for the inventory map; and

22. On March 7, 2018, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the scope of the mineral lands designation, with options to amend the existing designation criteria to include additional criteria where land uses may not be compatible with mineral extraction; and

23. On March 21, 2018 the Planning Commission recommended to map the adopted criteria within Chapter 3 on the Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map, modifying those criteria to allow mineral lands to be designated at a countywide scale, and to allow for the co-designation of Long-Term Agriculture and Mineral Lands. Five Planning Commissioners were in favor of co-

designation of mineral lands with long-term agriculture, while one Planning Commissioner was opposed (3 absent); and

24. The Board reviewed the Planning Commission's recommendation on the scope of mineral lands designation and reviewed guidelines for mineral lands under 365-190-070 WAC at a briefing held May 16, 2018. Subsequent discussions were held at agenda setting sessions on May 22, May 31, June 5, and July 24. On July 24, 2018, the majority of the Board provided direction to staff to move forward with the Planning Commission's recommendation, but to also consider policies to address partially designated parcels; and

25. On November 1, 2018, the Board had a briefing regarding how to define public parks and preserves for the purposes of the mineral lands designation. The Board was provided two options with one excluding more parks from the designation, and the other excluding less parks from the designation. The Board continued this discussion at an agenda setting session on November 6, 2018; and

26. At agenda setting on November 20, 2018, the majority of the Board provided direction to staff to proceed with the option to define public parks and preserves that would exclude more parks from the mineral lands designation. This was reflected in all drafts of Map N-2 - Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map moving forward after this point; and

27. The Planning Commission reviewed in a work session on January 16, 2019 the proposed changes to the mineral lands designation map (N-2, formerly numbered M-43), background and policy language within Chapter 3-Natural Resources, and amendments to the Thurston County Code; and

28. On April 24, 2019, the Board reviewed amendments proposed under the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, which included proposed changes to Chapter 3-Natural Resources related to mineral lands. At this brief, staff proposed a split scope of work option to complete required elements (core) first and to allow for a number of other items (continuing) to follow. The mineral lands update was one of several elements recommended as a continuing item, due to the level of public engagement; and

29. In May 2019, management directed staff to approach the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update using a core and continuing approach to allow completion of mandatory core elements of the Comprehensive Plan as required under RCW 36.70A.070, while providing additional time for public review for a number of continuing items, including the mineral lands; and

30. On November 12, 2019 under Resolution 15836, the County adopted the core elements of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Included in that resolution was Map N-3, the Mineral Resource Inventory Map, which was added as a new map to the Comprehensive Plan. This map identifies and classifies mineral resources (bedrock and sand and gravel) across the County, and serves as the basis for the updated Designated Mineral Resource Lands map (N-2); and

31. An informational briefing was provided to the Board on January 8, 2020 to provide an overview of the proposed changes related to the mineral lands update and a status update on the project; and

32. The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed changes to the mineral lands designation map (N-2), background and policy language within Chapter 3-Natural Resources, and amendments to the Thurston County Code on January 22, February 5, May 6, and May 20, 2020. After the February 5, 2020 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended staff reconvene the

Mineral Lands Stakeholder Group to further discuss options within code language. Staff held two follow-up focus group meetings with a sub-group of the Mineral Lands Stakeholder Group, refined code language, and developed a new option related to expansion of mineral extraction operations on to un-designated lands for further consideration by the Planning Commission; and

33. The amendments were considered as part of the August 19, 2020 Planning Commission public hearing and the majority of comments received for the public hearing were related to the mineral lands update; and

34. Following the August 19, 2020 public hearing, in considering public testimony and the facts provided, the Planning Commission recommended on September 2, 2020 approval of the proposed amendments as presented in options A-2, C-1, D-3 as amended, and E-2. Option A-2 revises the designation criteria to co-designate areas of overlap between Long-Term Agriculture and Mineral Lands, and reflects this criterion on Map N-2, the Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map. Options C-1, D-3, and E-2 relate to associated code amendments reviewed as part of the mineral lands update; and

35. The Board considered the Planning Commission's recommendation and all options that were developed on October 1, 2020 and October 15, 2020; and

36. The amendments were considered as part of the November 24, 2020 Board of County Commissioner public hearing and the majority of comments received were related to the mineral lands update; and

37. Significant public comment was received throughout the public process regarding proposed changes to the mineral lands designation, map, policies, and associated code changes. From the beginning of the project in 2017 through 2020 up until its final adoption, 430 comments were submitted regarding the mineral lands amendments; and

38. At work sessions following the public hearing on December 2 and December 9, 2020, the Board reviewed options and testimony from the public hearing and on December 9, 2020 provided direction (2-1) to include the Planning Commission recommendations in the final plan and code, and resolution; and

39. The Board concurs with the Thurston County Planning Commission's recommendation for the reasons stated herein and the information provided during the public process; and

40. The amendments impact Chapter 2-Land Use, Chapter 3-Natural Resources, and Map M-43 (repealed and replaced as Map N-2) - Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map; and

41. With the amendments contained in this resolution, Map M-43 is repealed and replaced with Map N-2 - Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map. This map is considered the "Official Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map"; and

42. Map N-2, as contained in this resolution, expands the mineral lands designation to 142,666 acres, and in that includes 2,119 acres of mineral lands that are co-designated with long-term agricultural lands; and

43. The designation criteria is revised as contained in this resolution to allow for co-designation of mineral resource lands and agricultural lands, consistent with WAC 365-190-040(7) which states that overlapping designations should not necessarily be considered inconsistent. The Planning Commission and Board thoroughly considered this amendment to the designation criteria, and the stakeholder group developed new policy and code language to safeguard

agricultural lands and better ensure that in areas of co-designation, those lands are returned to a state suitable for agricultural use after mineral extraction is complete; and

44. The County discourages incompatible uses with resource lands pursuant to RCW 36.70A.020(8), and encourages the conservation of these areas; and

45. New policies are adopted to further encourage the conservation of mineral resource lands, consistent with RCW 36.70A.020(8). Policies regarding classification, designation, and extraction of mineral lands are revised to ensure protection of mineral resources and protection of public health and safety and environmental resources; and

46. Regulations implementing policy changes to mineral lands under Chapter 3 are adopted by ordinance and are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan policies; and

47. SEPA documents focused on environmental issues associated with the designation and conservation of mineral resource lands and option for co-designation with agricultural lands while deferring analysis of site-specific issues associated with future mining proposals until after an application is received; and

48. The Board finds that the amendments contained in this resolution designate sufficient land as Mineral Lands of Long-Term Commercial Significance in Thurston County to maintain and enhance the mineral resource industry over the planning period are sufficient to meet the needs of its population over the next 50 years; and

49. The Board finds the amendments contained in this resolution necessary to meet state law under the Growth Management Act.

IV. Forest Lands of Long-Term Commercial Significance

1. The Long-Term Forestry (LTF) designation was first adopted to meet GMA requirements on August 16, 1993, under Resolution 10400; and

2. Designation criteria for forest lands of long-term commercial significance have not been amended since their original adoption in 1993; and

3. The County reviewed state guidance on designation for forest resource lands in WAC 365-190-060, and concurs that the current designation criteria for forest lands is within that guidance; and

4. The County conducted a survey to major forestry landowners in Thurston County, including CGVI, Green Diamond, Port Blakely, Weyerhaeuser, and Jorgensen to gather input on the current Long-Term Forestry designation; and

5. Generally, landowners did not have any concerns with the current designation and felt it was adequately protecting their activities over the long-term. Some landowners expressed concern that rural lands typically zoned as Rural Residential Resource One Unit per Five Acres (RRR 1/5) that are used for forestry are at a higher risk of conversion, and that the County should consider additional tools such as Purchase of Development Rights or Transfer of Development Rights to protect rural forest lands; and

6. The County conducted a high-level aerial review of the outer perimeter of the current Long-Term Forestry designation; and

7. The County identified blocks of areas that appeared to have a land use other than Long-Term Forestry; and

8. A total of 7 parcels +/- 173.52 acres (TPN 13816230200, 13816230000, 13816240000, 09880001002, 13822130100, 21621300100, and 21621200100) were identified as potentially inconsistent with the Long-Term Forestry designation; and

9. The County cross-examined each parcel or block of parcels with the current designation criteria, including land use, forest coverage, proximity of services, lot size, tract size, property tax classification, economic condition and forest grade, and history of permits nearby; and

10. Parcel 13816240000 is 40.62 acres, does not currently have structures on the property, and is enrolled in the Designated Forest Lands program, indicating the land is growing or harvesting timber. The property has a forest grade of 3 for 37.05 acres and a forest grade 8 for 3.57 acres. A powerline corridor runs through the center of the property. This property has roughly >50% forest cover, and includes critical aquifer recharge areas, wetlands and steep slopes. Adjacent properties to the north, east, and south are designated as Long-Term Forestry; and

11. Parcels 13816230200, 13816230000 are 6.74 acres and 30.89 acres in size respectively and contain existing single-family residential uses on the properties. The parcels are not currently enrolled in open space, and do not have forest grades. The two properties are approximately 65% and 45% forest cover, respectively, and include critical aquifer recharge areas, wetlands, and steep slopes. Adjacent properties to the west, north and east are designated as Long-Term Forestry, while properties to the south are zoned as RRR 1/5 and have a history of permits; and

12. Parcel 09880001002 is 5.71 acres in size and contains existing single-family residential uses on the property. The property is not currently enrolled in open space and does not have a forest grade. The property is approximately 35% forested. Adjacent properties to the north and west are designated as Long-Term Forestry, whereas on the south and east the parcels are RRR 1/5 with a history of permits; and

13. Parcel 13822130100 is 9.56 acres in size and contains existing single-family residential uses on the property. The property is not currently enrolled in open space and does not have a forest grade. The property is approximately 60% forested. Adjacent properties to the north, south, and west are designated as Long-Term Forestry, whereas on the east the parcels are Rural RRR 1/5 with a history of permits; and

14. Parcels 21621300100 and 21621200100 are 40.0 acres each in size, do not have any development, and are currently enrolled as current use agriculture. The properties do not have a forest grade and have very minimal forest cover. Adjacent properties to the south and west are designated as Long-Term Forestry, whereas to the north and east the parcels are RRR 1/5. There is no history of permits to the west, south or north, and minimal permit history directly adjacent to the east; and

15. The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed changes over two work sessions on January 16, 2019 and March 4, 2020; and

16. The Planning Commission considered alternative land uses and zones for the properties, including Rural One Unit per Ten Acres (R 1/10) and Rural One Unit per Twenty Acres (R 1/20). Staff explored Long Term Agriculture as an alternative zone for parcels 21621300100 and 21621200100 and found that the parcels did not compose a large enough minimum block size

and also do not include soils meeting the minimum designation criteria for Long-Term Agriculture; and

17. Citizens within five-hundred feet of the properties were notified of the public hearings by direct mail; and

18. Minimal public comment was received regarding proposed changes to the long-term forestry designation; and

19. The amendments were considered as part of the August 19, 2020 Planning Commission public hearing and the November 24, 2020 Board of County Commissioner public hearing; and

20. Following the August 19, 2020 public hearing, in considering public testimony and the facts provided, the Planning Commission recommended on September 2, 2020 the removal of all 7 parcels from the Long-Term Forestry designation, with an amendment to the land use and associated zoning from Long Term Forestry to Rural Residential/Resource One Unit per Five Acres; and

21. At work sessions on December 2 and December 9, 2020 following the Board's November 24, 2020 public hearing, the Board reviewed options and testimony from the public hearing and on December 9, 2020 provided direction (2-1) to include the Planning Commission recommendation which removes the 7 parcels from the Long-Term Forestry designation, and amends the land use and zoning; and

21. The Board concurs with the Thurston County Planning Commission's recommendation for the reasons stated herein and the information provided during the public process; and

22. The amendments impact Chapter 2-Land Use, Chapter 3-Natural Resources, Map L-1 - Future Land Use, and Map N-1 - Long-Term Agriculture and Forestry, as well as associated zoning changes adopted by ordinance; and

23. The amendments contained in this resolution remove the seven subject parcels totaling +/- 173.52 acres from the Forest Lands of Long-Term Commercial Significance designation and amends the land use from Long-Term Forestry to Rural Residential Resource 1 unit per 5 acres (RRR 1/5), with associated zoning changes adopted by ordinance; and

24. The Board finds that the amendments contained in this resolution leave sufficient land designated as Long-Term Forestry in Thurston County to maintain and enhance the forestry industry over the planning period, and to meet the needs of its population over the next 20 years.

V. Parks Strategy and Level of Service

1. The Comprehensive Plan includes Level of Service (LOS) specifications throughout the plan; and

2. An update to the Level of Service for Thurston County Parks and Trails was identified as a continuing item to allow for additional time to ensure consistency with other updates underway by the Thurston County Public Works Department; and

3. The Thurston County Parks, Trails and Natural Resources Preserve Plan was adopted in 2013; and

4. Through consultant work and public input, Thurston County Public Works updated the plan; and

5. Amendments were made to policy language and the level of service for parks in Thurston County, which was reduced from 3.5 acres per 1,000 to 3.0 acres per 1,000 and the per capita LOS as described in the 2020 Park Impact Fee Study; and

6. Thurston County Public Works held two work sessions to review the “Parks, Open Space, and Trails” Plan with the Board on June 10 and July 15, 2020; and

7. Thurston County Public Works held a public hearing before the Board on the “Parks, Open Space, and Trails” Plan on October 27, 2020, and received no public comment; and

8. The updated parks plan, titled “Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan”, included a revised level of service and inventory of park acreages and was adopted by the Board under Resolution 15940 on November 10, 2020; and

9. The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed consistency changes as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update over one work session on March 4, 2020; and

10. The amendments were considered as part of the August 19, 2020 Planning Commission public hearing and the November 24, 2020 Board of County Commissioner public hearing; and

11. Minimal public comment was received regarding proposed changes to the parks strategy and level of service; and

12. The Board concurs with the Thurston County Planning Commission’s recommendation for the reasons stated herein and the information provided during the public process; and

13. The amendments contained in this resolution ensure consistency with the Thurston County Public Works update to the “Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan”; and

14. The amendments impact Chapter 1-Introduction (reference change), Chapter 6-Capital Facilities, Chapter 9-Environment, Recreation and Open Space, and Appendix C.

VI. Health Element

1. New formatting, including but not limited to font style, headers, footers, table nomenclature, map nomenclature, page numbering, and citations are reflected in the Chapter 11 changes contained in this resolution; and

2. Table nomenclature within Chapter 11 has been revised for consistency with the rest of the Comprehensive Plan; and

3. The health element is an optional element of the Comprehensive Plan and is not a required element under the Growth Management Act; and

4. The chapter was added to the Comprehensive Plan on January 8, 2013 under Resolution 14845 and has not been updated since; and

5. Thurston County’s Public Health and Social Services Department drafted the amended chapter from 2017 through 2020, working closely with Community Planning to update the Chapter; and

6. The Health and Human Services includes updated current conditions and data related to Thurston County’s community health, new information from Sustainable Thurston and Thurston Thrives, updates for consistency with Thurston County and local health department strategic plans, and updated policy language; and

7. The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed changes over three work session on June 17, July 1, and July 15, 2020; and

8. The amendments were considered as part of the August 19, 2020 Planning Commission public hearing and the November 24, 2020 Board of County Commissioner public hearing; and

9. Minimal public comment was received regarding proposed changes to the health and human services chapter; and

10. On December 9, 2020 the Board directed staff to make minor revisions to the chapter following their November 24, 2020 public hearing based on public comment received from Thurston Thrives, and further discussion at follow up work sessions with Public Health and Social Services. The minor revisions to the chapter update critical issues, include 5 new policies and other policy revisions to reference BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color), reference the 2020 Health Equity Assessment, and reference BIPOC in the narrative of the chapter; and

11. The Board concurs with the Thurston County Planning Commission's recommendation for the reasons stated herein and the information provided during the public process; and

12. The amendments impact Chapter 11-Health and Human Services.

SECTION 2. ROCHESTER SUBAREA PLAN. In accordance with the provisions of this resolution, the Rochester Subarea Plan is hereby repealed and replaced as shown in Attachment A.

SECTION 3. POLICY E5 NISQUALLY SUBAREA PLAN. In accordance with the provisions of this resolution, policy E5 of the Nisqually Subarea Plan is hereby amended as shown in Attachment B.

SECTION 4. 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE - CHAPTER AMENDMENTS. In accordance with the provisions of this resolution, the Title Page, Table of Contents, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, and Appendices C and D of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan are hereby amended as shown in Attachment C.

SECTION 5. 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE - CHAPTER REPLACEMENT. In accordance with the provisions of this resolution, Chapter 11-Health and Human Services is hereby repealed and replaced as shown in Attachment D to this resolution.

SECTION 6. 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – MAP AMENDMENTS. In accordance with the provisions of this resolution, Comprehensive Plan Maps L-1 ‘Future Land Use’ and N-1 ‘Long Term Agriculture and Forestry’ are hereby amended as shown in Attachment E.

SECTION 7. 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – MAP REPLACEMENT. In accordance with the provisions of this resolution, Map M-43 is hereby repealed and replaced with Map N-2 ‘Designated Mineral Lands’ as shown in Attachment F to this resolution.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or other portion of this resolution or its application to any person is, for any reason, declared invalid, illegal

or unconstitutional in whole or in part by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction, said decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 9. CORRECTIONS. Upon approval of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Clerk of the Board is authorized to make any necessary corrections to any map, mapped boundary, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or other portion of this resolution for scriveners or clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Thurston County, Washington

Clerk of the Board

Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JON TUNHEIM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Vice-Chair

Travis Burns,
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Commissioner

ATTACHMENT A:

ROCHESTER
SUBAREA PLAN

Rochester Subarea Plan Update

December 15, 2020

Acknowledgments

THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John Hutchings, Chair
Gary Edwards, Vice-Chair
Tye Menser, Commissioner

THURSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Scott Nelson, Chair
Jim Simmons, Vice Chair
Eric Casino
Don DeHan
Edward Fleisher
Raul de Leon
Doug Karman
Donna Nickerson
Tyle Zuchowski

THURSTON COUNTY STAFF

Shannon Shula, Associate Planner, Community Planning & Economic Development
Jennifer Davis, Planning Manager, Community Planning & Economic Development
Maya Teeple, Senior Planner, Community Planning & Economic Development
Theresa Parsons, Engineering Project Manager, Public Works
Matt Unzelman, Traffic Engineering and Operations Manager, Public Works

THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (TRPC) STAFF

Allison Osterberg, Senior Planner
Karen Parkhurst, Programs & Policy Director
Veena Tabbutt, Deputy Director
Katrina Van Every, Senior Planner
Michael Ambrogi, Senior GIS Analyst

ROCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ROCHESTER CITIZEN'S GROUP

ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOUTH THURSTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Contents

Introduction	1
Land Use	3
Natural Resources	5
Population and Housing Growth	6
Transportation	9
Capital Facilities & Utilities	13
Economic Development	18
Environment, Recreation, & Open Space	19
Archeological & Historic Resources	20
Goals and Actions	21
Appendices	29
References	30

Introduction

The Rochester Subarea consists of 8,619 acres in southwest Thurston County, located approximately 15 miles south of Olympia. The subarea is bounded by Old Highway 99 and Interstate 5 on the east, Littlerock Road flanks the western and northern boundaries, and James Road on the southern boundary. Unincorporated Rochester is composed of primarily low-density rural residential lands with a small commercial core at the heart of downtown Rochester. Roughly five percent of the subarea is utilized for commercial and industrial uses, while less than one percent of lands are used for farm and agriculture use.

The Rochester Subarea abuts and surrounds the Grand Mound Urban Growth Area; however Grand Mound has its own separate Subarea Plan, which is currently under development. Most often, these communities are referred to interchangeably, and many area residents feel strongly that they are one community.

Purpose

The purpose of the Rochester Subarea Plan update is a document to help serve as a guide for future growth of the community over the next twenty years. This plan is an update to the 1996 Rochester Subarea Plan and compliments the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan, in addition to goals and objectives of Washington State's Growth Management Act.

Vision

Rochester is a rural residential community that prides itself on its rural charm with an emphasis on agriculture, open spaces and small close-knit community.

“Rochester would benefit from more commercial development in the downtown strip...” – Rochester resident

“...Retain small town feel, yet smoothly develop business core”. - Rochester resident

“More green open space that is also modern while still retaining rural flair”. – Rochester High School Students

When asked about the future vision of their community, the input from the community residents was consistent with the two visions from over twenty years ago.

Visions from 1996 Rochester Subarea Plan:

- *Preservation of the rural character, agricultural uses and sensitive environments as keys to quality of life, and economic diversity as well as environmental and human health. (1996)*
- *Support of the economic health of the Subarea by designating the areas for adequate future residential and commercial expansion and support continuation of agricultural pursuits to promote economic diversity. (1996)*

During public outreach with the Rochester community in 2018 and 2019, residents were asked if these vision statements still resonated with their community. Most residents felt that these statements were still relevant to their community today. An additional interactive activity queried the attendees about what words best describes their community. Words like “quiet”, “rural”, and “close-knit” were used to best characterize Rochester.

A specific outreach effort was completed in the spring of 2018 with a group of students at Rochester High School to gain perspective from a younger demographic and to engage them in a visioning exercise about the future of their community. The following statement best sums up the vision and identity for their community.

“Rochester is a quiet, unique, and close-knit rural community with an urban flair”.

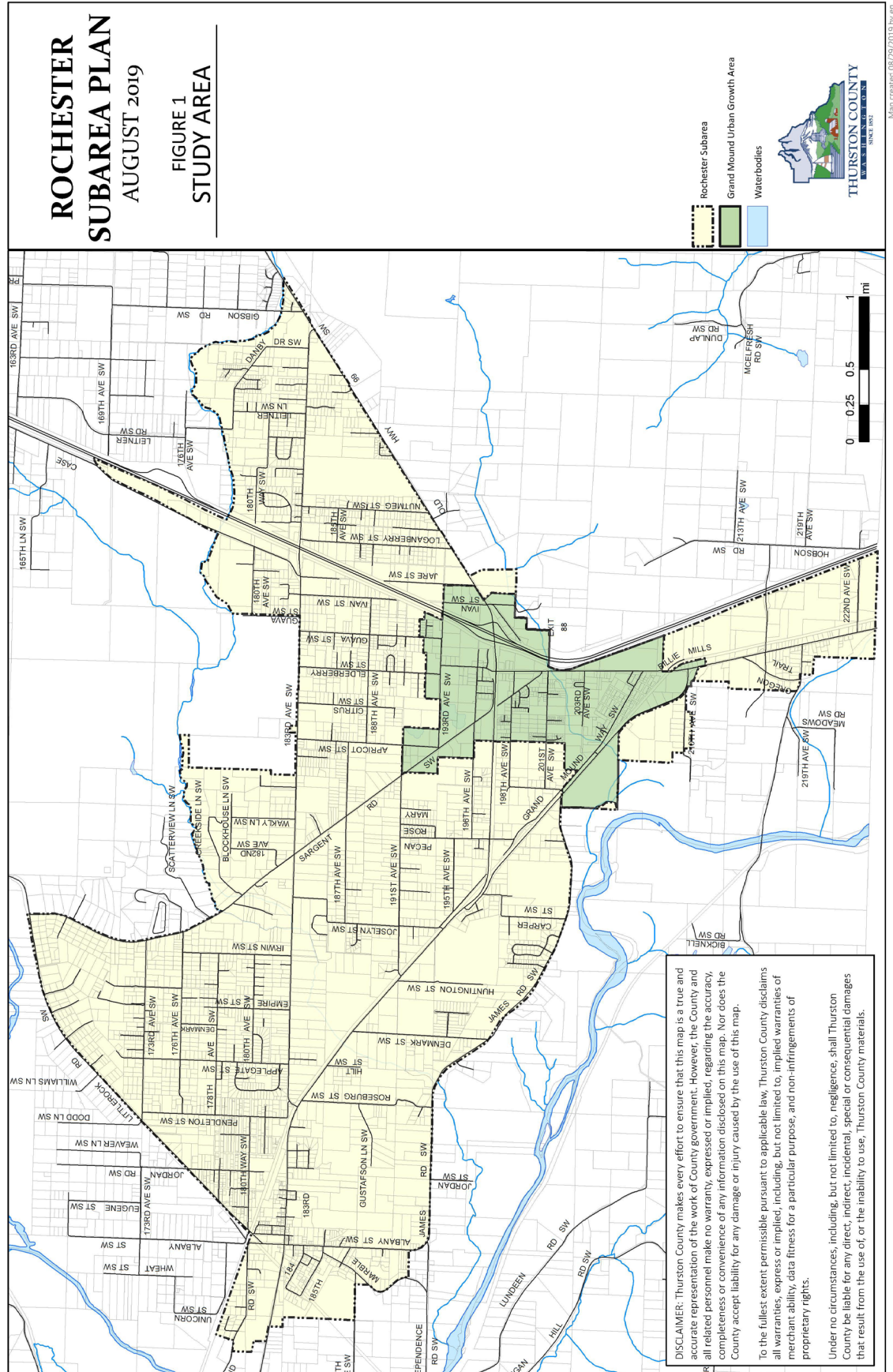
Land Use

Rochester Subarea is composed primarily of low-density residential housing with parcels one to five acres in size. A commercial core is the heart of downtown Rochester located along US Highway 12, near the intersection at Albany Street, that is composed of a local businesses and Rochester Middle School. Agriculture and Open Space lands compose less than 1 percent of the total acreage within the subarea.

The land use in the Rochester subarea is consistent with the County's current Land Use designations found in the Comprehensive Plan and on the Official Zoning Map. There is no distinguishing zoning or land use for the Rochester Subarea. The definition of each land use designation can be found in the Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 2, Land Use, and is displayed on the Future Land Use Map (Map L-1) in the Comprehensive Plan. The following land use designations are found in the Rochester Subarea boundaries.

LAND USE TYPE	GROSS ACRES	PERCENT (%) OF TOTAL ACRES
Long Term Agriculture	1.4	0.02%
Residential LAMIRD 1/1 (RL1/1)	1,758.9	20.41%
Rural Residential Resource (RRR1/5)	6,348.3	73.66%
Rural 1/20 (R1/20)	37.9	0.44%
Public Parks Trails and Preserves (PP)	0.7	0.01%
Neighborhood Convenience Commercial (NCC)	7.3	0.08%
Rural Commercial (RCC)	443.0	5.14%
Rural Resource Industrial (RRI)	21.3	0.25%
TOTAL	8,618.8	100.0%

Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2019



Natural Resources

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The Rochester Subarea lies nestled in a broad reach of prairie and wooded landscape located in the Chehalis River basin. Most of the region is characterized by relatively lowland flat topography, with floodplains along the Chehalis River. Wetlands are located along the Scatter Creek drainage basin and in some undeveloped areas.

More information relating to critical aquifers, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat areas, floodplains, and geologically hazardous areas for all rural unincorporated county are part of Chapter 9, Environment, Recreation, and Open Space of the Comprehensive Plan.

Inventory of Critical Areas			
Type	Subtype	Acreage	% of Total Subarea
Oak Woodlands	Conifer Deciduous	201.35	2.34
	Oak Deciduous	194.27	2.54
Wetlands	Wetlands & Hydric Soils	420.78	4.88
Floodplains	100 Year Floodplain	755.10	8.76
	500 Year Floodplain	0.51	0.01

Source: Thurston Geodata, 2019

Population and Housing Growth

Projections for Growth

Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) is the official agency that projects growth and employment forecasts for all of Thurston County. TRPC coordinates with the State Office of Financial Management (OFM) in determining realistic population and employment projections for the County. TRPC then allocates that growth by planning areas within the County.

The growth projections for Rochester were developed as a part of the subarea population allocation model by the TRPC. The projections are based on past growth trends, including the most recent building permit data. Growth projections by 5-year increments for the period from 2010 to 2040 for the Rochester Subarea are presented in the table below.

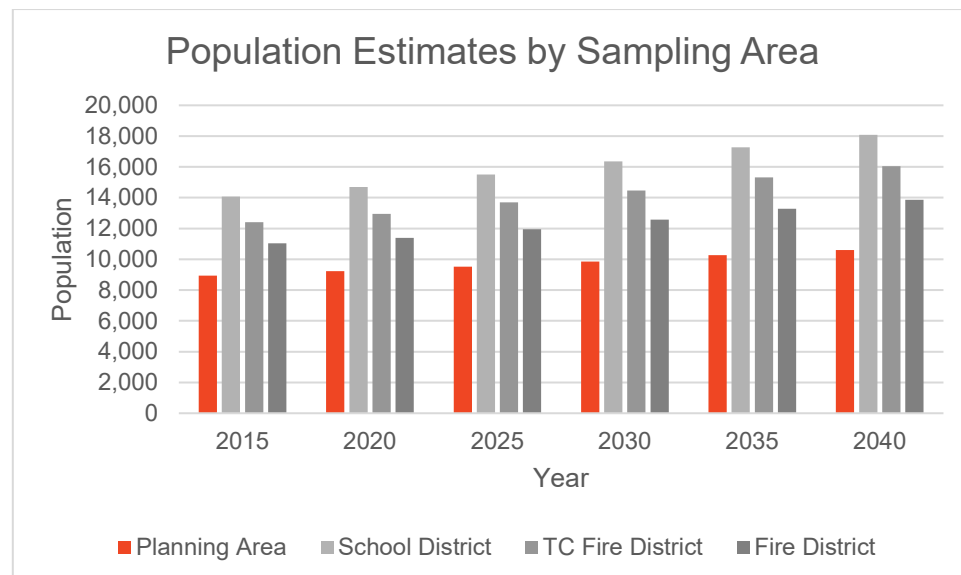
GROWTH PERIOD	PROJECTED POPULATION INCREASE	TOTAL PROJECTED POPULATION	PERCENT INCREASE (ANNUALIZED)
2010-2015	160	8,940	0.36%
2015-2020	290	9,230	0.65%
2020-2025	300	9,530	0.65%
2025-2030	320	9,850	0.67%
2030-2035	420	10,270	0.85%
2035-2040	340	10,610	0.66%
TOTAL	1,830	10,610	0.69%

Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2014

According to the 2014 Thurston Regional Planning Council, Small Area Population Estimates and Population and Employment Forecast Work Program, there was a reported population of 8,780 residents for the Rochester

planning area according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The most recent TRPC estimates in 2017, reported an estimated population of 9,210 people for the area. Based on the TRPC 2019 forecast, they estimated a current total population of 9,400 people residing in the Rochester Subarea.

However, these estimates vary based on the sampling jurisdiction. There are four sampling populations for the region based on planning area, school district, and fire districts. The 2014 TRPC population estimate by School District, estimated a total of 14,460 residents for 2017. The 2014 TRPC population estimate based on Thurston County Fire District estimates Rochester's population at 12,780 in 2017. Whereas, the 2014 TRPC population estimate based on Planning Area, estimates the 2017 population at 9,210 residents. There is a discrepancy of over 5,000 people depending on the sample size. However, despite the sample distribution, TRPC projections and forecast estimate an overall slow and steady growth of less than one percent per year over the next 40 years.



Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2014

Housing Estimates and Forecast

According to the 1990 Census, there were 1,832 total housing units within the Rochester Study Area. During the 2010 U.S. Census, there was an estimated 3,470 total housing units in the subarea. The 2014 TRPC Housing Estimates and Forecast projects a slow steady increase of approximately 2.5% to 3% in housing units, which varies from 10 to 20 new units per year. Between the years 2010 to 2040, a total of 600 new additional housing units is forecasted, which is an increase of approximately 15% over the next thirty years. Additional housing information for unincorporated county can be found in Chapter 4, Housing, of the Comprehensive Plan.

YEAR	PROJECTED HOUSING UNITS	PROJECTED INCREASE IN HOUSING UNITS	PROJECTED % INCREASE
2010	3470		
2015	3520	50	1.4%
2020	3610	90	2.5%
2025	3720	110	3.0%
2030	3840	120	3.1%
2035	3960	120	3.0%
2040	4070	110	2.7%
TOTAL (2010-2040)		600	15.7%

Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2014

Transportation

U.S. Route 12 (US 12) serves as the primary highway through the Rochester Subarea connecting to Interstate 5 in the east and Aberdeen to the west. In addition to serving as a major thoroughfare, US 12 also serves as Rochester's Main Street for the businesses located near the intersection at Albany Street. Railways also have a presence in the region, transporting freight through the subarea and is designated as a freight economic corridor by the state.

Main Street Rochester Project

In 2016, a collaborative effort between Thurston County, Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), received a federal Surface Transportation Grant (STP) to study a one-mile segment of US 12 located between 183rd Avenue and Bailey's IGA. The Main Street Rochester project's primary focus was to:

- Improve safety and multimodal mobility;
- Increase infrastructure investments in the area;
- Enhance Rochester's sense of place; and
- Encourage economic vitality.

The project team completed extensive outreach efforts with the community and businesses through open houses, workshops, community focus groups and surveys. As a result of these efforts, the community provided insight to safety, transportation, mobility, placemaking and economic vitality for Rochester. The deliverables from this collaborative effort is composed of three sections: a Current Conditions Report – findings for project area; a Multimodal Transportation Action Plan - action plan for improvements along US 12; and a Final Report – summary of findings.



Source: Main Street Rochester Multimodal Transportation Plan, 2019

The Transportation Action Plan identified the Rochester community's priority actions for future construction: frontage improvements, a center turn lane, the Rochester-Grand Mound Trail, and US 12 and 183rd intersection improvements. The project was split into four phases based on location and priority (see image to left). Development of this Action Plan included workshops with the public, businesses, and technical experts, and a right-of-way survey performed by WSDOT.

The plan identified 26 actions that would have a positive impact on safety and mobility, infrastructure investments, economic vitality, and placemaking. These were organized into four categories:

- **4 Maintenance Actions.** These actions include ways to maintain existing transportation facilities and infrastructure investments.
- **10 Multimodal Construction Projects.** These actions result in actual construction, redesign, or repurposing of transportation facilities.
- **4 Other Construction Projects.** These actions result in actual construction or installation of items that are not transportation facilities.
- **8 Planning Projects.** These actions result in a plan or study that may be necessary before actual construction or other action can occur.

The table below highlights the actions identified in the 2019 Multimodal Transportation Action Plan.

Main Street Rochester Action Items	
Maintenance Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restripe lanes and add lane edge buffers along US 12 • Clean out and repair stormwater facilities • Regularly sweep the highway to reduce debris in travel lanes and paved shoulders • Improve the visibility of highway traffic signs and signals 	
Multimodal Construction Projects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install frontage improvements along US 12 • Establish a shared use trail between Rochester and Grand Mound • Where appropriate, establish a center turn lane on US 12 • Improve the intersection at US 12 and 183rd Ave SW • Install pedestrian crossing improvements along US 12 • Improve the intersection at US 12 and Albany St SW • Establish a shared use access to Bailey's IGA • Establish a shared use access to Rochester Middle School • Install frontage improvements along Albany St SW between Littlerock Rd and Albany Park Ln SW/185th Ave SW • Install frontage improvements along Little Rd SW between Albany St SW and 180th Way SW 	
Other Construction Projects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install wayfinding signage for important community landmarks • Install gateway signage along US 12 near Albany St SW and 183rd Ave SW • Establish a park and pool or park and ride lot in Rochester • Improve existing transit stops on US 12 in Rochester 	
Planning Projects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a pole yard access plan • Update the regional trails plan • Create a Rochester Middle School walking map • Establish a street grid connection plan • Update street standards for the Rochester area • Inventory stormwater facilities associated with US 12 • Perform a study of drainage patterns in the Rochester area • Adopt a complete streets ordinance for Thurston County 	

Source: Main Street Rochester Multimodal Transportation Plan, 2019

In addition, the project team partnered with SCJ Alliance to develop conceptual layout plans for the various phases. These renderings provide context and examples of what the community envisions for the future of downtown Rochester.



Figure 2. Conceptual design of Phase 1 – US 12 Cross-section
Source: Main Street Rochester Multimodal Transportation Plan, 2019

A complete list of the reports and data for this project can be found in the References and on the Thurston Regional Planning Council project website.



Figure 3. Conceptual design of US 12 at Bend Street Perspective
Source: Main Street Rochester Multimodal Transportation Plan, 2019

Other transportation information for unincorporated county is included in Chapter 5, Transportation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Capital Facilities & Utilities

Rochester continues to have relatively limited amount of public infrastructure within the subarea and is characterized by rural levels of service for most public facilities. The Capital Facilities and Utilities for all unincorporated rural county is described in Chapter 6, Capital Facilities, and Chapter 7, Utilities, of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Sewer and Water Systems

There are no public sanitary sewerage or potable water systems presently within the subarea. Every property must provide on-site sewage systems within the Rochester Subarea. More than two-thirds of development within the subarea rely on individual wells for domestic water supply, and 85 percent of residential units depend on on-site sewage systems to treat household and commercial wastewater. There are several community drainfields that serve a limited number of isolated higher density residential developments, including several mobile home parks.

The Rochester Water Association was established in 1969 and is a non-profit member owned water company with an elected board that oversees the daily operations. The association provides a community water system servicing 1.6 square miles of residents within the subarea. The water system is a Group A system that consists of seven wells with an annual water right of 376.4 acre-feet (122,650,000 gallons) per year. The Rochester Water Association currently has 683 active connections and serves approximately 1,698 residents. According to the Washington State Department of Health, the Association is approved for up to 1,540 connections.

Water consumption information for the existing subarea is based on water rights data available from Thurston County Water Planning. The data shown on the table below indicates that the two dominant water users in the Scatter Creek basin are aquaculture (fish propagation) and agriculture (irrigation). These users collectively account for more than 75 percent of the total groundwater consumption within the basin. Domestic and public water supply users account for less than 18 percent of total annual consumption.

Location Type	Groundwater Pumping (Acre-Feet)	Water Rights Permitted (Acre-Feet)	Groundwater Pumping (Permit-Exempt, Acre-Feet)	Total Groundwater Pumping (Acre-Feet)
Well - Fish Propagation	7,146	24,000		7,146
Well - Irrigation	5,158	9,000	399	5,557
Well - Public Supply Group A System	1,324	900		1,324
Well - Public Supply Group B System	49		143	192
Well - Livestock		350	616	616
Well - Industrial	51		246	296
Well - Commercial	128		21	149
Well - Domestic General	145	100	969	1,114
	14,000	34,350	2,393	16,393

Source: Thurston County Water Planning, 2019

Stormwater Systems

Stormwater improvement projects currently under construction in the Rochester region is the Albany Street Stormwater Pond located on Albany Street SW near US 12. The project will allow rainwater and stormwater runoff to drain from nearby streets into the pond. This project is funded by a \$1.1 million grant from Washington State Department of Ecology, with additional costs for property, construction and design paid for by County Stormwater fees.

Stormwater facilities and maintenance associated with US 12, including right-of-way, is managed by Washington State Department of Transportation.

Refer to Thurston County Public Works Stormwater Utility about additional regional project and the Stormwater Management Program Plan (2019) for more information.



Figure 4. Albany Street Pond under construction, 2019.

Source: Thurston County Stormwater, 2019

Schools

The Rochester School District No. 401 services both the Rochester Subarea and the Grand Mound Urban Growth Area, in addition to surrounding areas that reach into Lewis and Grays Harbor Counties. The District operates four main schools providing public education for grades K-12, in addition to an alternative high school. Facilities include the Rochester Primary School (K-2),

Grand Mound Elementary (3-5), Rochester Middle School (6-8), Rochester High School (9-12), and HEART High School (9-12). The schools and their respective 2018 enrollment figures are shown in the table below.

In 2018, the total enrollment was 2,303 students, an increase of 36% from the enrollment count in 1995 of 1,694 students. Enrollment projections by the District (Source: OSPI and OFM) indicate a continued growth in student population with a total of approximately 2,447 students by the year 2025. Rochester School District is currently at capacity and most schools have modular buildings on site to house the growing student population.

SCHOOL	GRADE LEVEL	ENROLLMENT	MAXIMUM PERMANENT CAPACITY*
Rochester Primary	K-2	539	507
Rochester Primary	Pre	25	
Grand Mound Elementary	3-5	514	420
Rochester Middle School	6-8	529	504
Rochester High School	9-12	666	510
HEART Alternative School	9-12	30	0
TOTAL		2,303	1941

Source: Rochester School District 401, 2019

*Provides the OSPI assessment of the maximum enrollment capacity of each permanent educational facility. In accordance with accepted facility planning practice, interim housing is not included in this assessment.

The Rochester School District contracted with OAC Services to complete their Long Range Capital Facilities Plan in 2019. The plans purpose was to identify District needs, prioritize capital facilities requests, determine costs and develop financing strategies. The school district is faced with many challenges with facilities planning and growing enrollments. The plan addresses capacity

issues, safety, long-term viability of the existing facilities, and identifies solutions for district-wide planning. The Long Range Plan provides recommendations for the phasing of remodeling and construction projects, in addition to future school locations. The table below provides a summary of the existing facilities and the number of portable units located at each school site for the Rochester School District. Further information and the completed Long Range Plan can be found on the Rochester School District website.

ROCHESTER SCHOL DISTRICT EXISTING FACILITIES							
School	Grades Housed	Site/ Acres	Year Built	Building Area*	Additions / Remodel	Total Gross Area	Number of Portable Classrooms
Rochester Primary School	K-2	10.50**	2002	45,711		48,945	14
Grand Mound Elementary	3-5	12.25**	1970 2003	37,827	0	41,618	12
Rochester Middle School	6-8	14.48	1961 2003	4,918	54,074	65,595	7
Rochester High School	9-12	54.38**	1989	66,409		75,921	14
HEART High School	9-12	0.00**	-	0		0	2

Source: Rochester School District 401, 2019

*Building Area accounts for the SCAP eligible permanent building areas.

** RPS, GMES, and RHS are on a shared parcel.

Economic Development

Rochester's economic base is the group of businesses located in the commercial corridor along US 12. Most of the small businesses are locally owned and run. Many of the businesses have been in operation for over 10 years. The small downtown corridor serves as the heart of the community with cafes, shops, and a grocery store. Rochester works to improve the economic base through business creation, expansion, and partnerships.

The community identified, during the Main Street Rochester project, that this area has the highest potential for economic development and business development. There is a vested interest in expanding and diversifying the local businesses to promote economic health and resilience. Rochester serves as major thoroughfare that could serve as a destination for travelers. The Rochester Chamber of Commerce and local businesses are active participants in the South Thurston Economic Development Initiative (STEDI) that serves to help expand economic development efforts in their community.



Figure 5. Businesses located along US 12 in downtown Rochester.
Source: TRPC, 2018

For additional information about economic development in rural unincorporated areas, refer to Chapter 8, Economic Development of the Comprehensive Plan.

Environment, Recreation, & Open Space

Parks and Recreation

There are few organized park and recreational facilities within the Rochester Subarea. Limited facilities such as baseball/football fields, running track, and basketball courts are provided by the Rochester School District at the elementary, middle and high schools. However, access is limited for non-school use of these facilities. The Rochester School District permits public access to Independence Park, located just north of the District Offices located at US 12 and Albany Street.

There are also several privately-operated recreational facilities in the area, including Hoss Field baseball park located on 196th Avenue S.W., the Grand Mound Driving Range along Old Highway 9 and a motocross track located on Jare Street. In addition, there are also several regional outdoor recreation areas adjacent to the Study Area, including the Scatter Creek Game Preserve, Capitol Forest, and Black River boat launch facility.

The County is currently working with the non-profit community group of Hoss Fields as a partnership to provide funding for future field renovations and improvements as part of Community Development Block Grant. A \$100,000 grant was received for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements for Fiscal Year 2019. The grant will upgrade the existing sports complex and signage and “provide recreational opportunities to 3,330 individuals in approximately 1,280 households of which nearly fifty-five percent are low *to moderate* [sic] income” (2019-2020 CDBG Action Plan).

Archeological & Historic Resources

Swede Hall

For over 80 years, Swede Hall, located at Albany Street & 185th Avenue SW, has served as the local Rochester meeting hall for events and is a valuable community resource. Portions of the original hall originated from Independence Valley and are almost 120 years old. Swede Hall was a Royal Order of the Runeberg, similar to a grange hall, and is the pride of the original Swedish and Finnish settlers of the region. Their local descendants honor their heritage annually in the summer months on Swede Day with celebration that includes a parade, food and family festivities held at Swede Hall.

Local Indigenous History: Chehalis Tribe, “People of the Sand”

For many centuries, the Upper and Lower Chehalis people lived in villages along the Chehalis River. They fished the Chehalis, Black, Cowlitz, and Satsop rivers. The Chehalis hunted and gathered from the mountains, across the prairies, to Grays Harbor and in the lower Puget Sound. They lived in cedar longhouses with one end open to the water from which they received a bounty of salmon and other river-based sustenance. The Salish-speaking people thrived for a long time in this region until colonization and their ancestral lands were lost. Their current reservation was established in 1860 and is in Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties, near Oakville (ChehalisTribes.org, 2019).

Today, the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation operate several thriving enterprises such as the Lucky Eagle Casino, Eagles Landing Hotel, the Great Wolf Lodge, End of the Trail and Talking Cedar. In addition, they have recently built new community and wellness centers that have dramatically enhanced the quality of life for their people.

Goals and Actions

Land Use

Goal 1. Provide sufficient land use capacities to maintain the rural character and projected population forecasts for Rochester.

Action 1.1. Monitor land supply and use to ensure a variety of rural densities within the Rochester Subarea.

Action 1.2. Help to focus future growth in the adjacent Grand Mound Urban Growth Area and other areas meant to accommodate higher densities.

Goal 2. Provide land availability for public and private gathering places and diverse opportunities for arts, recreation, entertainment, and culture.

Action 2.1. Consider public-private partnership opportunities for community squares, cooperative markets, public art walks, and outdoor festivals that focus on the community's identity and sense of place.

Multimodal Transportation (Roads, Walkability, and Bicycling)

Goal 1. Develop walkways, crosswalks, and bicycle routes to enhance the walkability, safety and economic development of Rochester.

Action 1.1. Provide walkways and crosswalks along US 12 from Albany Street to 183rd to enhance current economic development and accessibility in downtown Rochester.

Action 1.2. Refer to and utilize the Rochester Main Street Transportation Study as a tool and resource.

Action 1.3. Expand future connections to and from Rochester with county-wide multiuse trails to create “partner cities” for parallel Economic Development opportunities (Gate-Belmore and Yelm-Tenino Trails).

Goal 2. Work with Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to attempt to reduce traffic issues in the Rochester Subarea.

Action 2.1. Encourage WSDOT to reduce and slow the truck traffic through the downtown core of Rochester.

Action 2.2. Consider alternative traffic solutions to alleviate the heavy truck traffic through Rochester along US 12.

Goal 3. Enhance the aesthetic values of the streetscape in Rochester as identified in the Main Street Rochester Multimodal Transportation Action Plan and Complete Streets study.

Action 3.1. Consider developing design standards for the downtown Rochester core with a focus on aesthetics of streets, sidewalks, and associated amenities.

Action 3.2. Ensure design standards are implemented within the Rochester Subarea, specifically the downtown corridor, to help create a sense of place.

Goal 4. Work to improve safety for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles with the Rochester Subarea.

Action 4.1. Coordinate with WSDOT to improve pedestrian and bicycle alternatives, including safety improvements, especially along US 12.

Action 4.2. Encourage connectivity between existing routes and future developments.

Goal 5. Work to ensure that adequate and sufficient parking is available for businesses and customers in the Rochester downtown core.

Action 5.1. Through public-private partnerships review the existing public parking availability and accessibility within downtown Rochester.

Action 5.2. Utilizing the parking study, consider alternatives, updates, or changes to parking requirements and availability within downtown Rochester.

Action 5.3. As feasible, implement incentive-based parking programs within the Rochester downtown business core, such as shared-use parking and on street parking.

Goal 6. Establish a collective community identity for Rochester.

Action 6.1. Identify and locate community-oriented public facilities and features within the Rochester Subarea.

Action 6.2. Work with the community to consider highlighting the historic features and characteristics identified in Rochester through preservation and conservation.

Action 6.3. Preserve the small-town character of the Rochester Subarea through community planning and development and design standards.

Goal 7. Provide Transportation Improvements that Enhance Economic Development

Action 7.1. Utilize the Rochester Main Street Study to improve safety, aesthetics and design guidelines for the downtown Rochester corridor.

Capital Facilities and Utilities

Goal 1. Support the development of a comprehensive approach to stormwater management that encourages coordination between transportation, stormwater, and private development projects.

Action 1.1. Identify areas needing improved and/or updated stormwater drainage infrastructure within the Rochester Subarea.

Action 1.2. Involve the Rochester community in the assessment and prioritization of stormwater facility projects through the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board.

Goal 2. Ensure stormwater management systems that utilize and preserve natural drainage systems, such as streams, and construct facilities that complement these systems by taking advantage of opportunities for filtration, infiltration, and flow control where feasible.

Action 2.1. Require the use of permeable surfaces and other Low Impact Development (LID) technologies in new building construction and property development.

Action 2.2. Mitigate impacts of stormwater management regulations on private property by hosting meetings, workshops, and trainings with property owners and the community when new regulations are proposed.

Action 2.3. Determine cumulative impacts of development on surrounding properties and help to minimize the negative consequences of stormwater runoff on properties.

Goal 3. Explore options for alternative wastewater treatment to provide flexibility to support businesses and future business growth within the Rochester business core, while maintaining ground water quality.

Action 3.1. As feasible, consult with the County and work with local businesses to explore options for improvements and expansion.

Goal 4. Continue Regional Stormwater Improvements.

Action 4.1. Develop a natural approach for future stormwater management to implement projects that control flows, reduce flooding, and enhance water quality.

Action 4.2. Build and maintain Rochester Albany Street Stormwater pond to ensure proper drainage of surrounding streets and improve water quality.

Economic Development

Goal 1. Achieve diversification of Rochester's economic base through supporting the establishment and expansion of locally-owned businesses within the downtown core.

Action 1.1. Collaborate with the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, South Thurston Economic Development Initiative (STEDI), Thurston Economic Development Council (EDC), Thurston County and other organizations to foster and promote a business-oriented atmosphere that supports the local businesses in downtown Rochester.

Action 1.2. Identify and encourage business opportunities that may support the local economy and community.

Goal 2. Support the maintenance of local businesses.

Action 2.1. Encourage and promote small business development that builds projects compatible with Rochester's community values.

Action 2.2. Develop Partnerships with the future Southwest Washington Regional Agricultural Business & Innovation Park.

Goal 3. Support tourism to enhance the local community.

Action 3.1. Promote and strengthen the development of a downtown Rochester core along US 12, between 183rd and Bailey's IGA, as identified in the Main Street Rochester Study Project.

Action 3.2. Facilitate the development of a downtown way-finding system consistent with the area identity to create a sense of place for Rochester.

Action 3.3. Foster partnerships with the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, STEDI, EDC, Experience Olympia & Beyond, and other organizations to promote tourism and business development.

Parks, Trails and Open Space

Goal 1. Coordinate an integrated network of spaces that could expand recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors and utilizes the open space amenities and natural environment.

Action 1.1. Identify future park sites and related property acquisition needs areas that could benefit the Rochester community.

Action 1.2. As feasible, work with non-profit groups, the County, and other organizations to acquire land for open space conservation, trails network, and future parks.

Goal 2. Coordinate efforts among the community, Rochester School District, and the County to provide and maintain existing and future parks and fields to support sports, recreational, educational, and social activities for the community.

Action 2.1. Improve and maintain park maintenance at existing facilities.

Action 2.2. Implement upgrades and improvements to Independence Park and Hoss Fields.

Action 2.3. As feasible, partner with non-profit groups and other organizations to locate funding opportunities for future improvements.

Action 2.4. Consult with county, state agencies and local organizations to provide parks, open space, fields, and facilities that support active and passive recreation.

Action 2.5. Encourage public participation in development of plans for maintenance and operation for parks, open space, fields, and facilities in the Rochester area including volunteer efforts.

Action 2.6. Coordinate with community organizations and residents in the planning, development, operation, authorized use and maintenance of parks, trails, community facilities, and sports fields.

Goal 3. Develop a more walkable community by supporting pedestrian pathways, sidewalks and trails that connect people to places.

Action 3.1. Coordinate with county, state, Tribal, local organizations and residents to acquire land for trails, community connectors and open space corridors, such as the extension of the Gate-Belmore trail to Rochester and future trail expansion to Grand Mound.

Action 3.2. Coordinate maintenance and operation support for parks, trails and open space with other jurisdictions and supporting community groups.

Action 3.3. Safety and security shall be considered when reviewing and implementing plans for future trails, pathways, and greenways.

Action 3.4. Encourage the establishment of a trails system sign program that identifies access points and destinations throughout the region.

Goal 4. Create bicycle routes and multiuse pathways to provide safe, secure, and efficient bicycle connections for commuter, visitor, fitness, and recreational riders.

Action 4.1. Consult and coordinate with Rochester area community groups to define and prioritize local bicycle routes.

Action 4.2. Ensure that local bicycle routes connect with regional bicycle routes throughout the county and adjacent jurisdictions.

Action 4.3. Support and promote the Thurston County Trails Plan, the future Gate-Belmore and Grand Mound-Rochester trails, and any future trails to and from Rochester.

Appendices

Community Engagement and Outreach

The County conducted numerous community outreach efforts with Rochester residents for input and participation in the Rochester Subarea Plan update. Thurston County hosted four community open house events and one outreach event with Rochester High School students to discuss the Rochester and Grand Mound Subarea Plan update process, transportation projects in the Grand Mound area, and the Main Street Rochester project. In addition, staff attended numerous community meetings throughout the south county region, such as the Rochester-Grand Mound Chamber of Commerce, Rochester Citizens Group, Rochester School District Long-Term Facilities Planning, and STEDI. Three of the initial meetings were related to both the Rochester and Grand Mound Subarea Plan update process and one additional meeting that focused solely on the Rochester Subarea Plan update.

Dates of Community Outreach:

- February 24, 2018 (Open House, Rochester)
- March 8, 2018 (Open House, Grand Mound)
- May 30, 2018 (Outreach with Rochester High School, Rochester)
- June 16, 2018 (Outreach at Swede Day, Rochester)
- November 7, 2018 (Open House, Rochester)
- November 13, 2019 (Open House, Rochester)

The Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) project team also attended and presented information on Main Street Rochester Project and the Multimodal Transportation Plan during the community outreach.

References

Main Street Rochester Current Conditions Report, Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2018.

Main Street Rochester Multimodal Transportation Plan, Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2019.

Main Street Rochester Final Report, Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2019.

Rochester Subarea Plan, Thurston County, 1996.

Rochester School District Long Range Facilities Plan, OAC, September 2019.

Thurston County Stormwater Management Program Plan, December 2019.

Thurston County FY2019 Annual Action Plan, 2018-2022 Thurston County and Olympia, Regional Consolidated Plan, Prioritizing HOME and Community Development Block Grant Resources, September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020.

Contact Information

Shannon Shula, Associate Planner

Thurston County Community Planning and Economic Development

2000 Lakeridge Drive SW

Olympia, WA 98502

www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning



ATTACHMENT B:

NISQUALLY SUBAREA PLAN

(...)

- E.3. Recognize existing mineral extraction operations, require any new operations to be visually buffered from adjacent properties and roads, and prohibit any activities along the McAllister Bluff.
- E.4. Condition any mineral extraction operation north of the railroad to maintain a wooded hillside along Old Pacific Highway to provide a 100-foot vegetative buffer from the east of the right-of-way, except at an entrance. Where the native ground cover does not conceal the mining activities from the road, supplemental vegetation shall be provided.
- E.5. Allow accessory activities to be considered inside the mined out portion of a gravel pit through the site plan review process. Examples of allowable accessory uses would include concrete pipe and/or septic tank construction and the recycling of used concrete and asphalt pavement. Operators shall employ best management practices for covered storage of recycled asphalt to ensure minimal environmental harm and impact due to leachate. Best management practices will be determined through the site-level permit review process, but may include tarping, storage sheds, or other methods. The reprocessing of imported mineral resources shall not be the primary accessory use, ~~and the reprocessing of asphalt shall not be allowed due to water quality concerns.~~ These activities shall be discontinued once reclamation of the pit is completed in accordance with the WDNR standards.
- E.6. Evaluate all the allowable and special uses within the 1/5 zone to determine if they would be compatible with the "Agricultural/Pastoral Character" of the Nisqually Valley.
- E.7. Explore options for the redevelopment of the Martin Way & I-5 commercial area for a Nisqually Valley interpretative center.
- E.8. Provide for the redevelopment of preexisting non-conforming uses adjacent to the Old Nisqually commercial area through a Special Use Permit process, provided that the new use reflects the agricultural and historic character of the valley, and is consistent with the Goals and Policies of this Plan.

(...)

ATTACHMENT C:

2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE - CHAPTER AMENDMENTS

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



First adoption April 1995

Amended/Updated: December 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020

THURSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

John Hutchings Chair
Gary Edwards Commissioner
Tye Menser Commissioner

Ramiro Chavez County Manager

Updates prepared by: Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

~~2019~~ 2020 THURSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Scott Nelson, Chair
Jim Simmons, Vice Chair
~~Vacant~~ Eric Casino
Don DeHan
Ed Fleisher
Doug Karman
Raul de Leon
Donna Nickerson
Tyle Zuchowski

1995 Planning Commission

Dorn Barr, Chair
e.j. Curry, Vice Chair (opposed)
Robert T. Bower
MG Thomas F. Cole
Carolyn Dobbs
Bob James (opposed)
Charles Sadler
Pat Schoelkopf
Frank Swinkey

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

2019-2020 Thurston County CPED, Community Planning Staff

Joshua Cummings	CPED Director
Jennifer Davis	Planning Manager
Brad Murphy	Senior Planner
Christina Chaput	Senior Planner
Maya Teeple	Associate Senior Planner
Ian Lefcourte	Associate Planner
<u>Andrew Boughan</u>	<u>Associate Planner</u>
<u>Leah Davis</u>	<u>Associate Planner</u>
Kaitlynn Nelson	Associate Planner
Amber Stonik	Associate Planner
Shannon Shula	Associate Planner
Andrew Deffobis	Associate Planner
Marisa Whisman	Associate Planner
Charissa Waters	Associate Planner
Emily Pitman	GIS Analyst II
Polly Stoker	Administrative Assistant II

1995 Thurston County Advance Planning and Historic Preservation Staff

Lynn Dosheery	Senior Planner, Lead Project Staff
Kathy McCormick	Senior Planner
Steven Morrison	Senior Planner
Shanna Stevenson	Senior Planner
Linda Donaldson	Associate Planner
Holly Gilbert	Associate Planner
Lance Holmstrom	Associate Planner
Jackie Kettman	Associate Planner
Thera Black	Assistant Planner
Ron Towle	Graphics Coordinator
David Read	GIS Analyst
Ken Brown	Graphics Technician II
Jude Ballantyne	Recording Secretary
Rosalie Bostwick	Word Processing Coordinator
Louise Bobier	Office Specialist V
Jeannette Lael	Office Specialist III
Sarah Phillips	Office Specialist II
Mary Jo Clayton	Office Specialist I
Ran Kirk	Office Specialist I

Harold Robertson AICP, Planning Director

Kathleen Burgess Deputy Director

Marie Cameron Growth Management Coordinator

(...)

(...)

Table of Contents

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

~~Adopted November 2019~~ Adopted December 2020

A.	Community Vision	3-20
B.	Background	3-20
C.	Balancing Conflicts	3-21
D.	Designating Mineral Resources of Long-Term Commercial Significance	3-22 <u>23</u>
VII.	GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	3-25 <u>27</u>

CHAPTER FOUR -- HOUSING

I.	INTRODUCTION	4-1
II.	PLANNING CONTEXT FOR HOUSING	4-2
A.	Demographic Shifts	4-2
B.	Planning Context	4-4
III.	MEETING HOUSING NEEDS	4-6
IV.	HOUSING AFFORDABILITY	4-8
A.	Home Owners and Renters	4-8
B.	Homeless and Special Needs Housing	4-13
C.	Fair Share Housing Targets	4-16
V.	HOUSING DIVERSITY	4-17
VI.	GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	4-19

CHAPTER FIVE -- TRANSPORTATION

I.	INTRODUCTION	5-1
II.	PLANNING CONTEXT FOR TRANSPORTATION	5-2
A.	Growth Management Requirements	5-2
B.	County Wide Planning Policies	5-5
C.	Regional Transportation Plan	5-5
D.	Transportation Improvement Program	5-5
III.	HIGHWAYS AND ROADS	5-5
A.	Design and Locational Standards	5-6

(...)

(...)

Table of Contents

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

~~Adopted November 2019~~ Adopted December 2020

E.	Transportation	6-17
F.	General County Government Facilities and Services	6-19
V.	FINANCING THE COUNTY CAPITAL FACILITIES	6-20
A.	Impact Fees	6-21 <u>20</u>
B.	Real Estate Excise Tax	6-21
C.	Sales Tax	6-21
D.	Conservation Futures Property Tax Levy	6-21
E.	Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax (Gas Tax)	6-21
F.	Utility Rates	6-21
G.	Utility Local Improvement District (ULID)	6-22 <u>21</u>
H.	Central Services Building Reserve	6-22
I.	Funding Projects	6-22
VI.	LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS	6-23

CHAPTER SEVEN -- UTILITIES

I.	INTRODUCTION	7-1
II.	PLANNING CONTEXT FOR CAPITAL FACILITIES	7-2
A.	County Wide Planning Policies	7-2
B.	Regulatory Authorities	7-2
C.	Level of Service (LOS) Standards	7-3
III.	PRIVATE UTILITIES	7-4
A.	Electricity	7-4
B.	Natural Gas	7-6
C.	Standard Telephone	7-6
D.	Cellular Telephone	7-7
E.	Cable	7-8
IV.	COUNTY-OWNED/OPERATED UTILITIES	7-8
A.	Solid Waste	7-8
B.	Stormwater Utility	7-9
C.	Water and Sewer	7-12
V.	GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	7-13

(...)

B.	County Parks, Trails and Open Spaces	9-13
C.	Intergovernmental Coordination	9-14
D.	Thurston County Parkland Classification	9-15
E.	Level of Service	9-16
VI.	GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	9-17

CHAPTER TEN – ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

I.	INTRODUCTION	10-1
A.	Archaeological and Historic Preservation	10-2
II.	PLANNING CONTEXT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES	10-3
A.	County Wide Planning Policies.....	10-3
B.	Identification of Archaeological and Historic Resources.....	10-4
C.	Historic Preservation Programs	10-5
D.	Protection of Historic and Archaeological Resources.....	10-7
III.	GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	10-8

CHAPTER ELEVEN – HEALTH AND HUMAN HEALTHSERVICES

I.	INTRODUCT <u>I</u> TON.....	11-1
A.	Purpose Statement.....	11-1
B.	Authority and Origins of Planning in Public Health.....	11-1
C.	Relationship to Other Chapters of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan and Relevant County Policies.....	11-3
II.	PLANNING CONTEXT FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	11-3
A.	Countywide Planning Policies	11-3
B.	Regulatory Authority.....	11-4
III.	BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT.....	11-5
A.	Determinants of Health	11-5
B.	Current Understanding of Interactions between Built Environment and Health	11-67
C.	Public Health Priorities in Thurston County	11-68
II <u>IV.</u>	THURSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH INDICATORS	11-911

A.	Health Data for Decision Making.....	11-11
IV.	GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	11- 19 22

CHAPTER TWELVE -- PLAN AMENDMENTS

I.	GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	12-1
A.	Compliance with State Law.....	12-1
B.	Timing.....	12-1
II.	TYPES OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS	12-1
III.	APPEALS.....	12-2
A.	Growth Management Hearings Board Review.....	12-2
B.	Judicial Review	12-2

CHAPTER THIRTEEN -- GLOSSARY

I.	DEFINITIONS.....	13-1
II.	ACRONYMS	13-13

CHAPTER FOURTEEN -- APPENDICES

A.	Thurston County History	14-(A)-1
B.	Reserved	14-(B)-1
C.	Descriptions of Related Plans, Studies and Regulations.....	14-(C)-1
D.	List of Plan Amendments.....	14-(D)-1
E.	Maps	14-(E)-1
F.	Reserved	14-(F)-1
G.	Capital Improvement Program.....	

TABLE OF CONTENTS: TABLES, EXHIBITS AND MAPS

PAGE

TABLES**Land Use:**

Table 2-1	Population Allocation and Forecast by Thurston County Jurisdiction, 2017-2040.....	2-5
Table 2-2	Residential Capacity in Urban Areas of Thurston County.....	2-8
Table 2-3	Percentage of Land Allocated for Rural Uses	2-12

Natural Resource Lands:

Table 3-1	Acres of Land Enrolled in Agricultural Protection Programs.....	3-8
Table 3-2	Acres of Long-Term Agriculture Designation within Thurston County.....	3-11
Table 3-3	Acres of Forestland in Thurston County	3-17
Table 3-4	Washington State Private Forest Land Grades.....	3-18
Table 3-5	Acres of Mineral Resource Lands in Thurston County.....	3-23

Housing:

Table 4-1	Median Family Income for Thurston County.....	4-10
Table 4-2	Thurston County Housing Units by Indicators of Substandard Conditions.....	4-12
Table 4-3	Current and Future Fair Share Housing Distributions	4-16

Transportation:

Table 5-1	Level of Service for Roads	5-7
Table 5-2	Vehicle Level of Service	5-8

Capital Facilities:

Table 6-1	Interjurisdictional Shared Needs for Public Purpose Lands.....	6-4
Table 6-2	Proposed Water & Sewer Projects	6-15
Table 6-3	Twenty-Year Generalized Project Projections 2020-2040.....	6-22
Table 6-4	Level of Service Standards and Comparison to Previous CFP.....	6-24

Utilities:

Table 7-1	Level of Service Standards for Solid Waste	7-9
Table 7-2	Level of Service Standard for Stormwater	7-10
Table 7-3	Level of Service Standard for Water and Sewer	7-13

Economic Development:

Table 8-1	Average Annual Wages and Employment by Industry.....	8-9
Table 8-2	Acres of Farmland and Count of Farms sorted by Farm Size	8-12
Table 8-3	Sales and County of Farms Sorted by Farm Sales.....	8-13
Table 8-4	Low and High Dollar Per-Acre Estimates for Agriculture and Forest Lands	8-17

Environment, Recreation, and Open Space:

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

Table 9-1	Level of Service Standards for Parks	9-16
-----------	--	------

Archaeological and Historic Resources:

Table 10-1	Identified Historic Site Resources in Thurston County, April 2004.....	10-6
Table 10-2	Thurston County Historic Properties Inventory.....	10-11

Health and Human Services:

Table 11-1	Chronic Health Conditions Requiring Medical and/or Behavioral Health Care, Thurston County	11-912
Table 11-2	Environmental Public Health Concerns among Youth and Adults, Thurston County and Washington State	11-19
Table 11-3	Nutrition Patterns among Youth and Adults, Thurston County and Washington State	11-20
Table 11-4	Physical Activity among Youth and Adults, Thurston County and Washington State	11-21
Table 11-5	Tobacco use among Youth and Adults, Thurston County and Washington State	11-21
Table 11-6	Secondhand Smoke Exposure among Youth, Thurston County and Washington State	11-22
Table 11-2	Away from Home Food Purchasing, Thurston County Adults 2008.....	11-13
Table 11-3	Away from Home Food Purchasing by Location of Residence, Thurston County Adults 2008.....	11-13
Table 11-4	Eating Patterns among Middle and High School Students, Thurston County and Washington State 2010	11-13
Table 11-5	Eating Patterns among Middle School Students, Thurston County 2010.....	11-14
Table 11-6	Physical Activity at Home and Work, Thurston County Adults 2008	11-14
Table 11-7	Recent Physical Activity by Location of Residence, Thurston County Adults 2008.....	11-15
Table 11-8	Physical Activity, Thurston County Middle and High School Students.....	11-15
Table 11-9	Physical Activity, Thurston County Middle School Students 2010	11-16
Table 11-10	Adult Tobacco Use, Thurston County and Washington State	11-17
Table 11-11	Tobacco Use, Thurston County Middle School Students	11-17
Table 11-12	Tobacco Use, Thurston County Middle and High School Students.....	11-17

Plan Amendments

Table 12-1	General Steps for Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments	12-3
------------	--	------

EXHIBITS**Land Use:**

Exhibit A	Olympia Airport with Overlay Zone	2-36
-----------	---	------

Transportation:

Exhibit A	Private Road.....	5-14
<i>Exhibit A-1</i>	<i>Paved Private Road</i>	5-14
<i>Exhibit A-2</i>	<i>Gravel Private Road</i>	5-15
Exhibit B	Local Road.....	5-16
<i>Exhibit B-1</i>	<i>Rural Local Road</i>	5-16
<i>Exhibit B-2</i>	<i>Rural Residential Local Road</i>	5-17
<i>Exhibit B-3</i>	<i>Urban Local Road</i>	5-18
Exhibit C	Collector Road	5-19
<i>Exhibit C-1</i>	<i>Major Collector</i>	5-19
<i>Exhibit C-2</i>	<i>Minor Collector</i>	5-20
Exhibit D	Arterial Road.....	5-21
<i>Exhibit D-1</i>	<i>Urban Arterial Road</i>	5-21
<i>Exhibit D-2</i>	<i>Rural Arterial Road</i>	5-22
Exhibit E	Multiuse Trail	5-25
Exhibit F	Bike Lane	5-26
Exhibit G	Bike Route.....	5-27
Exhibit H	Shared Travel Land	5-28
Exhibit I	Urban Pedestrian Facilities.....	5-30
Exhibit J	Rural Pedestrian Facilities	5-31
Exhibit K	Enhanced Pedestrian Crossings.....	5-32

Health and Human Health:

Exhibit K	Significant Factors in the Health of a Community.....	11-5
-----------	---	------

MAPS**Introduction:**

Map I-1	Unincorporated Thurston County
Map I-2	Physiography
Map I-3	Existing Land Use

Land Use:

Map -L-1	Future Land Use
Map L-3	Military and Airport Noise Impact Areas

Natural Resource Lands:

Map N-1	Long Term Agriculture and Forestry
Map 43 <u>N-2</u>	Designated Mineral Resource Lands
Map N-3	Mineral Resource Inventory (AESI, 2017)

Transportation:

Map T-1	Federal Functional Classification
---------	-----------------------------------

(...)

(...)

III. HOW THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS USED BY THURSTON COUNTY

A. THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, JOINT PLANS AND OTHER SPECIALIZED PLANS

The content of the Comprehensive Plan is guided by the Growth Management Act and the Thurston County County-Wide Planning Policies, a regional framework adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, in collaboration with the seven cities and towns within Thurston County.

The Comprehensive Plan contains goals and policies to govern the unincorporated areas of Thurston County. In turn, the Plan guides several other kinds of specialized plans: Joint plans, subarea plans, and functional plans. Map I-1 shows Thurston County jurisdictional boundaries.

Joint Plans

Joint plans serve as the Comprehensive Plans for the unincorporated areas within the urban growth boundaries for the cities and towns within the county. They are integral parts of this Comprehensive Plan, although they appear in separate documents. Joint plans are further discussed in Chapter 2 – Land Use.

Subarea Plans

Subarea plans are detailed plans for specific geographic areas of the county. These types of plans are discussed in Chapter 2 – Land Use.

Special Purpose (Functional) Plans.

Functional plans cross subarea or urban growth boundaries and pertain to a certain subject such as sewers, stormwater, open space, or historic resources. As with the sub-area plans, functional plans use goals and policies and the urban-rural framework from the Comprehensive Plan to guide their development and implementation. Examples of functional

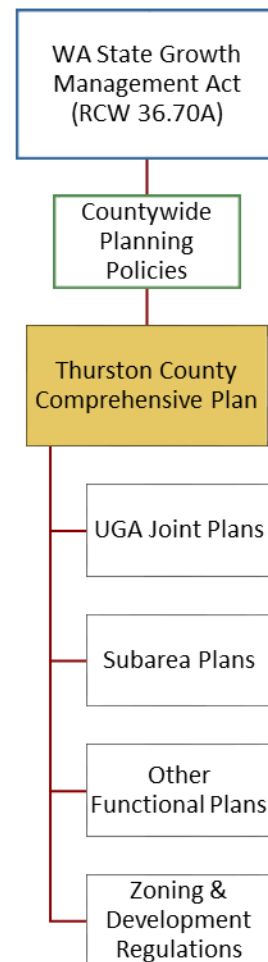


Figure 1-1. Planning Hierarchy

plans include the *Transportation Improvement Plan*, *Stormwater Management Program Plan*, and the *Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan*. Some of these plans are developed for the county as a whole; others apply to parts of the county.

- SEE CHAPTER 2 – LAND USE FOR GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES ON THE COUNTY'S PLANNING SYSTEM
- SEE APPENDIX C FOR A LIST OF RELATED PLANS

(...)

(...)

space or resource use. The goals and policies in this plan seek to maintain rural character and resource uses as well as minimize and contain existing areas or uses of more intensive rural development in the rural area while directing urban growth to appropriate areas.

IV. LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

This section of the Land Use Chapter describes each of the land use designations depicted on the Future Land Use Map (Map L-1). Mineral lands of long-term commercial significance are designated on a separate map (~~M-43~~ Map N-2), and open space lands are shown on Map E-3. Parks and trails owned by the County are also identified in the Thurston County Parks Plan, which is maintained as a separate planning document. The policies in Section VII provide further guidance in determining the appropriate land use designations for lands in rural areas. Development of lands within UGAs around cities and towns are guided by the land use designations within the adopted city/county joint plans.

In interpreting this plan, the following descriptions of the land use designations and the associated policies in Section VII of this chapter should be given the greatest weight and importance. The accompanying Future Land Use Map (Map L-1) is intended to be a visual representation of the descriptions and policies. Where there are apparent inconsistencies between the text and the map, the text shall control.

A. GENERAL LAND USE GUIDELINES

Determining how and where to designate land uses throughout the county is a complex process that involves an evaluation of geographic and scientific information, legal and social parameters, and citizen preferences. The following table describes the general guidelines used to make designation decisions:

Location Criteria	
Land Capability/ Environmental Constraints	<p>This guideline describes the characteristics of the land and its ability to support development at the intensity of use associated with each of the land use designations. It includes consideration of such factors as topography, permeability and stability of soils, geologic hazards, flood proneness and hydrologic conditions.</p> <p>When the term “environmental constraints” is used under this guideline, it refers to the presence of natural features of the land that would either: (1) limit an area’s ability to accommodate development (e.g., flood hazards, geologic instability); or (2) be very sensitive to development or be destroyed by development (e.g., wetlands, Mima Mounds, eagle habitat, sensitive aquifers, public drinking water supplies or other critical areas).</p> <p>Technology can moderate the effects of some constraints. For example, building foundations may be constructed on unstable grounds, and sensitive resources such as oyster growing waters may be protected from the impacts of</p>

(...)

(...)

~~Adopted November 2019~~ Adopted December 2020

plan. Rural area lands are designated according to the land use guidelines above. See Table 2-3, below, for the percentage of land allocated to different rural uses.

Table 2-3

Percentage of Land Allocated for Rural Uses⁴

Land Use Category	Total Acres	Percent Designated
Designated resource use (designated agriculture, forestry, and mineral lands) ⁵	156,512 685 <i>(with mineral lands overlay: 162,309296,795)</i>	39.8% <i>(41.375.5%)</i> ⁶
Rural (residential density 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres)	14,176	3.6%
Rural (residential density 1 dwelling unit per 10 acres)	4,978	1.3%
Rural resource and residential (residential density 1 unit per 5 acres)	177,116 176,943	44.9%
Urban Reserve (residential density 1 unit per five acres)	1,752	0.4%
Limited Areas of More intensive Rural Development (LAMIRDs) (densities greater than 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres)	10,082	2.6%
Public Parks, Trails, and Preserves and Educational Institution Lands	9,393	2.4%
Military Reservation	18,404	4.7 %
Rural commercial and industrial use	870	0.2%
Totals	393,283	100% <i>(101.5135.6%)</i>

⁴ Excludes all lands within Urban Growth Areas, areas covered by water, public and railroad rights-of-way. Source: Thurston County Geo Data & Buildable Lands Work Program, Thurston Regional Planning Council.

⁵ Low density residential uses are permitted in some of these areas, at densities ranging from 1 unit per 20 acres to 1 unit per 80 acres. Note that agriculture, forestry, and mining activities occur throughout the county, not just on land dedicated for these purposes. See Chapter 3.

⁶ Accounts for mineral lands designation, which is an overlay on other land use designations.

(...)

(...)

~~Adopted November 2019~~ Adopted December 2020

RURAL RESOURCE INDUSTRIAL

The visual component describes the visual attributes of the traditional rural landscape. If the visual character of the rural landscape is unduly disrupted or altered by a proposed use, then that use is incompatible with rural character. Site design, landscaping, design and construction of internal and access roads and building scale should reinforce the set boundaries and rural nature of the industrial area to further discourage future industrial expansion beyond the industrial boundary.

V. LANDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES

The GMA requires the County to identify lands useful for public purposes, such as utility corridors, transportation corridors, landfills, sewage treatment facilities, stormwater management facilities, recreation, schools, and other public uses [RCW 36.70A.150]. These areas are described throughout the Comprehensive Plan, and in more detail as follows:

The Transportation Chapter (Chapter 5) identifies the type and quality of county roads, bike paths, railways, and other transportation corridors;

Capital Facilities (Chapter 6) inventories and prioritizes acquisition of public purpose lands, and identifies needs for shared facilities with other jurisdictions;

The Utilities Chapter (Chapter 7) identifies major utility providers; and

The Environment, Recreation and Open Space Chapter (Chapter 9) includes a map of important open spaces/greenspaces and addresses stormwater and waste management.

In addition, the County identifies and plans for public recreation facilities in the Comprehensive Parks, ~~Recreation, Open Space, and Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan 2013~~ 2020, which is adopted separately from this Comprehensive Plan. See Appendix C for a list of the other planning documents that address public facility planning in Thurston County.

The current location and distribution of major public purpose lands in the rural area are inventoried on Map E-2. Some of these lands are designated and/or zoned for specific public purposes, such as parks and public preserves. Other public lands are identified for planning purposes, as the location of lands owned by other agencies, jurisdictions, or private companies may change over time. Joint Plans further identify public purpose lands in the UGAs.

A. ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITIES

The Thurston Regional Planning Council provided the Interjurisdictional forum for developing the required process for identifying and siting essential public facilities. A process endorsed by the

(...)

(...)

~~Adopted November 2019~~ Adopted December 2020

- ❖ Hunting
- ❖ Mountain Biking
- ❖ Target Shooting
- ❖ Off-road Vehicles
- ❖ Winter Activities
- ❖ Rock Climbing
- ❖ Geocaching

A variety of other economic products are harvested from forests in Thurston County additional to timber, including hard woods, salal, ferns, moss for the floral industry, and mushrooms for a growing local and export food market.

C. FOREST LANDS IN THURSTON COUNTY:

Most of the forest land within Thurston County is considered forest lands of long-term commercial significance (see Section D below). Long-Term Forestry (see Table 3-3) is the single largest land use designation in the County and makes up approximately 29 percent of county lands. Forestry also occurs in the Rural Residential Resource 1/5 designation within the County. More than 50,000 acres of forest and timber land enrolled in the Open Space Tax Program are not designated as Long-Term Forestry.¹³

Table 3-3. Acreage of Forestland in Thurston County

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Acres of Land</i>	<i>Percentage of Land Base</i>
Long-term Forestry (LTF)	143,850 <u>144,024</u> acres	29 %
Designated Forest Land (outside LTF)	50,302 acres	10 %
Timberland (outside LTF)	2,458 acres	0.5 %
<i>Total</i>	<i>196,610</i> 784 <i>acres</i>	<i>40 %</i>

DATA RETRIEVED FROM: THURSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR'S PARCEL DATA, MARCH 14, 2018

Minimizing Conflicts Between Forestry and Other Land Uses: An overarching concern of forest landowners in the County, especially rural foresters, is encroachment and the potential impact that adjacent land uses may have on forestry operations. The policies provide that normal forestry practices should not be considered a nuisance unless they threaten the public health and safety. This is consistent with RCW 7.48.305, which states that forest practices undertaken in conformity with all applicable laws and established prior to surrounding non-forestry uses, are presumed to not constitute a nuisance unless the activity has a substantial adverse effect on the public health and safety. Forest operations must remain economically viable to withstand encroachment of rural development. However, the policies also recognize that forestry operations need to minimize the

¹³ Data retrieved from Thurston County Assessor as of March 2018

(...)

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

Noise, traffic and road impacts are also considered during the Special Use Permit Process. The movement of large amounts of mineral resource necessitates good roads capable of handling significant numbers of heavily-loaded trucks. Loaded trucks en route from the extraction site may lose a very small but potentially hazardous portion of their load, and track dirt or mud onto public roadways.

Existing, non-operating or abandoned mining sites pose a concern to many county residents. These sites may leave aquifers vulnerably exposed and invite illegal waste dumping. The reclamation process is an important process managed by DNR, and is required for all active and future mining operations. Several old and abandoned pits exist in the county from before mining was permitted and reclamation was required. The reclamation program helps to ensure that all lands and waters within the state are protected after mining is complete.

The policies for mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance aim to ensure the long-term viability of the mining industry while protecting public health and the environment. The policies call for:

- ❖ Mining to minimize adverse impact on the environment.
- ❖ Mining to minimize effect on surface and groundwater, and air quality.
- ❖ Mineral extraction sites to be restored as mining occurs.
- ❖ Non-operating or abandoned sites to be addressed.
- ❖ Mineral extraction to be located in rural, low density areas.

Co-designation of Long-Term Mineral Resource Lands and Long-Term Agricultural Lands

As a natural result of geologic forces, it is not uncommon in Thurston County to have quality mineral deposits located under prime farmland soils. Mining operations may result in temporarily breaking up the contiguous land base that is a central component of the Agricultural Lands of Long-Term Commercial Significance. Removing, stockpiling and spreading soil to allow for mining may create a risk to the productive capacity of prime farmland soils. There is a natural conflict between the two competing natural resource industries: agriculture and mining. While agriculture is a sustainable industry, mining relies on a fixed, non-renewable resource.

Allowing for co-designation of mineral lands and agricultural lands may be compatible, but it is critical that the identified land base for agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance not be jeopardized. Agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance are designated based on a number of criteria (see section III.E), one of which is a threshold of prime farmland soils on the property. This may mean that a parcel within the agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance designation has some portions of a parcel that are not as high-quality for farming as other parts of a contiguous block. Allowing mineral extraction on the edges of designated long-term agricultural lands may provide a valued use of the land when it does not break apart the contiguous designated land base for agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance.

D. DESIGNATING MINERAL RESOURCES OF LONG-TERM COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Within Thurston County, minerals of potentially long-term commercial significance include sand and gravel deposits, coal deposits, and a few rock resources, such as columnar basalt (shot rock) and sandstone.

In the past, Mineral Resource Lands were designated on a site-by-site basis. Lands or portions of a legal lot or parcel meeting criteria were designated through a Comprehensive Plan Amendment process.

In order to meet state guidelines, Thurston County contracted with Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. (AESI) to identify and classify mineral resources in the County and create a base inventory map showing the location of mineral resources. AESI developed a draft inventory and classification system largely based on data from DNR and USGS, with some supplementary information from Washington Department of Transportation and private studies. This inventory identified 189,475 acres of land containing long-term commercially significant mineral resources, which were eligible to be considered for designation.

Mineral resource land designation and associated policies in this chapter are based on:

- ❖ A geologic inventory supplemented site-specific data when available;
- ❖ A hierarchical classification of resources based on resource quality and quantity;
- ❖ Designation criteria consistent with WAC 365-190-170;
- ❖ Policies to balance potential conflicts.

The mineral resource land designation represents an increase in designated mineral lands from 5,623 acres (2019) to 142,666 acres (2020). The 2020 mineral resource land designation of 142,666 acres represents a reduction from the overall geologic inventory of 189,475 acres of potentially viable mineral deposits (Table 3-5). The current designated mineral resource lands are mapped as an overlay to the Future Land Use Map (FLUM). Areas were excluded from consideration based on jurisdictional and legal issues, environmental constraints, and land use compatibility.

Table 3-5. Acreage of Mineral Resource Lands in Thurston County

<u>Mineral Resource Lands</u>	<u>Acres of Land</u>
<u>Previously Designated Mines (2019 and previously)</u>	<u>5,623 acres</u>
<u>Mineral Resource Lands Inventory (2017)</u>	<u>189,475 acres</u>
<u>Designated Mineral Lands (2020)</u>	<u>142,666</u>

(...)

To determine the location of mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance, the County applies state minimum guidelines provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce under WAC 365-190-070 (see sidebar). Based on those guidelines and additional considerations to protect public health, safety, and the environment, the County has developed the following criteria to designate mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance.

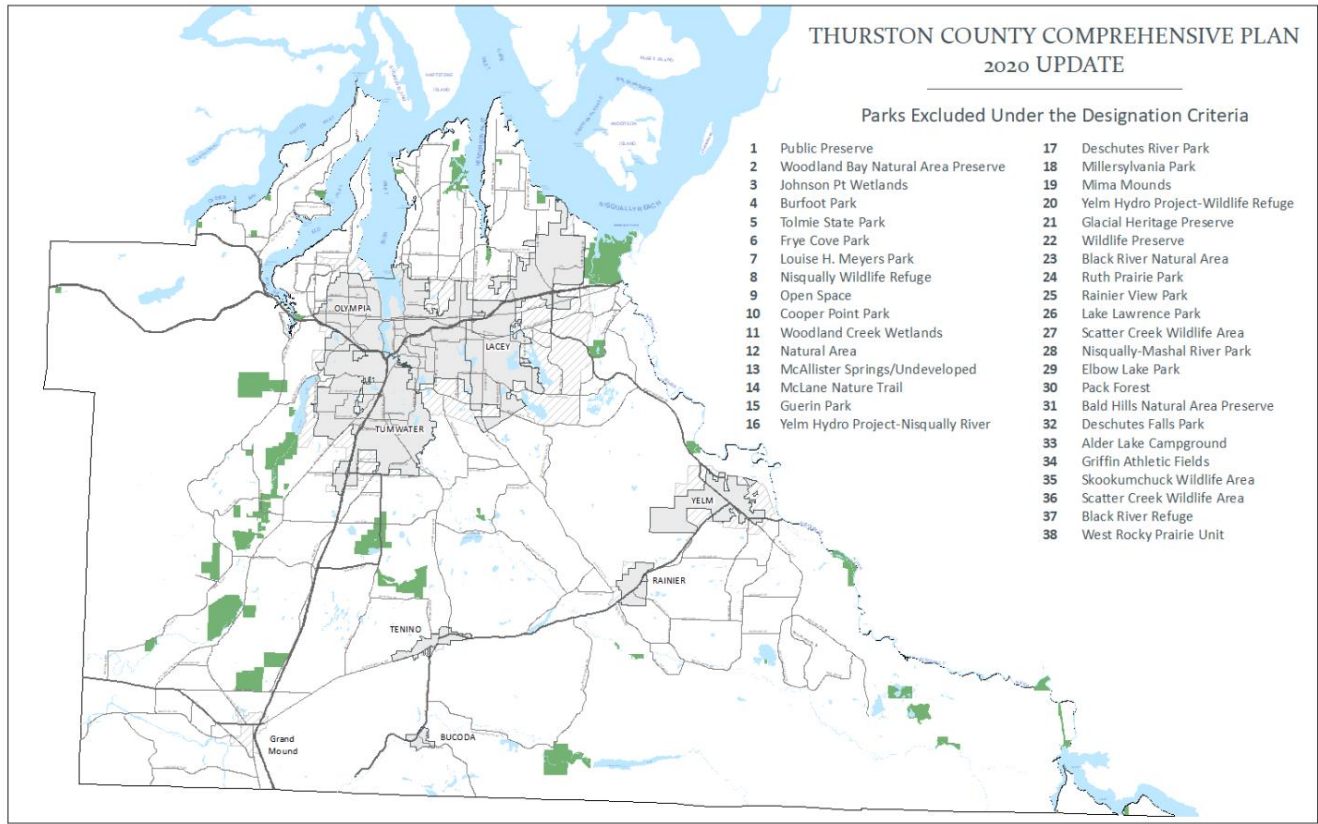
MINIMUM DESIGNATION CRITERIA

1. Mineral Deposits. Designated mineral resource lands should contain deposits consisting of sand and gravel, coal, sandstone, basalt, or other igneous rock, based on U.S. Geological Survey maps or site-specific information prepared by a geologist, or as indicated by State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) mining permit data.
2. Location. Designated mineral resource lands shall be separated by a distance of at least 1,000 feet from public preserves, which include parks, national wildlife refuges, state conservation areas, wild life areas, and other government owned preserves, but excluding hunting areas. In addition, designated mineral resource lands shall be at least 1,000 feet from urban growth areas and rural residential areas with existing densities predominantly one dwelling unit per five acres or higher, in order to minimize land use conflicts during the long-term operation of the mine.

To qualify for a mineral resource designation, at least 60% of the area within 1,000 feet of a proposed site must be made up of parcels 5 acres in size or larger, excluding parcels owned by the applicant.

3. Minimum Site Size. An area proposed for the mineral resource lands designation should be at least 5 acres in size.
4. Marketability. Mineral resource lands shall contain non-strategic minerals which are minable, recoverable and marketable in the present or foreseeable future as determined by a licensed professional geologist.
5. Mineral resource lands shall not include ~~agriculture lands of long-term commercial significance, or~~ historical/cultural preservation sites.
6. Mineral resource lands may include lands designated for long-term forestry.

Adopted November 2019 ~~Adopted December 2020~~



Designation process

~~Lands or portions of a legal lot or parcel meeting the above criteria may be designated mineral resource lands through a Comprehensive Plan Amendment process. Designation means that the presence of mineral resources and analysis of land use compatibility has been completed at a broad, landscape scale, and designated sites are eligible to apply for the permits needed for extraction and/or processing of minerals. Designation does not mean that any specific site within the designation will be approved for an active mine. Such designation should not be used as a basis for granting a special use permit. Every proposal for mineral extraction must complete additional environmental review at the project level and obtain the required permits. Where applicable, mineral lands of long-term commercial significance that are designated in the comprehensive plan must also be designated under Chapter 20.30B of the Thurston County Code prior to applying for a special use permit for mineral extraction uses.~~

Becoming Designated: In order to receive a permit for mineral extraction, the land must first be designated mineral resource lands. If land is not currently designated as a mineral resource land of long-term commercial significance (Map N-2), it may be eligible for designation with the appropriate information. This process is completed through a comprehensive plan amendment with the required geologic information. See the Goals, Objectives, and Policies section for specific requirements.

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

Removal from Designation: A property owner may file an application for the removal of designation. This process is completed through a comprehensive plan amendment with the required geologic information. See the Goals, Objectives, and Policies section for specific requirements

Beyond Designation: Protecting mineral deposits of long-term commercial significance for mining use is an important goal of the designation process, permitting process, and comprehensive plan policies. Policies aim to prevent residential and other incompatible uses from locating adjacent to these deposits. Several factors are addressed outside of the designation process. For example, the County recognizes that a mining operator's hauling distance to the resource user is an important factor to its economic viability. However, the policies also provide that mining activity should not encroach on existing residential uses nor adversely affect the environment.

Designated mineral lands may include environmentally sensitive areas. The presence of critical areas on the site may prohibit or restrict mineral extraction operations, as addressed at the site-specific permit level. Mine operators must go through all required review and permitting prior to beginning any mining activity on designated land. Map ~~M-43~~N-2 identifies ~~existing mining sites~~ mineral resource lands that meet ~~meeting~~ the designation criteria, ~~although this map is provided for reference only. An updated map of designated mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance is and is considered~~ the "Official Designated Mineral Resource Lands" map accompanying the official zoning map, available at the County. Map N-2 is an overlay to the underlying land use designation of property shown on the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map. Map N-2 supplements but does not change the underlying land use designation of affected properties. This map is immediately updated following approval of a new designated site.

Long-term commercially significant (designated) mineral deposits should be conserved for long-term resource extraction. To this end, the following measures shall be implemented:

1. A Resource Use Notice shall be provided to new developments within a specified distance of designated mineral lands.
2. Existing mining operations outside designated mineral lands shall inform prospective property owners of the long-term resource nearby.
- ~~❖ Resource use notice shall be provided to new developments within 1,000 feet of:~~
 - ~~1. Designated mineral lands and,~~
 - ~~2. Existing mining operations outside designated mineral lands, informing prospective property owners of the long-term resource use nearby.~~

These measures are intended to assure that the use of lands adjacent to designated mineral lands shall not interfere with the continued use, in accordance with best management practices (BMPs), of the designated lands for mineral extraction.

VII. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

(...)

POLICIES:

1. Development regulations should accommodate and encourage clustering of residential development on rural lands adjacent to rural forest lands. The open space in clustered development should buffer rural forest land from development.
2. Land use activities adjacent to forest land in rural areas should be sited and designed to minimize conflicts with forest management and other permitted activities on forest land.
3. A Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program should be utilized as an incentive for property owners to conserve forest lands within the county to ensure that working forest lands continue to stay available for such uses.

MINERAL RESOURCES – GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL 7: IDENTIFY, DESIGNATE AND CONSERVE MINERAL RESOURCE LANDS OF LONG-TERM COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE.

OBJECTIVE A. Identify, classify and designate mineral resource lands that are not characterized by urban growth, that contain commercially significant mineral deposits, and that satisfy applicable criteria established by the Growth Management Act (GMA) statute and rules, and Thurston County's Comprehensive Plan.

POLICIES:

1. Using the best information available, Thurston County should identify all unincorporated lands that contain commercially valuable deposits of mineral resources. This inventory should be periodically reviewed every 4 years. If no data is available for an update at 4 years, the inventory should be reevaluated for update again at the 8-year periodic update cycle established under the Growth Management Act.
 - a. Thurston County has completed a preliminary geologic inventory of large areas throughout the county ("prospects") containing deposits of sand, gravel, bedrock and other mineral resources (Map N-3). The locations and nature of these resources are mapped and described in a report titled "Mineral Lands of Long-Term Commercial Significance Inventory Study" (Associated Earth Sciences, Inc., 2017). The study will be updated and revised periodically as new geologic information becomes available.
 - b. The inventory excludes lands characterized by urban growth, including land within cities, designated urban growth areas, and certain lands owned by federal, state and tribal governments, for which the county lacks legal authority to designate and regulate resource lands.

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

- c. The County should establish a process to periodically notify and allow the owners of property that are not currently included in the Mineral Resource Lands inventory to petition to be considered for inclusion. The petition shall include:
 - i. Technical and geologic information that support mineral resources exist, such as boring samples or subsurface geologic data, including reported depth, volume and area.
 - ii. Associated maps developed by a qualified geologist to provide evidence of marketability and value of the mineral deposit, and
 - iii. Information that indicates mineral resources meet County established criteria for classification and designation.
 - d. A landowner may submit application for inclusion in the Mineral Resource Lands Inventory outside of the update cycle by filing a comprehensive plan amendment. In addition to the criteria under policy 1(c), the landowner shall include:
 - i. Submittal of a master application and comprehensive plan amendment application with associated fees.
2. Designated mineral resource lands are identified on Comprehensive Plan Map N-2. The mineral resource designation is an overlay to the underlying land use designation of property shown on the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map, which supplements but does not change the underlying land use designation of affected properties.
 3. Properties that are currently designated as mineral resource lands in the Comprehensive Plan and/or that are operating pursuant to a valid mining permit are considered to be mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance.
 4. Designation as mineral resource land indicates that the property has been reviewed to determine the presence or absence of specific geologic, land use and environmental features at a county-wide, comprehensive planning level, and that the land is potentially appropriate for mineral extraction subject to adopted site-specific review and permitting procedures and applicable development regulations. Designation does not convey any permit, approval or authorization to mine or otherwise use, alter or develop any designated property, and is not a substitute for site-specific review and permitting of a proposed mining operation consistent with applicable Thurston County development regulations. Designation does not create a presumption that an individual property or project should be approved for mining.
 5. Designation as mineral resource lands in the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan is a pre-condition for submitting an application to the county to extract mineral resources on a specific site, unless a site meets specific exceptions as listed in the County Code.
 6. Using the best information available, Thurston County should identify all unincorporated lands that meet the minimum designation requirement. The Designated Mineral Resource

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

Lands map (Map N-2) should be periodically reviewed every 4 years. If no data is available for an update at 4 years, the designation should be reevaluated for update again at the 8-year periodic update cycle established under the Growth Management Act.

- a. The County should establish a process to periodically allow the owners of property that are not currently included in the Designated Mineral Resource Lands map to petition to be considered for inclusion. The petition shall be based on the following process:
 - i. Submittal of necessary geologic information, including: (1) Technical and geologic information that support mineral resources exist, such as boring samples or subsurface geologic data, including reported depth, volume and area; (2) Associated maps developed by a qualified geologist to provide evidence of marketability and value of the mineral deposit, and; (3) Information that indicates mineral resources meet County established criteria for classification and designation;
 - ii. Update of the countywide mineral resource inventory and classification;
 - iii. Review using adopted designation criteria, to determine the appropriateness of the proposed property for designation; and
 - iv. Environmental review pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act.
- b. Individual changes to the Designated Mineral Resource Lands map may be accomplished outside of the update cycle by an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan as part of the county's annual plan review and amendment process. In addition to the criteria under policy 6(a)(i-iv), the landowner shall also include:
 - i. Submittal of a master application and comprehensive plan amendment application with associated fees.
- c. Designated mineral resource lands may be removed from the comprehensive plan map by action of the Board of County Commissioners if it is determined that mineral excavation is no longer an appropriate use because of changed conditions and/or the land no longer meets the criteria for designation.
- d. A property owner may file an application for removal of mineral resource lands designation with the department outside of the update cycle. The application shall be based on the following process:
 - i. Submittal of a master application and comprehensive plan amendment application with associated fees and necessary geologic information, such as: (1) Information to support that mineral resources are depleted to a point that it is no longer economically feasible to mine on the site; (2) Evidence that market conditions have changed to such a degree that it is no longer economically feasible to continue mining on the site.
 - ii. Update of the countywide mineral resource inventory and classification.

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

- iii. Evidence that the site no longer meets the adopted designation criteria.
- iv. Environmental review pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act.
- e. At the time of any countywide update to the Designated Mineral Lands Map (Map N-2), in the event that new parks exist that were not previously excluded from the map and meet the definition of “public parks and preserves”, the County should exclude the park from the designated mineral lands map, but should also consider reducing or eliminating the 1,000 foot separation distance. This is based on the understanding that future parks are siting in a known designated mineral resource use area.
- f. For the purposes of the Designated Mineral Lands Map (Map N-2), a “public park and preserve” is defined as the following: a park in the Thurston County Parks Layer that is at least 5 acres or larger, and is government owned, including public preserves, national wildlife refuges, habitat and wildlife areas, natural areas, state conservation areas, and developed or undeveloped parks used for passive or active recreation. This definition does not include the following: non-government parks, parks smaller than 5 acres, trailhead parcels, county-owned boat launches, county-owned trails, the off-road vehicle park, and the Evergreen State College. This is displayed on the in-chapter map located on page 3-26.
- 7. Mineral lands and Agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance may be co-designated when mining would not negatively impact the contiguous land base of designated agricultural lands, and when the co-designated land is contiguous with adjacent mineral lands.

OBJECTIVE B. Ensure that lands adjacent to designated mineral resource lands do not interfere with mineral extraction.

POLICIES:

- 1. Mineral extraction industries should be allowed to locate where prime natural resource deposits exist.
- 2. Designated mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance should be conserved for potential mineral extraction, and the use of adjacent lands should not interfere with the use of designated mineral extraction sites that are being operated in accordance with best management practices and other laws and regulations.
- 3. Mineral extraction sites that are being operated in accordance with applicable best management practices and other laws and regulations should be given increased protection from nuisance claims from landowners who have been notified of designated mineral lands and/or the mineral extraction site.
- 4. New residential uses should be discouraged from locating near prime designated mineral deposit sites until mineral extraction is completed, unless adequate buffering is provided by the residential developer.

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

5. A permit may be issued for properties within a certain distance of designated mineral resource lands only after the resource use notice has been signed by the property owner and recorded against the property, according to the requirements in the Thurston County Code. The notice shall contain a statement that the ability of owners or occupants to recover for nuisances arising from activities on the designated mineral lands may be restricted. The notice shall also inform that an application might be made for mining-related activities, including mining, extraction, washing, crushing, stockpiling, blasting, transporting, and recycling of minerals (RCW 36.70A.060).

GOAL 8: ENSURE THAT IMPACTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER SURROUNDING LAND USES FROM EXTRACTION ON MINERAL RESOURCE LANDS OF LONG-TERM COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE ARE MITIGATED FOR AND MANAGED THROUGH THE PERMITTING PROCESS.

OBJECTIVE A. The County should provide regulatory mechanisms that balance and minimize conflicts between extractive industries, other land uses, and general environmental concerns.

POLICIES:

1. Designated mineral resource lands should be located in low density rural areas where conflicts between extraction operations and surrounding land uses can be avoided or minimized. Designated lands should not be characterized by a predominance of environmental constraints.
2. Extraction industries shall not adversely impact adjacent or nearby land uses, or public health and safety.
3. Areas where existing residential uses at densities of greater than 1 unit per 5 acres predominate shall be protected against intrusion by mineral extraction operations.
4. Buffer mineral extraction sites that are adjacent to existing residential areas. Buffers could consist of berms and vegetation to minimize impacts to adjacent property owners.
5. Mineral extraction activities shall not negatively affect nor endanger surface and groundwater flows and quality.
6. Some critical areas may prohibit or restrict allowed mineral extraction uses. Consider critical areas, including fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas, and geologic hazard areas at the permit level before approving mineral extraction, as regulated under Thurston County Code, Title 24.
7. Consider maintenance and update of public roads at the permit level before approving mineral extraction.
8. Mineral extraction on designated agricultural lands should be avoided unless the soils can be restored to their original productive capabilities, as identified in a soil survey, as soon as possible after mining occurs.
9. Accessory uses to mining (crushing, screening, or washing) should only be located on adjacent mineral lands that are not co-designated with long-term agriculture.

GOAL 9: ENSURE THAT RECLAMATION AND RESTORATION ARE DESIGNED FOR THE APPROPRIATE POST-EXTRACTIVE USE OF THE SITE AND ARE COMPATIBLE WITH PLANNED FUTURE USE OF ADJACENT LANDS.

OBJECTIVE A. Identify and plan for post-extractive uses of mineral resource lands at the time of permitting a mineral operation.

POLICIES:

1. Post-extractive uses should be identified, at the time of permitting, for mineral resource lands.
2. Restoration of mineral extraction sites should occur successively as the site is being mined. The site should be restored for the appropriate future use and should blend with the adjacent landscape and contours.
3. The county shall ensure that mine site excavation and reclamation are consistent with county, city, and tribal land use plans and the state Surface Mine Reclamation Act (RCW 78.44).
4. The county should pursue innovative reclamation plans in concert with private landowners for the final conversion of exhausted mineral resource lands into desirable uses – such as park land, open space, forest land, community lakes, housing, agricultural land, and other uses – that are compatible with the Comprehensive Plan and zoning. These uses should be compatible with adjacent land uses. Such reclamation plans will be considered as favorable mitigations of the mining activity during the county’s SEPA review process.
5. In areas of co-designated mineral lands and agricultural lands, post-reclamation of mineral extraction sites should maintain the long-term agricultural use and should occur in a timely fashion.

~~MINERAL RESOURCES – GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES~~

~~GOAL 7: MINERAL RESOURCE LANDS OF LONG TERM COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BE USED BY EXTRACTION INDUSTRIES, WITH MINIMAL HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT.~~

~~OBJECTIVE A:~~ ~~The county should provide regulatory mechanisms that balance and minimize the conflicts between extractive industries, other land uses, and general environmental concerns.~~

~~POLICIES:~~

1. ~~Mineral extraction industries should be allowed to locate where prime natural resource deposits exist.~~
2. ~~Designated mineral resource lands of long term commercial significance should be conserved for mineral extraction, and the use of adjacent lands should not interfere with the~~

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

continued use of the designated mining sites that are being operated in accordance with applicable best management practices and other laws and regulations.

- ~~3. Designated mineral resource sites that are being operated in accordance with applicable best management practices and other laws and regulations should be given increased protection from nuisance claims from landowners who have been notified of the presence of the long-term mineral extraction site.~~
- ~~4. Restoration of mineral extraction sites should occur as the site is being mined. The site should be restored for appropriate future use and should blend with the adjacent landscape and contours.~~
- ~~5. Prime and unique farmland (as defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service) shall not be used for mineral or soil mining purposes.~~
- ~~6. New residential uses shall be discouraged from locating near prime designated mineral deposit sites until mineral extraction is completed unless adequate buffering is provided by the residential developer.~~
- ~~7. Extraction industries shall not adversely impact adjacent or nearby land uses, or public health and safety.~~
- ~~8. Proposed mining activities shall not alter significant geologic features such as Mima mounds.~~
- ~~9. Areas where existing residential uses at densities of greater than 1 unit per five acres predominate shall be protected against intrusion by mineral extraction operations.~~
- ~~10. Mineral extraction activities shall not negatively affect nor endanger surface and ground water flows and quality.~~
11. County information on the location and quality of mineral resource deposits should be updated as information becomes available from the Department of Natural Resources, United States Geological Survey or other licensed geologist. This information can be useful in planning for future designations of mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance.

(...)

(...)

Adopted November 2019 Adopted December 2020

Thurston County plans for, reviews, and permits rural and urban development that depend upon multiple local entities for support infrastructure. These other public entities include school districts, fire districts/authorities, water supply, wastewater and treatment facilities, and transit entities. Providing infrastructure support is the responsibility of the other public entities. Thurston County cannot control the planning or construction of capital facilities by other public entities within its borders, all of which have their own legislative bodies and operate independently from the County government. However, the capital facilities planned by these other entities should be, under the Growth Management Act, addressed in the County's Capital Facilities chapter.

Inclusion of capital facilities planning by these other entities will promote consistent and unified capital facilities planning throughout the County. However, the inclusion of their plans does not imply County approval or disapproval of the plans or the levels of service, which they adopt. Rather, their inclusion insures compliance with the GMA and enables a consistent approach to capital facilities planning throughout the County, taking into consideration the Capital Facilities plans of all public entities in the County. Most of the public entities have adopted their own 6- and 20-year Capital Facilities Plans. For more information, please refer to the Six-year Capital Improvement Program (Appendix G) for Thurston County and the other public entities' adopted Capital Facilities Plans. For goals and policies related to schools and coordinated planning with other public entities, see Section III of this plan.

Schools and Fire Districts create their own capital facilities plan, and thus are not included within the summary of Capital Facilities, in Section IV. The County collects impact fees for 4 of the 8 school districts and 1 of the 13 fire districts. Each individual Capital Facilities Plan for these 5 districts that the County collects impact fees from, is adopted by reference by the County. The CIP includes a list of projects and funding sources for other entities.

Other County Plans

- ❖ Regional Transportation Improvement Program
- ❖ Solid Waste Management Plan (2009)
- ❖ Thurston County Hazardous Waste Management Plan (2014)
- ❖ Stormwater Management Program Plan (2018)
- ❖ ~~Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Natural Resource Preserve Plan~~Open Space, and Trails Plan (20132020)
- ❖ Thurston Regional Trails Plan (2007)
- ❖ Drainage Design and Erosion Control Manual (2016)
- ❖ Joint City/County Plans
- ❖ Subbarea Plans

Table 6-1. Interjurisdictional Shared Needs for Public Purpose Lands

Project Serving Shared Needs	County Department & Jurisdictions	Project Serving Shared Needs	County Department & Jurisdictions
Beneficial Re-Use of Closed Landfill (Park & Ride Facility)	Thurston Public Works Lacey WSDOT	Yelm – Tenino Trail (coordinated recreation use/ stormwater retention/utility corridor/highway access/ potential future rail use)	Thurston Public Works Yelm Rainier Tenino WSDOT TRPC
Mallard Pond Phase II	RS-SWU Lacey	Gate to Belmore Trail (coordinated recreation	Thurston Public Works Tumwater

(...)

Adopted November 2019 ~~Adopted December 2020~~

3. Efficiency in design, sustainability, and use should be a goal for new facility development. Building design and function must promote flexibility to accommodate a variety of uses and interior spatial changes. New facilities should be built for a 50-year life span.
4. Alternatives to construction of new space should include such considerations as innovative use of alternative hours, telecommuting, night court, kiosks, distributed service locations, and pursue technologically feasible alternative.
5. Public-private partnerships should be examined for their potential to offset costs and improve efficiency.
6. Building condition assessments should be initiated and sustained to inform the major maintenance program.
7. Evaluation of capital costs and maintenance and operation costs should give priority to long-term energy efficiencies achieved through design and construction.
8. Costs, including capital expenses, amortization, depreciation, and maintenance and operation costs, should be funded through a Capital Reserve Fund and through charging space in County Buildings.

IV. CAPITAL FACILITIES SUMMARY

Many of the sections below have individual chapter elements with the appropriate goals and policies, detailed inventories, and Level of Service Standards. Those sections are adopted by reference in each applicable section.

Level of Service (LOS): These are established by applying national standards, regional averages, or service-level assessments for a particular facility or service.

A. REGIONAL PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACES, AND PRESERVES

Overview:

Recreation, the pursuit of leisure activities, enjoyment of the outdoors, preservation of open space and habitat, and the natural environment are essential elements in maintaining a balance in the quality of life throughout Thurston County.

See Chapter 9, Environment, Recreation and Open Space for information on Level of Service standards for parks.

Existing Inventory:

Thurston County currently has ~~33-24 park sites/properties~~, accounting for a total of ~~2,645~~2,578 acres. Of the 2,578 acres of parkland, 972 acres (12 sites, which include 3 developed trails) are developed parkland. That developed parkland includes 5 regional parks (381 acres), 2 trails (582 acres, or 40.5 miles of trails), 1 special use park (5 acres), and 3 historic sites (4 acres). Additionally, there are 1,606 acres more of undeveloped/open space parkland (220 acres) and preserves and natural areas (1,134 acres). These sites include twelve active parks (631 acres), only five of which are fully or partially developed; six preserves and three historic sites (1,158 acres); and 12 trails/trail properties, accounting for 47.8 miles of planned 58-mile recreational trail system. Approximately 34.3 miles of the trail system have been developed. The rest of the trail system is

~~Adopted November 2019~~Adopted December 2020

~~currently undeveloped.~~ A current list of all existing facilities is located in Appendix G.

Future Needs:

Thurston County citizens have expressed a high level of interest in preserving open space and unique natural areas and insuring there are adequate park and recreation facilities in the county to meet the needs of a diverse and growing population. The highest priority needs have been defined as interconnecting trail systems, water access sites, picnic areas, and nature preserves. Park classifications, details of park development and establishment of level of service standards are found in the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 9) Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Section.

~~Thurston County has 288 acres of parkland and trails developed and operational. The net increase of land dedicated for park and trail purposes that meets the Level of Service (LOS) standard is 590 acres. This LOS standard amounts to a total of 406 acres of Urban/Regional Park land, 61 acres of Public/Private Enterprise Park land, and 123 acres of Greenways/Trail lands.~~

When the proposed land acquisitions in the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program for Thurston County Facilities are added to the current acreage, an adequate LOS is maintained to address the needs and demands of an increasing population. To insure proper planning for specific needs through the planning period, the County will monitor the adequacy of County park facilities by reviewing the Parks Plan annually and fully updating it every five years. As part of this long-range planning process, the county will explore acquisition of valuable active park, preserve, or other properties that may become available on an "opportunity to acquire" basis. Parklands to be acquired will be focused on meeting specific needs for types of park facilities not met by other jurisdictions and/or the private sector. The size and amount of specific recreational facilities will vary from area to area, and for a specific park sub-classification.

Capital Projects and Funding:

It is anticipated throughout the planning period that approximately \$40 million would be spent on various park and trail projects. These costs would be paid from park impact fees, and real estate excise tax funds. See Section V for descriptions of these funds. Specific park and trail projects anticipated in the six-year planning period including their associated funding sources, are shown in the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program for Thurston County, in Appendix G.

B. SOLID WASTE**Overview:**

RCW 70.95.080 states that: "Each county within the state, in cooperation with the various cities located within such county, prepare a coordinated, comprehensive solid waste management plan." Thurston County coordinated with local jurisdictions to develop the Thurston County Solid Waste Management Plan of 1993 and subsequent plans of 2001 and 2009 and is currently revising the 2009 plan.

See Chapter 7, Utilities for information on Level of Service standards for solid waste.

This Solid Waste Capital Facilities plan identifies those capital projects required to: 1) meet the policy goals and objectives in the Thurston County Solid Waste Management Plan and Thurston

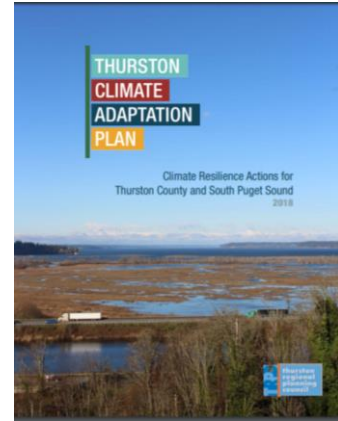
(...)

(...)

~~Adopted November 2019~~ Adopted December 2020

Many of these impacts are already beginning to be felt or are likely to manifest within the 20-year planning horizon.

Thurston County partnered with tribes, municipalities, universities, nonprofits, businesses and others to develop the “Thurston Climate Adaptation Plan” (TRPC, 2018). This plan identifies and prioritizes actions to respond to the region’s most severe climate risks, including:



- ❖ General actions,
- ❖ Drought and water quality actions,
- ❖ Flood and erosion actions,
- ❖ Plant and animal actions,
- ❖ Transportation and energy actions, and
- ❖ Wildfire and extreme heat actions.

To address the causes climate change, Thurston County has been working with local partners to develop strategies and actions that will help our community reduce its carbon emissions and remain resilient to climate impacts. Given that everyone’s emissions contribute to global climate change, Thurston County adopted the following emissions-reduction targets (*Resolution #15644*):

- ❖ Achieve 45 percent reduction of 2015 levels by 2030; and,
- ❖ Achieve ~~85~~80 percent reduction of 2015 levels by 2050.

The science-based 2050 emissions target — which also has been adopted by California, King County, Olympia, and many other state and local governments — provides a medium chance of preventing the global average temperature from rising more than 2° Celsius (3.6° Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s “Paris Agreement,” which was brokered by more than 150 nations in late 2015, includes the 2°C target but also stresses the importance of pursuing a more aggressive 1.5°C (2.7°F) target to mitigate the most dangerous climate change risks.

According to an inventory completed by Thurston Climate Action Team, as of 2016, Thurston County’s annual carbon footprint was 2.97 million tons², the equivalent of 10.9 metric tons of carbon emissions per person. Within Thurston County, the top three sources of greenhouse gas emissions are:

1. Built environment (58%) – the energy used in heating, cooling, and lighting residential and commercial buildings
2. Transportation (38%) – the energy used to power passenger vehicles, freight, and other commercial cars and trucks

² Reported as metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO₂e)

(...)

land. Generally, property owners retain ownership and continue to reside on their lands under the PDR program.

- ❖ **Fee Simple Purchase:** This tool is the acquisition of land by a land trust or conservation agency. The land may be leased or sold to farmers who agree to use the land for agricultural purposes. Land trusts own the land in a fee simple purchase and have the greatest control over how the land is managed. Some tools to create affordable access include allowing long-term leases or sale of land in exchange for an agreement to use sustainable agricultural practices.
- ❖ **Conservation Easements:** A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust. It may permanently limit the use of the land in order to protect conservation values. Conservation easement agreements specifically define restrictions or limitation on what will be attached to the property. They allow the owner to continue to own, and perhaps to occupy and use the land, including to sell or pass it on to their heirs. The owner profits by selling the easement to a land trust, or may receive a tax break by donating it. Because of its lower market value, land with an easement can be more affordable for conservation.

Different funding opportunities exist to aid some of the conservation tools mentioned above. Several of these tools often compete for the same funding sources, excluding the Open Space Tax Program. Funding and availability of funding varies with the type of conservation method being used. Some of the different funding options include:

- ❖ Conservation Futures
- ❖ Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
- ❖ USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services – Agricultural Conservation Easement
- ❖ USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- ❖ Real Estate Excise Transfer Tax
- ❖ Individual Impact Investors
- ❖ Portion of recording fee for farmland preservation

B. COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACES

The Growth Management Act requires that the County include a parks and recreation element in its Comprehensive Plan. An inventory with existing park acreages and the means for financing improvements and acquisitions is shown in the County's Capital Improvement Program (Appendix G). The Capital Improvement Program is updated on an annual basis with the County's budget.

The ~~Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan~~ Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan (POST) (2020), adopted separately from the Comprehensive Plan, provides a coordinated approach for the County's park and trail development, natural resource preservation, and provision of

~~Adopted November 2019~~ Adopted December 2020

recreation services. The ~~*Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan*~~ *Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve Plan* identifies need and priorities of county residents' for additional parks, recreation facilities, trails, greenways, and natural resource preservation. Some of the critical issues projected over the next 20 years for parks, trails, recreation and open space include:

- ❖ Acquire, develop and maintain parkland to account and accommodate for projected growth of the county;
- ❖ Identify sustainable funding to support maintenance of existing and new parks;
- ❖ Improved coordination with health and wellness;
- ❖ Improved connectivity of major trail corridors, and improved connectivity of smaller corridors to access major trails;
- ❖ The need for additional non-motorized trails and open space;
- ❖ Environmental preservation in parks and trails, and good stewardship in operations.

Parks and Recreation Vision

Thurston County's attractive, well managed parks, trails, nature preserves, and recreation programs enhance the quality of life and nurture the health and wellbeing of our people, our community, our environment and our economy. In partnership with our citizens, we ensure that our parks, trails, preserves and programs are accessible and responsive to changing needs within our communities. We provide respite from urbanization; preserve the environment; foster understanding of our natural, cultural and historic assets; and provide opportunities for recreation that meet the needs of the community. The focus on preserving open space region-wide continues, with a strong emphasis on connecting people to the land, water, and each other.

Citizens have identified many values for Thurston County's parks and recreation programs. These include: access, health and well-being, community and family, and preservation. Responses from citizens on what they value in parks, trails and recreations programs are outlined in the county's ~~*Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve*~~ *Open Space and Trails Plan* (~~2013~~2020).

C. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

Thurston County provides regional parks, natural resources, preserves, and recreational programming needs of county residents. The County recognizes the importance of coordinating its efforts with other municipalities, private industry and non-profits with similar missions in order to meet the service needs of the County. Parks development involves intergovernmental coordination to provide for parks and recreational facilities. This includes considerations like acquisition of new property, creating and maintaining regional park facilities, and park and facility financing. The joint plans for the cities' urban growth areas include park elements for providing parks in urban growth areas and at the neighborhood scale.

State and federal agencies manage nearly 50,000 acres in the county comprised of state parks, natural area preserves, such as the Woodard Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area on Henderson Inlet, many recreational sites within the state's Capitol Forest, the state and federal Nisqually Wildlife Refuge, the Black River Wildlife Refuge, and other wildlife habitat mitigation and management sites. The state also owns or operates several boat ramps in the county. In addition, private and non-profit groups have purchased land and easements to preserve important natural areas in the county.

D. THURSTON COUNTY PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

Thurston County's park system ~~oversees 2,578 acres of parklands, comprised of 24 properties currently includes 33 park sites, totaling 2,646 acres.~~ These parks include a range of park types and are classified by the recreational opportunities they provide:

- ❖ **Regional Parks** (such as Burfoot Park) provide a combination of leisure recreation and active enterprise opportunities to residents and visitors. These parks also serve large geographic areas, tourists and visitors.
- ❖ **Trails**, such as the Chehalis-Western Trail, Yelm-Tenino trail, and Gate-Belmore Trail link urban and rural areas within the County, providing the ability to travel by non-motorized means. The County has 56 miles of trail.
- ❖ **Special Use Parks** meet the demands for a particular activity or special event. Examples include the five-acre off-leash dog park.
- ❖ **School Parks** (such as Griffin Athletic Fields) combine the resources of two public agencies to provide recreational, social, cultural and educational opportunities.
- ❖ **Developed Parks, Historic Sites and Preserves** are small parks, monuments and areas of historic significance or older cemeteries that are owned by Thurston County, such as Mima Pioneer Cemetery.
- ❖ **Open Space and Undeveloped Parks**, including trails, greenways, community gardens, or farmed areas that act as visual relief from urban environments and buffers between land uses.
- ❖ **Preserves and Natural Areas**, such as Glacial Heritage Preserve, focus on restoring wilderness, special natural habitat, and open space.

Thurston County's regional parks are complemented by community, neighborhood, and special-use parks owned and operated by the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and other jurisdictions within the county. Thurston County collaborates with other local jurisdictions to offer a wide variety of park and recreation opportunities. ~~Non-regional county park classifications~~ within the county include:

- ❖ **Community parks** draw people from the immediate community (generally within a 10-15 ~~mile~~ mile radius).

- ❖ **Neighborhood parks** provide recreation space for an immediate neighborhood or cluster of neighborhoods (generally within a one mile radius).
- ❖ **Mini-parks** (or pocket parks) are typically play lots or playgrounds providing space for parental-supervised recreation for toddlers and young children.
- ❖ **Special Use Parks**, like dog parks, bike parks, swimming pools or disc golf courses that meet demands for particular activities.
- ❖ **Greenspaces**, like Capitol State Forest or the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, which are state or federal managed parks, preserves and recreational sites.
- ❖ ~~Special Use Parks meet the demands for a particular activity or special event. Examples include dog parks, skateboard parks, farmers markets, and sports complexes.~~
- ❖ ~~Preserves, such as Glacial Heritage Preserve, focus on restoring wilderness, special natural habitat, and open space.~~
- ❖ ~~Trails, such as the Chehalis Western Trail, Yelm Tenino trail, and Gate Belmore Trail link urban and rural areas within the County, providing the ability to travel by non-motorized means. The County has 54.5 miles of trail; 87 acres of trail is developed.~~

E. LEVEL OF SERVICE

Thurston County currently oversees 2,578 acres of parklands, comprised of 24 properties. ~~has 33 park sites, accounting for a total of 2,646 acres.~~ An inventory of existing park acreages and the means for financing improvements and acquisitions is shown in the County's Capital Improvement Program, Appendix G.

Of the 2,578 acres of parkland, 972 acres (12 sites, which includes 3 developed trails) are developed parkland. These sites include 12 active parks (631 acres), five of which are fully or partially developed (288 acres), six preserves and three historic sites (1,158 acres) and 12 trail properties, of which approximately 34.3 miles of trail are developed.

Thurston County Park's Level of Service (LOS) is ~~3-53.0~~ 3-53.0 acres per 1,000 residents, and per capacity Level of Service as described in the 2020 Parks Impact Fee Study, as amended. Based on the 2040 population data, this ~~3-53.0~~ 3-53.0 acre/1,000 residents LOS creates a need for ~~1,378,181~~ 1,089,202 acres of operational park land. Since Thurston County currently has ~~288~~ 972 acres of developed and operational parkland and trails, the net increase of developed land needed for park and trail purposes to meet the LOS standard is ~~1,089,202~~ 1,089,202 acres (Table 9-1).

~~When the proposed land acquisitions and park development in the county's six-year Capital Improvement Program are added to current acreage, an adequate LOS is maintained to address the~~

Adopted November 2019 ~~Adopted December 2020~~

needs of an increasing population. To ensure proper planning for specific needs through the planning period, the County will monitor the adequacy of County park facilities by reviewing the Parks Plan annually and fully updating it every five years. As part of this long-range planning process, the county will explore acquisition of valuable active park, preserve or other properties that may become available on an “opportunity to acquire” basis. It is anticipated that the County will spend approximately \$40 million on various park and trail projects throughout the planning period (see Chapter 6).

Based on public input, the county has identified the highest priorities as development and acquisition of multiple use trails, water access sites, picnic sites and natural resource preserves.

Table 9-1. LOS Standards for Parks

Facility	Level of Service (LOS) Units	Level of Service (LOS) Standard
Parks & Trails	<p>LOS 1: Develop all or part of previously acquired property, or complete development projects that are underway, focusing on those that fill deficiencies in priorities defined by the public, i.e., trails, water access, athletic facilities.</p> <p>Main emphasis is on development of existing undeveloped park properties.</p> <p>LOS 2: Acquire additional park lands to ensure that a 3.53.0 acre/1,000 population of developed park and recreation facilities LOS can be maintained through 2021.</p>	<p>LOS 1: Development (by 2040): An additional 1,089.2<u>110</u> acres will be developed to provide additional water access, and athletic facilities.</p> <p>The County continues to look for additional revenue sources to develop existing park sites.</p> <p>LOS 2: Acquisition: Acquire opportunity properties to insure an adequate land base in the future for maintaining the 3.53.0 acres/1,000 population LOS. Currently, the inventory of undeveloped land is adequate to meet this LOS through 2040.</p>

VI. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GEOLOGIC HAZARD AREAS

(...)

13. The county should encourage the use of special incentives to preserve and protect high quality or sensitive environmental resources that regulations do not adequately protect or to minimize the burden of affected private property owners. The means to be used (in order of priority) include: open space taxation, the assistance of federal or state resource agencies, the initiatives of private conservation organizations and local land trusts, or public acquisition.

COUNTY PARKS RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

Action needs for parks are provided in the Capital Improvement Program and the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Open Space and Trails Plan (2020).

Goals:

- A. Secure adequate funding for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the county's recreational programs, parks, trails, and nature preserves through the implementation of sustainable funding strategies.
- B. Operate and maintain the parks, trails, nature preserves, and recreation programs in a safe, clean, and environmentally responsible manner.
- C. Expand educational and interpretational opportunities of the natural, cultural, historical, and artistic heritage within the county's parks, trails, and nature preserves.
- D. Provide connectivity, where feasible, between open spaces, parks, preserves, trails and wildlife corridors.
- E. Promote community by expanding the county's regional trail system to connect the county's urban and rural communities.
- F. Promote ~~and celebrate~~ community by providing opportunities for independent play as well as organized recreation, special events, and group/family activities.
- ~~G. Provide opportunities for recreation, learning, and growth for individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities through Specialized Recreation.~~
- ~~H.G.~~ G. Coordinate county parks and recreation programs with the county Health Department's health and wellness programs to foster the well-being of our citizens.
- ~~I.H.~~ H. Improve public access to the county's freshwater and marine shorelines through acquisition, easements, and lease arrangements.
- ~~J.I.~~ I. Acquire and develop park lands to maintain a level of service that keeps pace with population growth and demographic change in the county.

- ~~K.J.~~ Be responsible stewards of the county's natural, historic, cultural and artistic resources for current and future generations by acquiring and protecting areas of significance.
- ~~L.K.~~ Work with other park, recreation and open space providers (including public, non-profits and private entities) to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective approach to meeting the region's recreation and natural resource preservation needs.
- ~~M.L.~~ Protect the recreational and environmental value of existing parks, trails and preserves.
- ~~N.M.~~ Create a safe, productive, and rewarding workplace which emphasizes teamwork, communication, and interdepartmental coordination.

Acquisition Policies:

1. Ensure that the ability to operate and maintain both existing and new assets is factored into decisions on acquisition of parkland, trails and greenways, cultural resources, nature preserves and other properties.
2. Acquire land and corridors proactively to deliver needed services. This includes acquiring the following:
 - a. Environmentally sensitive lands and resources that preserve wildlife habitat;
 - b. Sites of historical and cultural significance;
 - c. Marine shoreline and river access sites; and
 - ~~d. Lands surrounding parks, preserves and trails to protect natural, recreational and cultural values, and~~
 - ~~e.d.~~ Park land in configurations that maximize accessibility and minimize conflicts with surrounding land uses.
3. Maintain ability to react to property acquisition opportunities that emerge.
4. Use trails and greenways where practicable to link county, city, and regional parks and preserves.

Planning, Development, and Improvement Policies:

1. Assess county needs and demands through annual review of the ~~Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan~~ POST plan. Update the plan every five years. During the five-year update of the plan, evaluate undeveloped properties to assess merits for meeting county needs and/or their sale/exchange value.

2. Use green design and low-impact methods in developing parks and facilities, including county adopted Integrated Pest Management principles.
3. Solicit community input in the development of parks, trails, facilities, programs and services.
4. Ensure park design and development guidelines conform to local ordinance and accepted state and federal standards.
5. Provide educational/interpretive signs to foster public stewardship of the environmental, historical and cultural features of parks, preserves and trails. Use universal design standards for signs and facilities.
6. Include environmental, historic and cultural education as integral components of park experience.
- ~~6.7.~~ Work with other parks/recreation and open space providers (public, private and non-profit organizations) to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective approach to meeting the region's park, recreation and preservation needs.
- ~~8.~~ In collaboration with other jurisdictions, explore potential recreational uses of undeveloped public lands.
- ~~9.~~ Actively pursue opportunities that allow for the preservation of natural systems, critical landscapes, and other environmental assets.
- ~~7.10.~~ Work with other jurisdictions to establish and protect open space and habitat corridors with linkages to regionally significant open spaces and areas of diverse habitat.

Recreational Programming Policies:

- ~~1. Ensure county recreation programs offer recreational and leisure opportunities for citizens with physical and/or developmental disabilities.~~
- ~~2. Operate recreation facilities and programs under county control in an entrepreneurial manner when possible.~~
- ~~3. Meet recreation needs and avoid duplication of services through sound planning and coordination with other recreation providers in our community.~~
- ~~4. Promote community and regional events that use county park facilities as a base for county sponsored events and activities.~~
- ~~5. Include environmental, historic and cultural education, and opportunities for the arts, as integral components of the park and recreation experience. Provide special events that celebrate the cultural heritage of Thurston County.~~
- ~~6. Promote health and wellness through Parks and recreation programs.~~

~~Adopted November 2019~~ Adopted December 2020

7. ~~Collaborate with the local hospitality community to promote local events and activities and enhance outreach in support of Thurston County's Agri-Tourism efforts.~~

Operation and Maintenance Policies:

1. Develop a comprehensive program that identifies maintenance needs for all parklands, trails, nature preserves, facilities and equipment.
2. Maintain property and assets in a manner that:
 - a. Maintains safety and reduces public liability.
 - b. Supports ecological functions and minimizes disturbances to natural vegetation and wildlife habitats.
3. Manage and conserve natural preserves based on sound scientific principles. Manage vegetation through use of Integrated Pest Management Program.
4. Use on-site caretakers in park and recreation facilities as a security and maintenance resource whenever feasible. Encourage residents, community organizations and other volunteers to share responsibility for parks by giving them a role in park stewardship.
5. Define park use rules and regulations through the county's park ordinances. Park use rules and regulations should maximize access and ensure safety and the protection and preservation of public assets.
6. Follow training and safety awareness standards as prescribed by the American Public Works Association Manual adopted by Thurston County Public Works.
7. Expand cooperation with other parks/recreation agencies to operate and maintain facilities, including alignment of equipment purchases when practicable.

~~Financial resources~~ Resources and regional Regional partnership Policies:

1. Ensure stable funding for parks and recreation services, operation and maintenance. Diversify revenue base by pursuing additional funding sources including enterprise initiatives, support from tribes and foundations, grants and partnerships. Work with regional partners to assess feasibility of creating a Metropolitan Park District.
2. Work with local, state and federal jurisdictions to evaluate impacts of proposed legislation on parks and recreation, and/or to draft new legislation that supports the ~~department~~ Thurston County Parks and Trails' mission.
3. Work with other parks and recreation providers within Thurston County to identify opportunities for mutual gain. When feasible, use interagency agreements for financing

(...)

(...)

Adopted November 2019 ~~Adopted December 2020~~

plan provides the basis for capital projects, land use recommendations and other activities. Available for purchase or reference from the City of Olympia Public Works.

8. 1993 McAllister/Eaton Creek Comprehensive Drainage Basin Plan

Prepared by Thurston County Department of Water and Waste Management and adopted by the Thurston County Board of Commissioners. This plan was prepared to resolve current and potential surface water problems in the McAllister and Eaton Creek systems and the surrounding drainage area. The plan also includes further analysis to address groundwater susceptibility. This plan provides the basis for capital projects, land use recommendations and other activities. The plan includes cost estimates and implementation schedule. Available for purchase or reference from the Thurston County Department of Waste and Water Management.

9. 1995 Woodland and Woodard Creek Comprehensive Drainage Basin Plan

Prepared by Thurston County in conjunction with the cities of Lacey and Olympia. Adopted by the Thurston County Board of Commissioners and the cities of Lacey and Olympia. This plan was prepared to resolve current and potential surface water problems in the Woodland and Woodard Creek systems and the surrounding drainage area. The plan provides the basis for capital projects, drainage design standards, water quality monitoring and other activities. Available for purchase or reference from the Thurston County Department of Water and Waste Management.

10. 1996 Chambers/Ward/Hewitt Comprehensive Drainage Basin Plan

Prepared by Thurston County in conjunction with the cities of Lacey and Olympia. Adopted by the Thurston County Board of Commissioners and the Cities of Olympia and Lacey. This plan was prepared to resolve current and potential surface water problems in Chambers, Ward and Hewitt Lakes, Chambers ditch, Chambers Creek, and the surrounding drainage area. The plan provides the basis for capital projects, drainage maintenance activities, water quality monitoring and other activities. Available for purchase or reference from the Thurston County Department of Water and Waste Management and the Cities of Olympia and Lacey.

11. ~~Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resource Preserve~~ Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan 2020

Prepared by the Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department and adopted by the Thurston County Board of Commissioners, this plan is updated every five years. It is a policy plan that defines the priorities and level of service standards for park, recreation area, preserves and trail acquisition and development. It includes an inventory of all the park properties and a capital facilities plan. Copies of the plan are available from the Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department.

12. 1996 Thurston County Coordinated Water System Plan, Area-wide Supplement

Originally established by action of the Thurston County Board of Commissioners in 1986, this plan was an early building block of urban growth management in northern Thurston County which

(...)

(...)

Appendix D

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Adopted November 2019Adopted December 2020

<u>Date Adopted:</u>	<u>Description of Amendment</u>	<u>Resolution Number</u>
December 14, 2018	Annual Amendment: Amend the comprehensive plan Chapter 6, Capital Facilities Plan and addition of Appendix G, Capital Improvement Program.	15691
November 12, 2019	PERIODIC UPDATE: Amend the land use plan map and zoning to implement designation of an existing Major Educational Institution designation within the land use chapter; amend Title 20 of the Thurston County Code to include a new zoning chapter for Major Educational Institution; updates to chapters of the plan including introduction, land use, natural resources, housing, transportation, capital facilities, utilities, economic development, natural environment, historic, plan amendments, and appendices; new population forecast; new building densities and forecast; new transportation forecast; updated level of service for transportation and parks, updated mapping.	15836
<u>December 15, 2020</u>	<u>Update to the mineral lands designation criteria and mineral lands designation map overlay (Map M-43, renamed as Map N-2); update to mineral lands policies in Chapter 3; update to associated mineral lands codes; review of long term forestry designation criteria and update to long term agriculture and forestry designation map (Map N-1) and associated future land use (Map L-1) and zoning; review and update to parks Level of Service in Chapter 9 for consistency with parks plan update; update to Chapter 11-Health; reference updates to table of contents and appendices C and D.</u> <u>Repeal and replacement of the Rochester Subarea Plan.</u> <u>Amendment to Policy E.5 of the Nisqually Subarea Plan.</u>	<u>XXXXX</u>

(...)

ATTACHMENT D:

2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE - CHAPTER 11 REPEAL & REPLACEMENT

CHAPTER 11

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

I. INTRODUCTION

The Health and Human Services Chapter describes health in the county, contributing physical and environmental factors to health, and services designed to increase county-wide health. The Health and Human Services Chapter also sets policies to address the changing conditions of Thurston County.

The way our community develops affects our health and the environment. Opportunities to engage in healthier behaviors are constrained or supported by how areas such as cities or towns are built over time. For example, the steady increase in childhood obesity closely mirrors the patterns of school siting and design over the last fifty years – with larger school campuses in more remote locations, often in places without the infrastructure to support walking from the nearest residences served by the school. As a result, fewer and fewer students have the option of being active (walking or bicycling) for their travel to and from school.

In order for community development to promote good health for our residents, the policies that guide development and manage growth should consider health implications. The purpose of this chapter is to define those implications and to plan for the environments that will meet the needs of current and future Thurston County residents while preventing disease and keeping our local population as healthy as possible.

2020 Update: Critical Issues

- Encouraging land use development that emphasizes urban density and infill to create walkable communities;
- Strengthening collaboration across the partners, agencies and programs that address housing needs, provide emergency shelters and treat homelessness;
- Expanding access to, and the quality of, local healthcare services; and
- Protecting the environment, especially from water and air pollutants.
- Commit to achieve health equity and a course of action that reduces, and ultimately eliminates, health disparities so that optimal health for all is possible and that differences in life and health outcomes cannot be predicted on the basis of race.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The Health and Human Services element is not required by the GMA. However, Essential Public Facilities (solid waste handling facilities, mental health facilities, inpatient facilities, etc.) must be included in Comprehensive Plans. These Essential Public Facilities are discussed in Chapter 2 Land Use.

- Public facilities and services. Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.

RCW 36.70A.020(12)

KEY FACTS: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**THURSTON COUNTY RESIDENTS MAINLY RELY ON GROUNDWATER FOR DRINKING**

As of December 2017, there are approximately **543 Group B** (2-14 service connections or serving a population of less than 25/day) and **303 Group A** (15 or more service connections or serving 25 or more people/day for 60 or more days per year) active public water systems.

THURSTON COUNTY HAS 53,000 ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS

The proper installation, use, maintenance and treatment of these systems is vital to water quality.

THURSTON COUNTY YOUTHS HAVE A HIGHER RATE OF CIGARETTE USE THAN THE STATE AVERAGE

Cigarette smoking is higher than the state average for Thurston County youths. One percent of 6th graders, four percent of 8th graders and nine percent of 10th graders smoke cigarettes. Reducing tobacco use is an effective way to increase community health.

CONTAMINATED SITES ARE GETTING CLEANED

In 2009, there were 193 contaminated sites in Thurston County as identified by the Department of Ecology. There are 179 as of 12/23/19.

URBAN FARMING CAN PROVIDE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

Land Use Planning influences the ability of people living in urban areas to conduct small-scale agriculture. Promoting urban agriculture increases access to healthy food.

HEALTH OUTCOMES ARE WORSE FOR THE THURSTON COUNTY BIPOC (BLACK, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR) POPULATION COMPARED TO WHITE RESIDENTS

Specific health outcome measures are worse for Thurston County BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) residents compared to White residents. In 2018, the life expectancy of Black residents was 76 years compared to 80 for White residents. In addition, between 2014 and 2018, infant mortality for Black infants was 9.9 per 1,000 compared to 4.4 per 1,000 for White infants.



Thurston Thrives, 2018. Water is a valuable resource used in a wide range of community functions; industry, commerce, agriculture and most importantly drinking water. Clean water is vital to community health.

II. PLANNING CONTEXT FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

A. COUNTY WIDE PLANNING POLICIES

- 1.3 Develop new ways to cultivate and support respectful civic engagement and participation by residents, and public, private, and nonprofit businesses and organizations, encouraging choices and offering information that contribute to individual, household, and community health and well-being.
- 1.8 Partner across topic areas and jurisdictional boundaries. While supporting local decision making, encourage regional and cross-jurisdictional coordination, communication, and cooperation that increase our capacity to make decisions for the common good across jurisdiction boundaries.
- 1.10 Meet basic human needs of clean water and air, healthy food, adequate housing, quality education, public safety, and equal access, regardless of socio-economic status.
- 1.11 Support education, employment, commercial opportunities, cultural, social, and recreational opportunities in appropriate places and at a scale that supports community health and well-being.
- 1.12 Champion energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies that contribute to energy independence, economic stability, reduced climate impacts, and long-term household and community health.
- 3.2. Coordinate Urban Services, Planning, and Development Standards through:
 - a. Maximizing the use of existing infrastructure and assets, and leveraging the value of these in building vital, healthy, and economically viable communities.
 - g. Phasing extensions of urban services and facilities concurrent with development and prohibiting extensions of urban services and facilities, such as sewer and water, beyond urban growth boundaries except to serve existing development in rural areas with public health or water quality problems.
- 5.1 Cooperatively establish a process for identifying and siting within their boundaries public capital facilities of a county-wide and state-wide nature which have a potential for impact beyond jurisdictional boundaries. The process will include public involvement at early stages. These are facilities that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, terminal facilities, state educational facilities, state or regional transportation facilities, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, and in-patient facilities including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, and group homes.
- 7.5 Build a vital, diverse and strong local economy, including job opportunities that support community and household resilience, health, and well-being, by:
 - e. Encouraging the development of local services for food, clothing and other basic human needs.
 - i. Connecting economic health with personal health and well-being and the advancement of environmental health.

B. REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The authority of the County to do the work of protecting the public's health and safety is established by the laws of Washington State.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.05.060

This RCW establishes the powers and duties of the local Board of Health. In Thurston County, the Board of County Commissioners also serve as the County Board of Health. The difference between the two boards is that the Board of Health has authority to enforce the state's public health laws and rules established by the state board of health and secretary of health throughout the entire county. This jurisdiction includes the cities within the county. In contrast, the Board of County Commissioners only has jurisdiction of the unincorporated parts of the County.

The RCW states that the Board of Health shall:

- Enforce through the local health officer or the administrative officer appointed under RCW 70.05.040, if any, the public health statutes of the state and rules promulgated by the state board of health and the secretary of health;
- Supervise the maintenance of all health and sanitary measures for the protection of the public health within its jurisdiction;
- Enact such local rules and regulations as are necessary in order to preserve, promote and improve the public health and provide for the enforcement thereof;
- Provide for the control and prevention of any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease within the jurisdiction of the local health department;
- Provide for the prevention, control and abatement of nuisances detrimental to the public health.

The RCW goes on to note that the Board of Health also has the responsibility to make reports to the state board of health and to set fees for services authorized by law or the state board of health.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.05.070

A subsequent section, RCW 70.05.070, describes the powers and duties of the local health officer, reinforcing that this is a means for the board of health to meet its responsibilities. It also adds some specific means of accomplishing public health duties, a selection of which are included here:

- Inform the public as to the causes, nature, and prevention of disease and disability and the preservation, promotion and improvement of health within his or her jurisdiction;
- Prevent, control or abate nuisances which are detrimental to the public health;
- Collect such fees as are established by the state board of health or the local board of health for the issuance or renewal of licenses or permits or such other fees as may be authorized by law or by the rules of the state board of health;
- Inspect, as necessary, expansion or modification of existing public water systems, and the construction of new public water systems, to assure that the expansion, modification, or construction conforms to system design and plans;
- Take such measures as he or she deems necessary in order to promote the public health, to participate in the establishment of health educational or training activities, and to authorize the attendance of employees of the local health department or individuals engaged in community health programs related to or part of the programs of the local health department.

III. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

There are important links between health and the built, natural and community environments. These links are reflected in the comprehensive plan to address the need to protect and promote resident health and safety. They also allow Thurston County to accelerate opportunities to promote the public's health. While all parts of the Comprehensive Plan intersect with health objectives, the elements most connected with achieving health objectives include: Housing, Land Use, Natural Environment, Natural Resource Lands, and Transportation.

A. DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Our health is affected by a number of factors, known as determinants of health. Understanding these factors helps us to identify the opportunities to achieve disease prevention and health promotion objectives through community planning.

Addressing these determinants of health in the Comprehensive Plan is important because laws and policies are crucial to creating a county where everyone has the opportunity to attain their full health potential.

Clinical Care

A person's access to quality health services affects health outcomes. Whether a person has insurance also influences access to care. Clinical care also includes access to emergency services.

Behavioral

In addition to a person's genes, behavior greatly affects health. For example, smoking cigarettes increases the risk for lung cancer.¹ Supporting people in making choices and taking actions that reduce negative consequences of some behaviors can help to achieve optimal health outcomes.

Environmental

The physical surroundings where we live have a direct effect on health and also affect it by shaping our behavior. Heavy industrial areas can produce hazardous air pollutants. People exposed to toxic air pollutants at sufficient concentrations and durations may have an increased chance of getting cancer or experiencing other serious health effects.²

Social

The economic and educational conditions in which we live affect health outcomes.³ Examples of these conditions include: income, gender, type of work, and access to quality food. These conditions are shaped by the amount of money, power and resources that people have. These conditions are influenced by policy choices.

The determinants of health are diagramed on the following page.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, What Are the Risk Factors for Lung Cancer, 2018

² Environmental Protection Agency, Health and Environmental Effects of Hazardous Air Pollutants, 2018

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NCHHSTP Social Determinants of Health, 2018

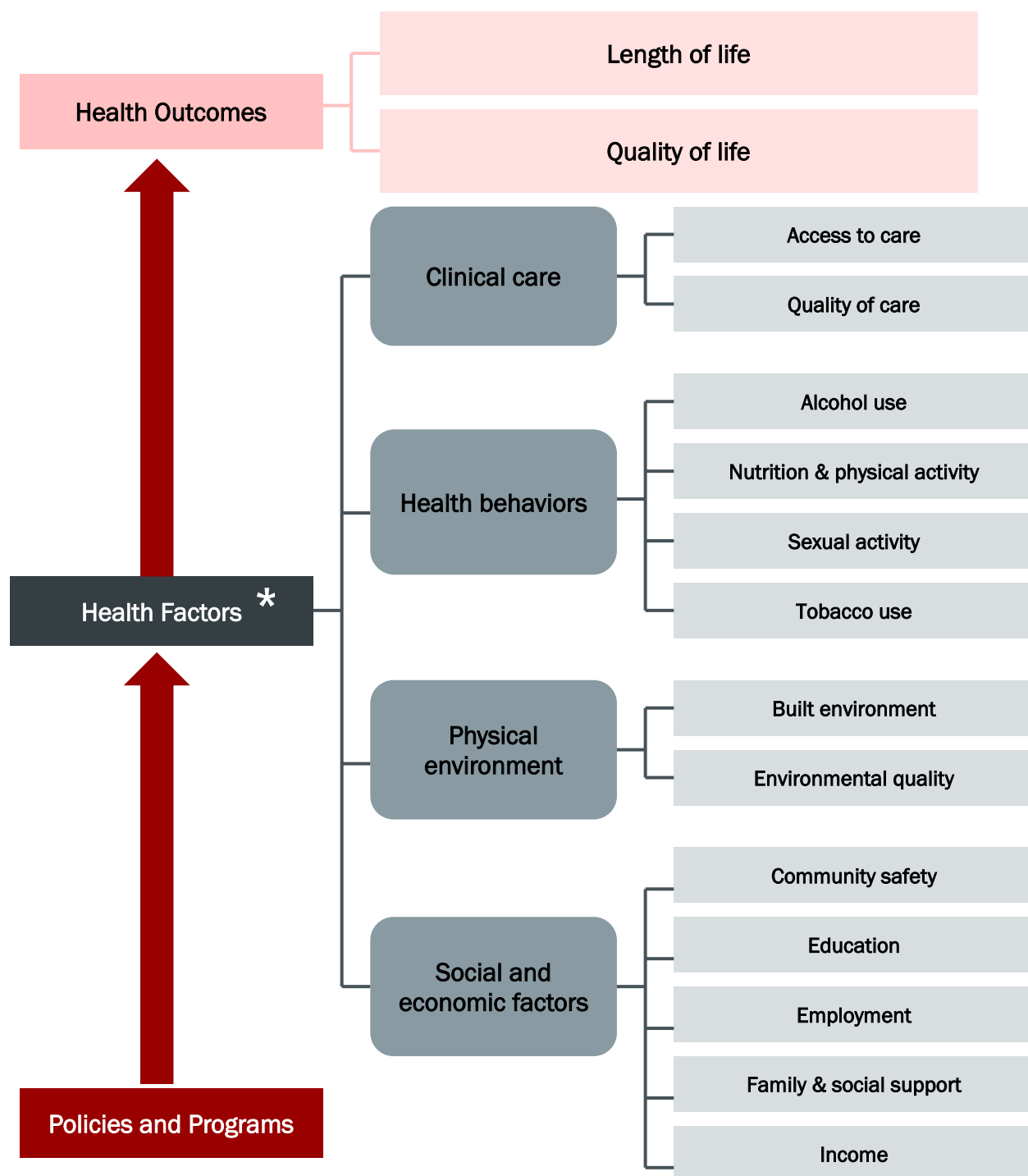


Figure 11-1. County Health Rankings Model.

SOURCE: ADAPTED FROM UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN POPULATION HEALTH INSTITUTE 2012.

* Model takes as given various significant factors in the health of a community, such as the availability of antibiotics, clean drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal, immunizations, etc. The County Health Rankings Model also does not include the full set of factors in each area. For instance, other substances besides alcohol and tobacco impact the health of the population. Further, it is particular levels or forms of the health behaviors listed here that raise or lower the risk of disease or early death.

B. CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF INTERACTIONS BETWEEN BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Communities at every scale realize the interaction between planning and health. The National Prevention Strategy (2011) lays out a long-range strategic plan for ensuring a healthier population across the nation. It focuses, like this chapter, on the leading causes of death and their causes. The strategy promotes healthy communities through the collaboration of different planning sectors.

Access to Healthy Food

The nutrition environment, from how close by grocery stores are to neighborhoods where many people live to the menus of restaurants and other food service establishments, constrains or enhances the choices of healthier, nutrient-rich foods available to local residents. Typically, there are three times as many supermarkets per capita in upper and middle-income neighborhoods as in low-income neighborhoods.⁴

Access to healthy food can be improved by allowing or encouraging features like community gardens, farmers markets, etc., as well as through governmental and private-sector policies. Land Use Planning (Chapter 2 Land Use) influences the ability of people living in urban areas to conduct small-scale agriculture. Promoting urban agriculture increases access to healthy food.

Communities for Physical Activity

Physical activity fosters normal growth and development, can reduce the risk of various chronic diseases, and can make people feel better, function better, and sleep better.⁵

Creating or modifying environments to make it easier for people to walk or bike helps increase physical activity. The availability of active and walkable places such as destinations, parks, sidewalks and trails near where people live and work, increases physical activity. It takes a comprehensive planning approach to create a physically active community. Transportation, housing, safety, and environmental elements must all be in harmony. Density and mixed use developments bring more destinations within reach of residents or people at work.

Water Quality and Land Uses

People expect and deserve safe water for drinking, recreation, hygiene and other uses. One of the best ways to protect the water quality of a community is to minimize the disruption of the natural water cycle.⁶ This requires planning to consider the impact of land use decisions on the water systems. Land uses and activities such as raising animals/keeping pets or pest and weed control can have substantial impacts on water quality. Managing wastes and pathogens is vital to maintaining clean drinking water and protecting water quality.

Development and Diseases

There is also concern that development into more natural areas increases health risks from exposure to wildlife disease vectors, wildfire, severe weather events, poor air quality and less-developed sanitation facilities. Air quality can be especially vulnerable in areas near highways, which generate smog.⁷

⁴ Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Transportation and Food: The Importance of Access, 2002

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Physical Activity Basics, 2018

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Water Quality, 2018

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Air Quality, 2018

C. PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES IN THURSTON COUNTY

Thurston County Board of Health

The Thurston County Board of Health, together with the director, health officer, and staff of the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services department and partner organizations in the community, work together to define key priorities for improving the health of the public in our community.

Thurston Thrives is a collective impact organization that brings together community partners of Thurston County to improve the health of the community.

Thurston Thrives was founded by the Thurston County Board of Health in 2013, aiming to address the wide array of community health factors noted above. It features several overlapping areas with the Sustainable Thurston plan. The action teams of Thurston Thrives have developed and put in motion strategies to improve our community's health. They connect to key areas of the County Health Rankings Model (Figure 11-1) and also aid the health department in meeting its mission: working together to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for everyone.

Public Health Priorities in Thurston County

While immediate health priorities of our region do change over time, there are some ongoing areas of focus that find expression in the shorter-term strategic plans of Thurston County and the Public Health & Social Services Department:

In its Strategic Plan for 2019-2020, Thurston County aims to improve health outcomes for all residents, improve community health, wellness and safety, and support environmental health and climate stabilization, to name its key initiatives that refer to public health. The health department has further elaborated on these in its own strategic plan:

- Protect human health - for example: Prevent human health threats caused by contamination and environmental hazards
- Promote healthy behaviors - for example: Support prevention and treatment related to mental health and substance use
- Support well-being - for example: Prevent and reduce homelessness

Thurston County has identified three main categories of health domains that link to our community's growth and development, and thus are relevant to be included in this Comprehensive Plan:

- **Access to Medical, Dental and Behavioral Health Services**
- **Environmental Public Health, Protecting Environment and Reducing Pollution**
- **Healthy Living - Chronic Disease Prevention through Nutrition & Physical Activity Promotion and Reduced Substance Use.**

In each of these domains, the health department and multiple Thurston Thrives action teams have been working on solutions. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services has reviewed and shared data (identifying disparities in health outcomes), engaged partners and sought resources to advance equity through its programs. The agency's 2020-2024 strategic plan identifies Advancing Equity as one of five strategic focus areas. One goal in this focus area is to assess and advance equity in health and well-being in the community. Annual objectives include identification of disparities, access to care, social determinants of health, and policy and system changes to reduce disparities.

Thurston Thrives has been a valuable community arm of the effort to tackle social determinants of health. These determinants require multi-sector collaboration to improve factors such as access to health services, economic conditions and educational attainment. These domains of action are discussed further below.

In addition, a priority of public health in Thurston County is to address the crisis of homelessness. The Thurston Thrives Housing Action Team works on this issue, and the broader housing needs of Thurston County, alongside programs of the Public Health & Social Services Department. Policies regarding housing can be found in Chapter 4 – Housing of Thurston County’s Comprehensive Plan.

Access to Health Services and Other Opportunities to Thrive

Equal resources and opportunity are necessary for our community and all residents to thrive. For example, disparities in access to health care affect everybody: the individual in need, insurance companies, public funders, the public safety net, and health care providers.

Racism results in the structuring of opportunity and access by assigning value based solely on skin color and other physical characteristics. This creates unfair health disadvantages and opportunities to some individuals and communities and unfair health advantages to other individuals and communities. Systemic racism in the access to health services prevents the community as a whole from achieving optimal health for all.

Limited access to quality health services undermines people’s ability to reach their full potential and lowers their quality of life. If a community has barriers to accessing health services, its residents will suffer from:

- More disease and disability;
- Delays in receiving appropriate care;
- Inability to get preventive services;
- Preventable hospitalizations;
- More costly care; and
- Reduced life expectancy.

Clinical preventive services like screening for early evidence of disease and behavioral health conditions, when combined with communities designed to prevent chronic disease, contributes to a high-quality, effective health care system. A healthy community, moreover, is one that addresses disparities in health outcomes that often stem from inequitable conditions.

Environmental Public Health - Protecting Environment / Reducing Pollution

Environmental health is the branch of public health that is concerned with all aspects of the natural and built environment that may affect human health. Environmental health studies how environmental factors can harm human health and conducts identification, prevention and control of such effects. Environmental health professionals work to:

- Maintain a safe supply of food and drinking water;
- Discover mechanisms of diseases caused by environmental exposures;
- Treat and dispose of liquid, solid and toxic wastes;
- Reduce air, water, food, and noise pollution; and
- Control workplace hazards.

Maintaining a high standard of water quality (particularly for drinking water and surface water used for food production) is a major public health priority and responsibility. This involves sound rules and regulations to protect sources of drinking water (aquifer recharge zones and other critical areas), and shellfish harvesting areas and their associated watersheds. In addition, maintaining water quality also requires appropriate infrastructure and land use on a broader scale so that problems are addressed and costs kept in control. It is far more expensive to clean up contamination than to prevent it from occurring in the first place.

Water quality can be affected by individual or organizational behavior. This means that education, outreach and technical assistance about how to minimize, properly store and dispose of potential contaminants must be part of public health efforts.

An area of increasing concern to public health is the impact of climate change. Our community response to this issue, both adapting to it so as to lessen impacts and taking action to prevent worsening climate change, is addressed in Chapter 9 (Environment, Recreation & Open Space).

➤ SEE CHAPTER 9 – ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Healthy Living - Chronic Disease Prevention through Nutrition & Physical Activity and Reduced Substance Use

While infectious diseases remain a key focus of public health surveillance and action, diseases that result from poor diet, lack of physical activity and the use of tobacco have become much more significant in the past century in terms of impact on population health.

Obesity and overweight are precursors to long term health conditions like type 2 diabetes. The incidence of these chronic health conditions in the population of Thurston County, like the nation, has been increasing. For example, from 2007 to 2015, the percent of people with Diabetes in Thurston County increased from 19.7 to 20.6.⁸ Over the same time, the national percent of people with diabetes increased from 25.3 to 26.5.

Many chronic health conditions are preventable, and preventing them depends on more people having good access to healthy food and physical activity. This means having plentiful healthy food environments like community gardens and farmers markets, and more surroundings that encourage physical activity like parks and trails. Thurston Thrives strategies on community design and food aim to improve community conditions in these areas to make healthy living easier for residents.

Community Design aims to create safe, convenient and abundant opportunities for physical activity by improving places, improving connections and aligning the regulatory framework toward achieving more walkable community environments. The Food area is part of a broader public private partnership called the South Sound Food System Network, whose shared vision is a thriving food system where everyone in our community enjoys and values food that is healthy, nourishing, local, affordable, culturally appropriate, sustainably produced and wisely managed.

⁸ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Chronic Conditions Prevalence State/County Level: All Beneficiaries by Age, 2007-2015, 2018

Tobacco use contributes to cancers, heart disease and a host of other chronic or fatal health conditions. Every year, 184 people in Thurston County are diagnosed with lung cancer.¹⁰ Fortunately, this rate has been decreasing by about 2.7 cases per 100,000 people, over the last five years. The County supports efforts to prevent initiation (starting to smoke or vape), particularly by children and youth, and also tobacco cessation (quitting use of tobacco or vaping products). Thurston County benefits from the Washington State Smoking in Public Places law, passed by citizen initiative in 2005 to ban smoking in “public places” with an emphasis on workplaces (which are required to be 100% smoke free). The County supports establishing other smoke-free policies as enhancements to the Smoking in Public Places law, for example with employers and in multifamily housing.

Improper medication disposal can result in adverse and toxic effects on the environment such as water pollution. When a substance is flushed down the toilet, it becomes part of wastewater and can enter into the groundwater if you are on a septic system or some community sewer systems. Safe disposal and storage also help prevent medications from getting into the hands of people for whom they were not intended.

IV. THURSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH INDICATORS

A. HEALTH DATA FOR DECISION MAKING

The local health department maintains extensive data and monitors health status and other indicators regarding the health of the population residing in Thurston County. This section provides summaries of data concerning the public health priority areas introduced above. While the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan is the governing land use plan for only the unincorporated areas of the county, public health serves the entire population of Thurston County, inclusive of residents within the cities. Therefore, data discussed here is for all of Thurston County, not just unincorporated areas.

However, disparities exist in Thurston County. Rural areas of the county have a lower life expectancy when compared to urban areas of the county. Nationwide, rural mortality is higher than urban mortality.¹¹ Further, the difference between urban and rural mortality is increasing.

A related issue to the urban and rural divide is income, which plays a large role in household health. Rural communities across the United States have, on average, a lower income than urban households.¹² Low income households are disproportionately impacted by health issues due to less access to healthy foods, medical services, transportation, and many other factors.

Access to Health Services

Rural residents and BIPOC residents (black, indigenous, people of color) often experience barriers to health care that limit their ability to obtain the services they need.¹³ In order for rural residents

¹⁰ National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles Incidence Rates Tables, 2018

¹¹ Rural Health Research Gateway, Regional Differences in Rural and Urban Mortality Trends, 2017

¹² United States Census Bureau, A Comparison of Rural and Urban America: Household Income and Poverty, 2016

¹³ Rural Health Information Hub, Healthcare Access in Rural Communities, 2017

to have sufficient health care access, necessary and appropriate services must be available and obtainable in a timely manner. Data from the 2019 Health Equity Community Health Assessment process identified rural residents of Thurston County as being disproportionately impacted by a wide range of health-related issues and the 2020 Racial Equity Assessment process identified health disparities in birth outcomes and treatable chronic health conditions.

Data on the prevalence of chronic health conditions for Thurston County's population indicate that there is a need for care and prevention in our community relating to these conditions.

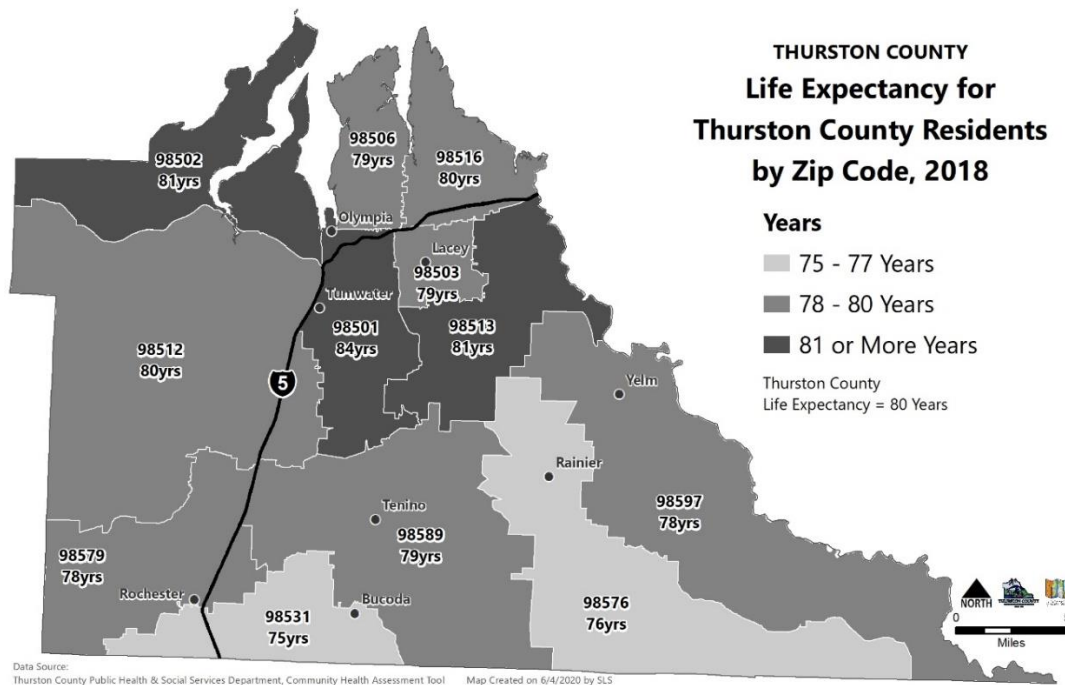


Figure 11-2. Life Expectancy, Thurston County, by Zip Code.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES, 2020.

Table 11-1. Chronic Health Conditions Requiring Medical and/or Behavioral Health Care in Thurston County.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY, 2018, AND BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SURVEY, 2017, 2018.

	Thurston	State
	All	All
High School Youth, 10th Graders		
Have Asthma	24%	21%
Are Obese	13%	14%
Have Been Depressed	40%	40%
Have Anxiety	34%	32%
Abuse Alcohol	17%	18%
Abuse Prescription Drugs	6%	7%

Abuse Prescription Pain Killers (Opioids)	4%	4%
Adults		
Have Asthma	9%	10%
Have Diabetes	9%	10%
Are Obese	29%	29%
Have Coronary Heart Disease or a Heart Attack	8%	6%
High Blood Pressure	28%	30%
High Cholesterol	31%	30%
Diagnosed with Depressive Disorder	22%	23%

Groundwater & Public Health

Thurston County residents rely almost exclusively on groundwater as their potable water source. Potable water is water that is safe for drinking. As of December 2017, there are approximately 543 Group B¹⁴ (2-14 service connections or serving a population of less than 25/day) and 303 Group A¹⁵ (15 or more service connections or serving 25 or more people/day for 60 or more days per year) active public water systems in Thurston County.

While groundwater quality is generally very good, pollution from land use activities has significantly affected water quality in some areas. Nitrate in people's food or water reduces the ability of red blood cells to carry oxygen, with more serious health effects for infants (methemoglobinemia or "blue baby syndrome"). Background nitrate concentrations in groundwater should be less than 2.0 mg/l. The maximum amount of nitrate allowed in county drinking water is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/l).

In 2018, elevated nitrate concentrations were found in groundwater samples in many areas across Thurston County¹⁶. Elevated nitrate levels in groundwater indicates pollution from land use activities including agricultural activities, and practices, land management activities, and sewage disposal methods including on-site sewage systems and reclaimed water infiltration. Elevated nitrate concentrations are the typically the result of nearby, up-gradient land use activities. Nitrate can also act as an indicator of other pollution sources – the presence of nitrate may suggest the presence of other pollutants.

¹⁴ Washington State Department of Health, Water System Data for Download Group B General, 2017

¹⁵ Washington State Department of Health, Water System Data for Download Group A General, 2017

¹⁶ Thurston County, GeoData, 2018

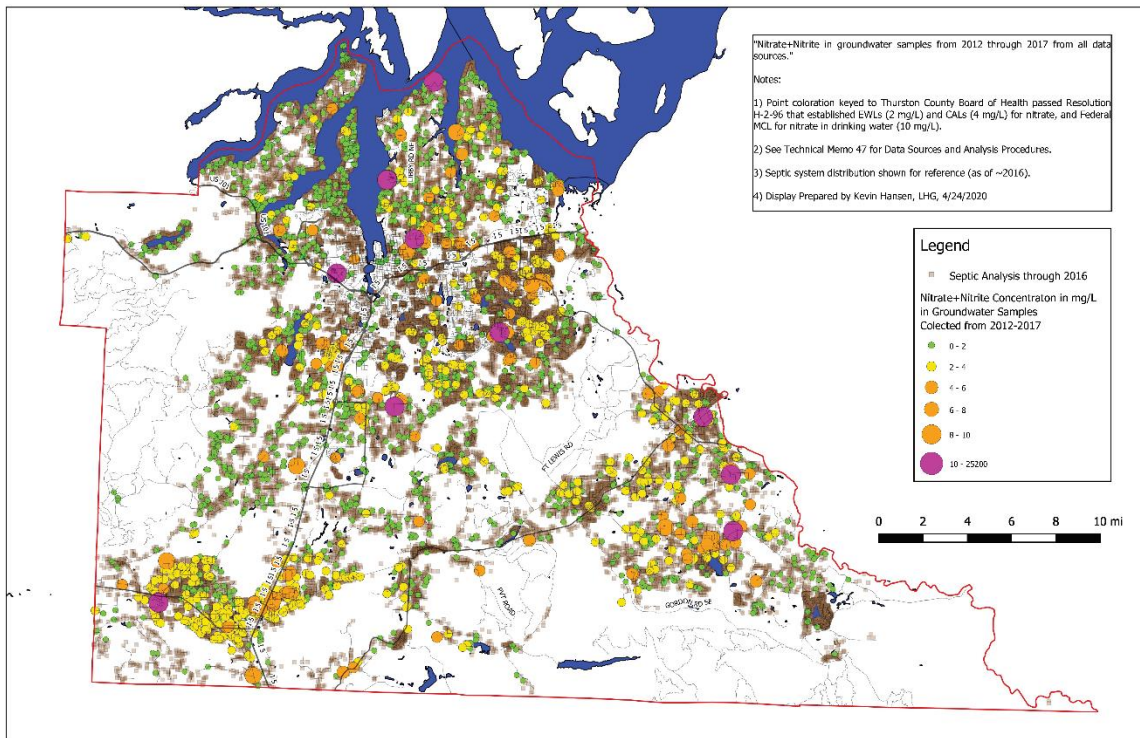


Figure 11-3. Nitrate and Nitrite Groundwater Concentrations at Locations in Thurston County, 2012-2017.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, APRIL 2020.

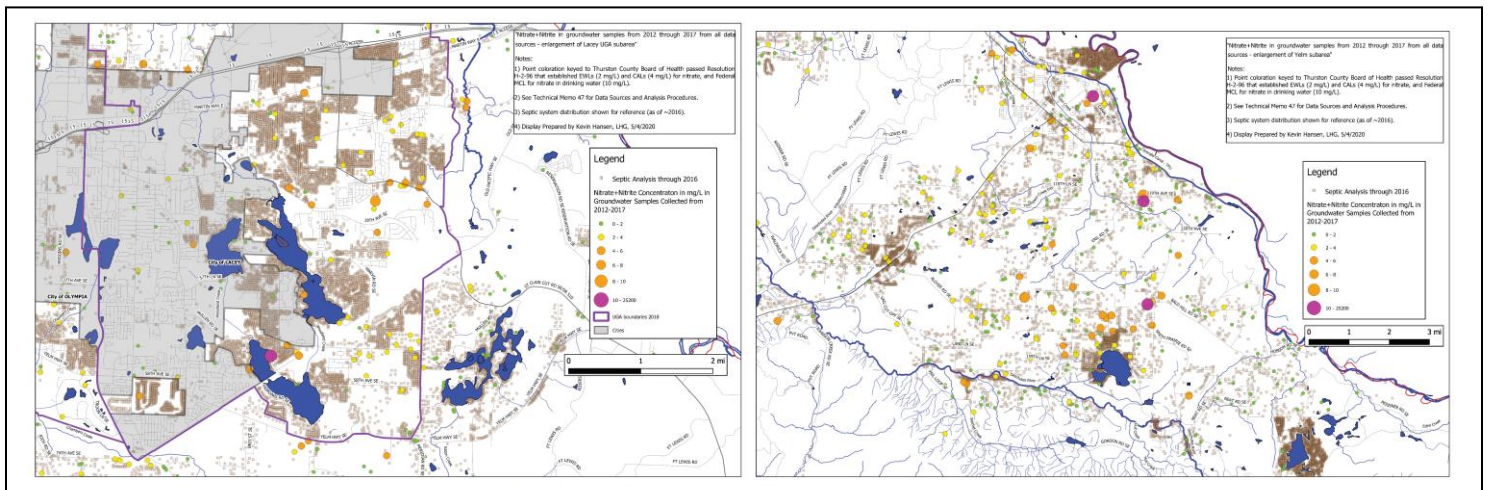


Figure 11-4. Nitrate and Nitrite Groundwater Concentrations, South Lacey UGA and Yelm Areas, 2012-2017.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, APRIL 2020.

The Scatter Creek Aquifer is an example of urban density and septic challenges. The Scatter Creek Aquifer is a shallow, unconfined, extremely vulnerable groundwater supply and is the sole source of drinking water for more than 18,000 area residents. The aquifer flows from Tenino westward to Grand Mound and Rochester, and then south to Lewis County. Past sewage disposal practices and land use activities have resulted in elevated levels of nitrate and fecal coliform, violations of drinking water standards, increased public health risks, and water quality degradation. Nitrate

values ranged from a high of 7.8 mg/l to a low of 1.7 mg/l in the 120 samples collected Sampling conducted September 2008 through June 2009. See Figure 11-5.

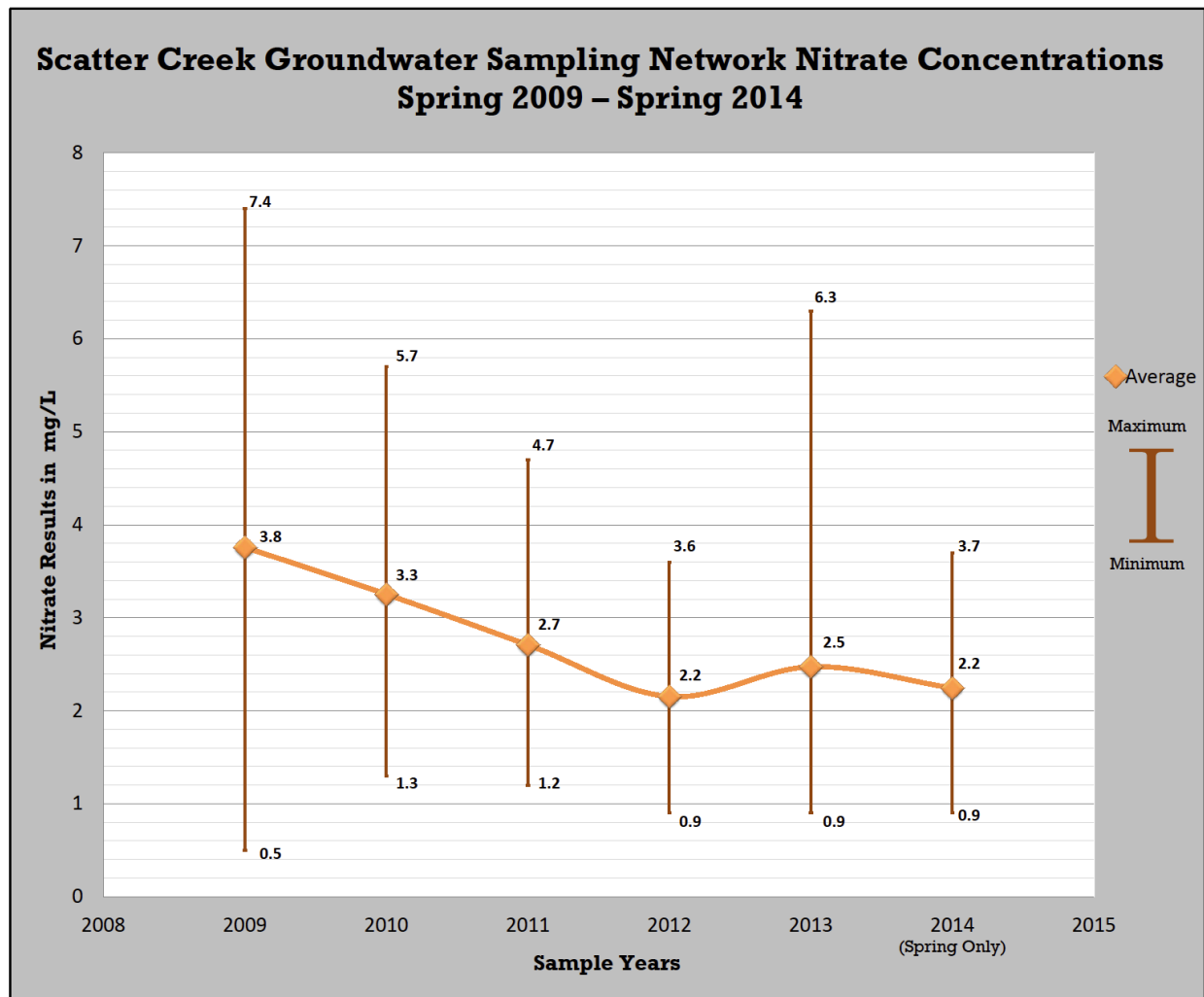


Figure 11-5. Scatter Creek Groundwater Nitrate Study.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, SCATTER CREEK AQUIFER, 2009-2014.

From 2011 – 2014 a citizen advisory committee evaluated the risks to the Scatter Creek Aquifer posed by on-site sewage systems under six different land use scenarios from a groundwater model. The citizen committee looked at the data showing decreasing nitrogen levels in the groundwater in samples taken 2009-2014, together with the model results, and recommended zoning, land use and health regulations (such as the placement of septic systems and wells) as the best ways to minimize drinking water supply contamination.

The citizen committee concluded that while the aquifer is vulnerable to contamination from septic systems and land use activities, sampling from 2009-2014 show nitrogen levels in the aquifer have decreased over time and seem to be trending lower. They believe zoning, land use, and health regulations generally have protected the aquifer from nitrates and many other contaminants, but

that regulations can be strengthened to minimize the potential for contaminating drinking water supplies through the optimal placement of new septic systems and wells.

Surface Waters - Marine

Commercial shellfish harvesting takes place along Thurston County shorelines in Totten Inlet, Eld Inlet, Henderson Inlet, Dana Passage and along the Nisqually Reach. There are approximately 12,825-acre commercial shellfish harvesting areas in Thurston County (using 2016 as base year). Consumer health is protected by regulations overseen by the Washington State Department of Health. Overall water quality conditions for fecal coliform improved from 2008 to 2016 so that harvesting restrictions were lifted on 472 acres of commercial shellfish harvesting areas. While water quality improvements were documented in Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach, portions of those areas are closed to shellfish harvesting due to pollution. Parts of Eld Inlet have experienced declining water quality trends. Both Eld Inlet and Henderson Inlet have been placed on the Washington State Department of Health Water Quality Early Warning System Report and in 2018 30 acres of Henderson Inlet were downgraded due to declining water quality. In response to the downgrade the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Henderson Inlet Closure Response Plan on June 25, 2019. This downgrade shows that continued efforts are necessary to protect and improve water quality.

Marine waters in Thurston County are subject to harmful algal blooms, which produce biotoxins and can impact public health. Elevated toxin levels can cause Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning, Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, and Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning. Other contaminants, such as Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and mercury have contaminated fish. Consequently, the Department of Health has issued advisories that recommend people limit how much fish they consume that is harvested from the South Sound. Recommendations vary from no consumption of flat fish harvested in Budd Inlet to 2-3 servings per week of chum, Coho, pink and sockeye salmon caught in these waters.

These waters are impacted by nonpoint sources of pollution (see Chapter 9), and affect aquatic life and public health.

Surface Waters - Freshwater

Water quality is regularly monitored in Thurston County. Water quality indicators show that our lakes vary from having oligotrophic (Summit Lake) to eutrophic conditions (Capitol Lake and Pattison Lake). Oligotrophic lakes are associated with “good” water quality, ones in which people like to swim and recreate. The most eutrophic lakes have poor water clarity and tend to have frequent and/or prolonged algae blooms.

Algae blooms occur regularly on many Thurston County lakes. Some blue-green algae produce substances toxic to nerves (neurotoxins) and the liver (hepatotoxins), as well as toxins that affect the skin and gastrointestinal tract. Blue-green algae have produced toxin at levels of public health concern in many Thurston County lakes. In 2017 anatoxin-a, a potent neurotoxin, was detected at concentrations of 354 ug/l in one lake. The public health level of concern is 1.0 ug/l.

On-site Sewage Systems

There are approximately 54,172 on-site sewage (septic) systems that generate almost 12 million gallons of sewage each day in Thurston County. While properly designed, constructed and maintained on-site sewage systems (OSS) provide a safe and efficient way to treat and dispose of

domestic waste water, OSS that are failing, improperly used, situated in high density or sensitive environmental areas can generate significant levels of pollution that pose public health and environmental concerns. Failing on-site sewage systems in Thurston County have contributed to commercial shellfish area closures and significant levels of ground water pollution. In some cases, a failing OSS can result in sewage that surfaces above ground; this poses an immediate threat to people who come in contact with it. Properly functioning on-site septic systems have also been shown to contribute to elevated nitrate and fecal coliform levels in groundwater and surface waters due to higher-density developments relying on OSS for wastewater treatment and environmental conditions such as porous soils.

There are an estimated 16,744 septic systems within the city limits of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater and their associated urban growth areas. These release more than 3.5 million gallons of liquid sewage each day. The cumulative result of urban septic systems is significant volumes of largely untreated effluent flowing unimpeded through the area's porous soils to groundwater aquifers and, eventually, to surface waters. While septic system effluent represents about 20% of the volume of all local wastewater, it contains roughly 75% of the total nitrogen loading from wastewater. This contamination threatens water supplies and has led to the abandonment of some drinking water wells.

The Environmental Health Division is responsible for reviewing and permitting the installation and repair of OSS with design flows of 3,500 gallons per day or less. Permits are reviewed to ensure compliance with Article IV of the Thurston County Sanitary Code and WAC 246-272A. These regulations require the sewage systems to meet system site, soil and installation standards.

WAC 246-272A requires the OSS owner to take steps to ensure it is properly monitored and maintained to help keep it from failing. Thurston County augments state law by requiring renewable certificates (permits) for OSS that are large, complex or serve food service establishments. Renewable certificates for on-site sewage systems are also required in the Henderson Inlet and Nisqually Reach Marine Recovery Areas, where OSS were found to be significant pollution sources. There are 11,347 OSS in Henderson and Nisqually, and another 4,059 other OSS throughout the rest of the county, that are required to have renewable operational certificates. Eighty seven percent of these systems have current inspections and are in compliance with operational certificate standards. This compares favorably to the remaining septic systems in the county which have far fewer inspections recorded. For the OSS that do not have renewable operational certificates, approximately 35% have been inspected in the last 3 years based on a review of reports filed with the county. This does not include inspections completed by OSS owners who chose not to file with nor report to the county.

The inspection program helped identify septic system problems. From 2007-2015 there were 311 permitted repairs, and 1,486 minor repairs. Minor repairs are things like cracked pipes and broken septic tank baffles that can cause sewage to surface or cause a system to fail prematurely. The program contributed to water quality improvements that have resulted in a net gain of 366 areas of commercial shellfish harvesting area in Henderson Inlet since 2005 and the improvements noted in the 2017 *Henderson Inlet Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Effectiveness Monitoring Report*.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

Thurston County is home to many businesses and industries that use and store hazardous materials or wastes. Since 2000, the County's hazardous waste program staff has assisted over 1,800 businesses with the management, recycling, and disposal of their hazardous materials. Industry-specific campaigns have enabled the County to provide education about best management practices that includes product substitution, treatment options, new recycling techniques, and removal of hazardous and extremely hazardous chemicals from local schools.

There are many sites contaminated by hazardous material in Thurston County. On July 2017 there were 157 sites in Thurston County identified by the Department of Ecology and included on either the Washington State Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List or the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) List. This compares to 193 in October 2009 and 179 in December 2019.¹⁷ The size and significance of these sites vary from ones like the former Cascade Pole that will take many years and millions of dollars to correct to leaky tanks at former service station sites and small home businesses.

In addition to contaminated sites and LUSTs, there are many other sources of hazardous waste created in everyday life. In 2008, a survey conducted by Public Health & Social Services Dept. showed that an estimated 96% of Thurston County adults used chemical products around their home such as weed killers, bug sprays and household cleaners. Of county adults that used household chemical products, 27% never or only sometimes familiarized themselves with the health effects of the product and 10% acknowledged that they do not follow directions for use.¹⁸ While the impact of a single household may not be much, when many households conduct improper hazardous waste management the total affect can be significant.

In addition to hazardous waste, various types of solid waste must also be managed. In 2019, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services permitted six public solid waste facilities, including the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, HazoHouse, and three county-owned transfer stations. Nine privately-owned facilities were also permitted, including the Silver Springs Organics composting facility. Thurston County is responsible for regulating the materials that these facilities handle, including the small quantities of hazardous materials or wastes associated with small businesses and households. A more complete discussion of regulation for these materials and wastes can be found in the Thurston County Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

Air Quality

Thurston County's air quality generally meets standards for good health, though there are events that sometimes create unhealthy conditions, particularly for sensitive groups. The incidence of asthma, which has many triggers in the home and community environment, is higher than the state average both among adults and young people.

¹⁷ Washington State Department of Ecology, Site Register & Contaminated Sites Lists, Toxic Cleanup Program Web Reporting, 2018

¹⁸ TCPHSS; Perception and Practice - Environmental Factors and Lifestyle Choices Survey 2008.

Table 11-2. Environmental Public Health Concerns among Youth and Adults, Thurston County and Washington State.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, PERCEPTION AND PRACTICE – ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND LIFESTYLE CHOICES SURVEY 2008, HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY, 2018, BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SURVEY, 2018, COMPREHENSIVE HOSPITALIZATION ABSTRACT REPORTING SYSTEM AND DEATH CERTIFICATES, 2016-2018.

	Thurston	State
	All	All
6th Graders		
Have Asthma	14%	13%
8th Graders		
Have Asthma	18%	18%
10th Graders		
Have Asthma	24%	21%
Adults		
Have Asthma	9%	10%
Have Coronary Heart Disease or a Heart Attack	8%	6%
Have Had a Stroke	3%	3%
Number of Heat Stress Deaths or Hospitalizations	7	170

Healthy Living – Chronic Disease Prevention

Nutrition plays a vital role in the prevention of chronic disease. Early nutrition habits are especially important because the early years of a child's life influences their lifelong food choices. Once established, eating patterns can be difficult to modify. Children prefer foods that they are used to eating with their family. The food choices of adults have a significant influence on their health and a wide range of chronic conditions. Food choices are influenced by many factors.

There is a direct correlation to low income households and access to healthy foods.¹⁹ People working multiple minimum wage jobs may not have the time or income to eat a healthy meal, which increase the risk of health-related issues. As such, community health is affected by Economic Development (Chapter 8). This is another example of how health is tied to other planning elements.

¹⁹ Urban Institute & VCU Center on Society and Health, How Are Income and Wealth Linked to Health and Longevity, 2015

Table 11-3. Nutrition Patterns among Youth and Adults, Thurston County and Washington State.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY, 2018, AND BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SURVEY, 2017.

	Thurston	State
	All	All
6th Graders		
Eat Breakfast	78%	76%
Eat Dinner with Family	77%	75%
8th Graders		
Eat Breakfast	65%	65%
Eat Dinner with Family	66%	67%
Drink Regular Pop/Soda (not diet)	76%	75%
Consume Recommended amount of Daily Fruit and Vegetables	19%	19%
10th Graders		
Eat Breakfast	57%	59%
Eat Dinner with Family	58%	56%
Drink Regular Pop/Soda (not diet)	77%	73%
Consume Recommended amount of Daily Fruit and Vegetables	16%	17%
Adults		
Consuming Fruit At least Once Daily	63%	68%
Consuming Vegetables At least Once Daily	87%	83%

Physical Activity

Life-long health attitudes and behaviors are typically formed during adolescence. Physical activity during adolescence has been shown by research to provide a range of immediate and long term benefits including: promoting psychological well-being by reducing feelings of depression and anxiety; affecting weight which connects to development of certain chronic health conditions like obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes. Local decisions and investments that improve the walkability and bicycle-friendliness of Thurston County can positively contribute to the level of physical activity among county residents.

Table 11-4. Physical Activity among Youth and Adults, Thurston County and Washington State.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY, 2018, AND BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SURVEY, 2017.

	Thurston	State
	All	All
6th Graders		
Walk or Bike to School	23%	34%
Engage in the Recommended Amount of Physical Activity	29%	27%
8th Graders		
Walk or Bike to School	31%	38%
Engage in the Recommended Amount of Physical Activity	32%	28%
10th Graders		
Walk or Bike to School	30%	38%
Engage in the Recommended Amount of Physical Activity	24%	22%
Adults		
Engage in the Recommended Amount of Aerobic Physical Activity	54%	58%

Tobacco Prevention

Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death for Thurston County residents. Tobacco products contain nicotine, a chemical that causes addiction. Of county adults that currently smoke cigarettes, 56% are trying to quit. ⁷

Table 11-5. Tobacco use among Youth and Adults, Thurston County and Washington State.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY 2018, BIRTH CERTIFICATES, 2018, AND BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SURVEY, 2017, 2018.

	Thurston	State
	All	All
6th Graders		
Smoke Cigarettes	1%	1%
Use Vapes (E-Cigarettes)	2%	3%
8th Graders		
Smoke Cigarettes	3%	3%
Use Vapes (E-Cigarettes)	11%	10%
10th Graders		
Smoke Cigarettes	6%	5%
Use Vapes (E-Cigarettes)	21%	21%
Adults		
Smoke Cigarettes During Pregnancy	9%	7%
Smoke Cigarettes	12%	12%
Use Vapes (E-Cigarettes)	21%	20%

Second Hand Smoke

Secondhand smoke from tobacco products has been scientifically shown to cause premature death and disability by increasing a person's risk for a range of cancers, heart disease and respiratory problems. The proportion of local youth being exposed to secondhand smoke is a significant health concern.

Table 11-6. Secondhand Smoke Exposure among Youth, Thurston County and Washington State.

SOURCE: THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY, 2018.

	Thurston	State
	All	All
6th Graders		
Exposed to Secondhand Cigarette Smoke	18%	18%
8th Graders		
Exposed to Secondhand Cigarette Smoke	22%	22%
10th Graders		
Exposed to Secondhand Cigarette Smoke	27%	24%

V. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL 1: INCREASE ACCESS TO MEDICAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND ORAL HEALTH SERVICES.

OBJECTIVE A: The County should increase access to appropriate medical, behavioral and oral health services.

POLICIES:

1. The County should support strategies to expand access to no cost or reduced cost primary care services and oral health services for uninsured or underinsured individuals and disproportionately impacted groups including residents who are Native or from the U.S. territories.
2. The County should partner with local service providers to improve access to behavioral health and prevention services for all, but especially for low-income and disproportionately impacted groups.
3. The County should explore opportunities to strengthen service delivery in locations serving disproportionately impacted groups, including the unhoused, BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) and rural residents.
4. The County should support partnerships that promote access to prescribers and affordable prescription medication for chronic health conditions and behavioral health disorders.

5. The County should support partnerships that promote access to preventive and restorative dental care.
6. The County should support access to care and services that support a healthy start in life for newborns and infants, with the extra support for Black or African American and Native American women and families.
7. The County should support efforts to reduce health disparities resulting from differential access to care among all residents, especially those who are children, low-income or identify as LGBTQ and BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color).
8. The County should support partnerships that work to eliminate health disparities or avoidable differences between groups of people created by societal barriers and systematic exclusion from access to medical, behavioral and oral health services opportunities.
9. The County should support partnerships that promote racial equity and work to eliminate racism and systemic racism as a source of negative physical and behavioral health conditions.

OBJECTIVE B: The County should strengthen collaboration with local jurisdictions, funding partners and community partners to build and sustain coordinated regional health and human services to provide access to services, safety and clinical care to those most in need.

POLICIES:

1. The County should continually work with regional jurisdictions and organizations to identify strengths and weaknesses of existing health and human services.
2. The County should collaborate with regional jurisdictions and organizations to assure coordination in how funds are used, and continue to explore improvements to system design, contracting, data collection and analysis.
3. The County should be a regional leader in ensuring safety net or equivalent access related to all types of care and supportive services, behavioral, physical, etc., to serve the whole person and all people.
4. The County should assess and measure the health and needs of Thurston County's residents on an ongoing basis and modify strategies to respond to changing needs, outcomes, and new research.
5. The County should increase collaboration related to communicable disease control.

GOAL 2: IMPROVE AND PROTECT AIR QUALITY TO REDUCE AIR BASED HEALTH HAZARDS.

OBJECTIVE A: The County should attain a high level of air quality to ensure a reduction in adverse health impacts.

POLICIES:

1. The County should continue to work to meet federal and state air quality requirements.

2. The County should encourage use of clean heating sources to decrease air pollution.
3. The County should provide information to the public on proper use of wood stoves.
4. The County should develop land use practices which improve air quality, including infill development and concentrating high density land uses which reduce vehicle trips.
5. The County should encourage development and implementation of transportation-based strategies that reduce pollutants, smog, and diesel air-toxins.
6. The County should protect and enhance tree canopy across urban and natural forests to improve air quality.
7. The County should support partnerships to reduce health disparities resulting from air quality and air-based health hazards among all residents, especially those who identify as BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color).

OBJECTIVE B: The County should coordinate air quality improvement efforts with agencies and jurisdictions to monitor transportation demand management programs benefits, share technical information on air quality, and integrate land use and transportation policies.

POLICIES:

1. The County should coordinate with local agencies, jurisdictions and regional partners to especially high priority areas for air quality such as schools and retirement homes.
2. The County should coordinate with local agencies and jurisdictions to develop transportation control measures and similar mobile source emission reduction programs that may be warranted to attain or maintain air quality health standards.
3. The County should coordinate with agencies to provide information on air quality problems and measures to improve air quality.

GOAL 3: PROTECT AND PRESERVE WATER QUALITY AND DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES.

OBJECTIVE A: Water supplies should be protected with regulations and monitored for quality.

POLICIES:

1. The County should assure groundwater resources (aquifers) are protected from land use activities and development.
2. The County should assure public water supplies are properly managed and monitored wells produce safe, clean drinking water.
3. The County should evaluate regional water quality to identify public health risks.
4. The Thurston County Sanitary Code should include standards that ensure new and replacement on-site sewage systems are properly designed, constructed and maintained to reduce risks to public health and surface water resources.

5. The County should explore conditioning the approval of land use and development permits so they do not adversely affect ground and surface water quality. Proposals should be evaluated for physical, biological and chemical impacts, including pesticides, toxic materials and chemicals of emerging concern.
6. The County should work to keep current on the risks to ground and surface water resources posed by human activities and update its rules and policies to manage these risks to protect public health and the environment. Rules and policies should be developed with special attention to Chapter 9 (Environment, Recreation, and Open Space) to ensure environmental policies are in sync.
7. The County should encourage releasing adequately treated recycled water into streams (rather than the ocean) to increase water quality, especially when water quality impacts shellfish beds.
8. The County should support partnerships to reduce health disparities resulting from poor drinking water supplies among all residents, especially those who identify as BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color).

GOAL 4: ENSURE WASTES ARE PROPERLY MANAGED TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER RESOURCES.

OBJECTIVE A: Land use activities and planning programs should be supported that promote best management practices for the safe installation, use, and clean-up for septic and sewage systems.

POLICIES:

1. The County should work to ensure on-site sewage systems in urban communities that cause significant groundwater pollution or pose significant public health risk are converted to sewer.
2. The County should ensure that septic systems are properly monitored and managed and failing systems are identified and promptly repaired.
3. The County should ensure that wastes are managed so as to protect groundwater resources.
4. The County should investigate and respond to complaints and take enforcement action as needed to assure solid and hazardous wastes are properly managed.
5. The County should permit solid waste facilities and assure they comply with permit conditions and applicable law to assure wastes are properly managed.
6. The County's procurement practices should reflect the goal of reducing the generation of hazardous materials as much as possible.

OBJECTIVE B: Land use activities and planning programs should conduct outreach for the safe management of septic systems, sewage systems, solid wastes and hazardous.

POLICIES:

1. The County should work with businesses (small quantity generators) to improve compliance with rules for proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials.

2. The County should provide information about health and environmental hazards associated with household products. Information about safer or lower-risk products should also be provided.
3. The County should provide education about the health impacts of improperly disposing of hazardous materials such as herbicides, paints, pesticides, unused medicines, used motor oil, etc.
4. The County should support product stewardship advocacy, programs and legislation to reduce the health and environmental impacts of consumer products in their generation, consumption, storage and disposal. Part of this support should include providing information to the public about the importance of product stewardship.
5. The County should conduct outreach to bring better understanding of environmental health and ways to protect air and water quality to members of the community/Thurston County residents.

GOAL 5: IMPROVE NUTRITION BY PROMOTING HEALTHY AND ACCESSIBLE FOOD OPTIONS FOR ALL LOCAL RESIDENTS.

OBJECTIVE A: The County should increase the access to healthful foods in communities, including provision of full service grocery stores, farmers markets, and community gardens.

POLICIES:

1. The County should implement farm to institution strategies.
2. The County should ensure that land use rules allow for farmers markets.
3. The County should provide incentives for new grocery store development in areas where grocery stores are lacking.
4. The County should ensure that land use rules allow community gardens.
5. The County should facilitate the availability of locally grown, healthy food options for residents.
6. The County should continue to collaborate with local partners to promote community gardens.
7. The County should support education programs that teach youth and adults skills and behaviors to choose and prepare healthful foods.
8. The County should support programs that increase market access for rural agriculture, such as Community Supported Agriculture, farm-to-table projects, etc.
9. The County should support partnerships to reduce health disparities resulting from lack of access to healthful food options among all residents, with particular attention to those who identify as BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color).

GOAL 6: CREATE ENVIRONMENTS AND SERVICES FOR ACTIVE LIVING THAT INCREASE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

OBJECTIVE A: The County should increase access to free or low-cost recreational opportunities for physical activity.

POLICIES:

1. The County should support creation or enhancement of access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach activities (examples include walking paths, exercise facilities indoors, improved access to nearby facilities, wayfinding signs, and point-of-decision prompts to encourage use of stairs).
2. The County should promote policies to enhance physical activity opportunities at worksites, including healthcare and school settings.

OBJECTIVE B: The County should support urban planning approaches - zoning and land use – that promote physical activity.

POLICIES:

1. The County should promote increasing density of land use and mix of uses in urbanized, or urbanizing, areas to create more walkable community environments.
2. The County should promote design that increases proximity of residential areas to stores, jobs, schools and recreation areas in urbanized or urbanizing areas.
3. The County should promote children's health by encouraging and supporting land uses in the environment surrounding a school and on travel routes to schools that complement and strengthen other formal programs, such as Safe Routes to School.
4. The County should promote walkable neighborhoods to support safe and accessible walking through adequate development density, diverse uses, and safe design.

OBJECTIVE C: The County should emphasize complete streets and community design for increased physical activity and active transportation.

POLICIES:

1. The County should build, and require of new developments, connections among trails, paths, neighborhoods and schools, and sidewalks to increase access to opportunities to be physically active.
2. The County should collaborate with the Thurston region's community development, planning and transportation departments to ensure that activity-friendly and universal design principles are incorporated into local plans, development codes and design review processes.
3. The County should promote, and provide facilities to support, active commuting to schools and worksites located in Thurston County.
4. The County should consider the establishment of a non-motorized transportation citizen committee that will advise on improvements to roadways and trails that make it easier to walk, bicycle or otherwise be active in meeting transportation needs.

5. The County should address the unique challenges of promoting access to physical activity opportunities in rural areas where roadway infrastructure and land use is not generally supportive of walking or bicycling.

OBJECTIVE D: The County should enhance the safety and perceived safety of communities to increase the likelihood that residents will use walkable or bicycle friendly places, whether for active transportation or recreation. Rules and policies should be developed with special attention to Chapter 5 (Transportation).

POLICIES

1. The County should participate in traffic safety and injury prevention efforts with attention to improving physical activity opportunities.
2. The County should support Safe Routes to School projects and other efforts to address safety problems and barriers to physical activity among vulnerable populations (such as inaccessible or hazardous street crossings, poor school siting or design).
3. The County should establish design guidelines and rules that result in improved safety and comfort for people bicycling, walking or engaging in other physical activity.

GOAL 7: IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH BY REDUCING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

OBJECTIVE A: The County shall enforce the Washington State Smoking in Public Places law and seek to strengthen it in local implementation.

POLICIES:

1. The County should provide education to business owners regarding the Smoking in Public Places law.
2. The County should work with local law enforcement and other partners to help ensure compliance with the Smoking in Public Places law.
3. The County should collaborate with other local jurisdictions (cities and towns) to enforce and strengthen the Smoking in Public Places law.

OBJECTIVE B: The County should support the development of smoke- and vapor- free policies for housing, workplaces, and other community locations.

POLICIES:

1. The County should encourage apartment owners and managers to adopt smoke-free and vapor-free policies, providing information and resources to assist them.
2. The County should provide information to the public about smoke-free and vapor-free housing.
3. The County should encourage policies that lead to all parks, transit facilities and services, and public housing to become smoke, tobacco- and vapor-free.
4. The County should support smoke-, tobacco- and vapor-free work sites and promote policies that ensure this shift.

OBJECTIVE C: The County should support community-based approaches that address the health, social, economic, environmental and other negative consequences associated with substance use for all residents, especially those who identify as BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color).

POLICIES:

1. The County should support implementation of evidence-based (i.e., from scientific evidence) strategies that reduce the harm associated with substance use, misuse, abuse and dependency.
2. The County should collaborate with partners to provide fact-based drug education to residents, disproportionately impacted groups and community stakeholders.
3. The County should promote safe disposal and storage of unused or expired prescription medications to prevent misuse and abuse.
4. The County should collaborate with partners to offer evidence-based alternatives that reduce school discipline or justice involvement, when that involvement is connected to a substance use disorder.











The County should partner to offer services that increase protective factors (conditions that reduce or eliminate risk) and resilience (ability to recover quickly) among local youth and families as a means to prevent substance use.

ATTACHMENT E:

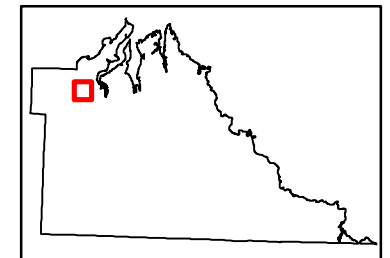
**MAP AMENDMENTS TO
FUTURE LAND USE MAP (L-1)
AND
LONG TERM AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY MAP (N-1)**

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2020 UPDATE

Amendments to NW Detail of Map L-1 Future Land Use and Map N-1 Long Term Agriculture and Forestry

-  LTF
-  Long-Term Forestry
-  RRR 1/5
-  Rural Residential/Resource
1 Unit Per 5 Acres
-  R 1/20
-  Rural 1 Unit Per 20 Acres
-  Areas of removal from LTF
designation, with land use
amendment and associated rezoning
from LTF to RRR 1/5
-  Parcels
-  Streams
-  Major Roads

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles



Thurston County makes every effort to ensure that this map is a true and accurate representation of the work of County Government. However, the county and all related personnel make no warranty, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness or convenience of any information disclosed on this map. Nor does the County accept liability for any damage or injury caused by the use of this map.

To the fullest extent permissible pursuant to applicable law, Thurston County disclaims all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to implied warranties of merchantability, data fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringements of proprietary rights.

Under no circumstances, including, but not limited to negligence, shall Thurston County be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special or consequential damages that result from the use of, or the inability to use, Thurston County materials.

Community Planning and
Economic Development
Date: 02/06/2020 - ERP

Parcel 13816230000
Amend the Comprehensive Plan
Maps to remove from LTF designation,
and amend land use and associated
zoning from LTF to RRR 1/5

Parcel 13816240000
Amend the Comprehensive Plan
Maps to remove from LTF designation,
and amend land use and associated
zoning from LTF to RRR 1/5

Parcel 13816230200
Amend the Comprehensive Plan
Maps to remove from LTF designation,
and amend land use and associated
zoning from LTF to RRR 1/5








Parcel 13822130100
Amend the Comprehensive Plan
Maps to remove from LTF designation,
and amend land use and associated
zoning from LTF to RRR 1/5

8

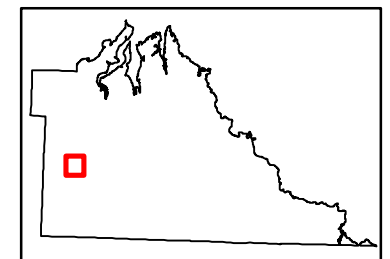
PERRY CREEK

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2020 UPDATE

Amendments to NC Detail of
Map L-1 Future Land Use and Map
N-1 Long Term Agriculture and Forestry

-  LTF
-  Long-Term Forestry
-  RRR 1/5
-  Rural Residential/Resource
1 Unit Per 5 Acres
-  PP
-  Public Parks, Trails & Preserves
-  Areas of removal from LTF
designation, with land use
amendment and associated rezoning
from LTF to RRR 1/5
-  Parcels
-  Streams
-  Major Roads

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles



Parcel 09880001002
Amend the Comprehensive Plan
Maps to remove from LTF designation,
and amend land use and associated
zoning from LTF to RRR 1/5

Thurston County makes every effort to ensure that this map is a true and accurate representation of the work of County Government. However, the county and all related personnel make no warranty, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness or convenience of any information disclosed on this map. Nor does the County accept liability for any damage or injury caused by the use of this map.











To the fullest extent permissible pursuant to applicable law, Thurston County disclaims all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to implied warranties of merchantability, data fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringements of proprietary rights.

Under no circumstances, including, but not limited to negligence, shall Thurston County be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special or consequential damages that result from the use of, or the inability to use, Thurston County materials.

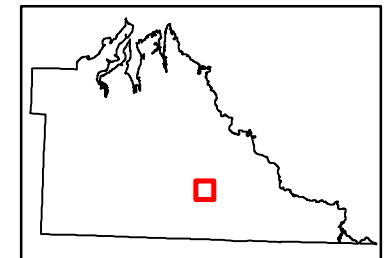
Community Planning and
Economic Development
Date: 02/06/2020 - ERP

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2020 UPDATE

Amendments to SC Detail of Map L-1 Future Land Use and Map N-1 Long Term Agriculture and Forestry

-  LTF
-  Long-Term Forestry
-  RRR 1/5
-  Rural Residential/Resource
1 Unit Per 5 Acres
-  PP
-  Public Parks, Trails & Preserves
-  Areas of removal from LTF
designation, with land use
amendment and associated rezoning
from LTF to RRR 1/5
-  Parcels
-  Streams
-  Major Roads

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles



Thurston County makes every effort to ensure that this map is a true and accurate representation of the work of County Government. However, the county and all related personnel make no warranty, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness or convenience of any information disclosed on this map. Nor does the County accept liability for any damage or injury caused by the use of this map.

To the fullest extent permissible pursuant to applicable law, Thurston County disclaims all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to implied warranties of merchantability, data fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringements of proprietary rights.

Under no circumstances, including, but not limited to negligence, shall Thurston County be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special or consequential damages that result from the use of, or the inability to use, Thurston County materials.

Community Planning and
Economic Development
Date: 02/06/2020 - ERP

Parcel 21621300100
Parcel 21621200100
Amend the Comprehensive Plan
Maps to remove from LTF designation,
and amend land use and associated
zoning from LTF to RRR 1/5

STATE HWY 507 SE/SR 507

RAIL CUT-OFF SE

DESCHUTES

RIVER

JOHNSON CREEK RD SE

ATTACHMENT F:

MAP REPLACEMENT DESIGNATED MINERAL LANDS (MAP N-2)

DISCLAIMER: Thurston County makes every effort to ensure that this map is a true and accurate representation of the work of County Government. However, the county and all related personnel make no warranty, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness or convenience of any information disclosed on this map. Nor does the County accept liability for any damage or injury caused by the use of this map.

To the fullest extent permissible pursuant to applicable law, Thurston County disclaims all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to implied warranties of merchantability, data fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringements of proprietary rights.


Under no circumstances, including, but not limited to negligence, shall Thurston County be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special or consequential damages that result from the use of, or the inability to use, Thurston County materials.

THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2020 UPDATE

N-2 Designated Mineral Lands¹

Designated Mineral Resource Lands


 Sand and-or gravel

 Bedrock

 City

 Urban Growth Area

Designated Mineral Resource Lands that are Co-Designated with Long Term Agriculture Lands

 Sand and-or gravel

 Bedrock

¹This map is the "Official Designated Mineral Resource Lands Map" for Thurston County, WA.

