

Chapter 2: Land Use Element





CHAPTER 2: LAND USE ELEMENT

A VISION FOR LAND USE

As Lake Stevens continues to grow in population and area, the city will strive to create balanced opportunities for residential growth, varied housing types, employment, commercial endeavors and public services for all people to live, work, learn and play throughout the community.

INTRODUCTION

Between 2018 and 2021, the city completed several annexations modifying the city boundaries. As of August 2021, the city encompasses an area of approximately 7,275 acres (11.4 square miles), including the 1,000-acre lake and all areas surrounding the lake. Small pockets of unincorporated areas comprise the remainder of the Lake Stevens Urban Growth Area (UGA), with an area of 675 acres (1.1 square miles). Based on the draft 2021 Buildable Land Report (BLR), the Lake Stevens UGA provides sufficient capacity to accommodate projected population growth but results in a minor deficit in meeting employment forecasts, when considering environmental constraints, existing development, infrastructure and services, existing and/or planned transportation corridors and areas where urban services could be extended logically. The city anticipates that the remainder of the Urban Growth Area (UGA) will be annexed over the next planning horizon.

Directly west of the city is the Snohomish River flood plain, which consists of critical habitat areas and agricultural uses. To the east are largely forested lands with limited residential development. The area south of the current city boundaries and an unincorporated portion of the UGA is a patchwork of large-lot residences, small farms, and wooded areas with limited commercial areas.

Beyond the Lake Stevens UGA to the north, east and south the city and Snohomish County have established a Rural Urban Transition Area (RUTA) as a future planning area to accommodate growth beyond the 20-year planning horizon. The city's Comprehensive Plan acknowledges that development policies within the RUTA will have direct and indirect impacts on the Lake Stevens community, and it has an interest in decision-making in these areas as it affects development. The RUTA directly adjacent to the Lake Stevens UGA totals approximately 5,400 acres and is largely rural in character. It contains large lot residences, several sizable tracts of forested land and limited agricultural uses. According to the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan, RUTAs are intended as areas to set aside for potential supply of land for employment and residential land uses and possible inclusion in a UGA.



PLANNING CONTEXT

The Land Use Element presents a blueprint for growth over the next 20 years. This element considers the general location, intensity and density of land uses, how traffic, drainage, community services, etc. interact with and affect development. The Land Use Element influences how the community develops through the implementation of municipal code. This section provides an overview of the existing land use patterns within the city and its unincorporated UGA and describes the city’s existing strategy for accommodating residential and employment growth within city limits and beyond.

In implementing its growth strategy, the city faces several challenges including development of land within city limits and the unincorporated UGA constrained by topography, critical areas, infrastructure needs, or ability to accommodate larger employment uses. The city and partner agencies also face challenges to fund the infrastructure needs associated with population and employment growth.

State Planning

The Land Use Element is one of the six mandatory elements required by the Growth Management Act, RCW 36.70A.070(1). Within the Land Use Element, the city must:

- Provide a future land use map;
- Consider approaches to promote physical activity;
- Provide a consistent population projection;
- Estimate population densities and building intensities based on future land uses;
- Include provisions for the protection of groundwater;
- Describe lands useful for public purposes, including essential public facilities, airports and military installations as applicable;
- Identify open space corridors;
- Consider review of drainage, flooding and stormwater run-off;
- Designate policies to protect critical areas; and
- Considers transfer of development rights for significant forest or agricultural lands.

These specific state requirements are discussed in subsequent sections or as specific goals and policies as applicable.



Regional Planning

VISION 2040 and Vision 2050 support using the urban lands efficiently and sustainably to accommodate population and employment growth across the central Puget Sound. Some specific land use concerns mirror those found in the GMA, such as establishing consistent planning targets for housing and employment. The city’s plan identifies housing and employment targets that are consistent with the 2012 Buildable Lands Report (BLR) within the Land Use and Housing elements, which was recently adopted – changes will be reflected in a later land use update.

Many 2040 provisions cross over into different elements, such as Environment, Development Patterns, Housing, Economic Development, Public Services and Transportation. Another important aspect of the regional strategy is to promote centers and compact urban development, which is a central theme of the city’s plan, which focuses on local growth centers implemented as subarea plans. The city’s subarea plans present an integrated planning approach based on incorporating economic development, environmental protection, sustainability, social justice and well-being, compact and mixed-use development and multimodal transportation. In addition, the city’s municipal code provides several effective mechanisms supporting compact infill development. Another PSRC provision is healthy and active living. The city’s plan promotes this ideal in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space, Land Use and Transportation elements. Finally, the city has considered the role of adjacent rural areas as they relate to the city beyond the planning horizon.

Countywide Planning

Snohomish County has adopted Countywide Planning Policies that provide a consistent framework for each jurisdiction to develop its comprehensive plans adopted.

The Development Patterns Goal found in the Countywide Planning Policies states,

“The cities, towns, and Snohomish County will promote and guide well-designed growth into designated urban areas to create more vibrant urban places while preserving our valued rural and resource lands.”

Specific policies relevant to the Land Use Element include the role of Urban Growth Areas in land use planning including future expansions or modifications, inter-jurisdictional coordination, utilities, and location of employment and housing in relation to infrastructure and transit. Another theme relevant to this element previously identified in the state and regional planning strategies is designating local centers, promoting compact urban developments and transit-oriented developments that encourage higher residential density and infill while integrating new development into existing neighborhoods. Finally, the land use element should consider annexation polices for the unincorporated UGA.



The city recognizes the importance of efficient planning and use of land within the entire UGA in order to meet the population, employment, environmental and other objectives of the GMA and established countywide planning policies. The city’s Comprehensive Plan and existing growth strategy is reflective of the policies and vision within the County’s Comprehensive Plan and Countywide Planning Policies.

Lake Stevens Planning

The city's Land Use Element considers the themes expressed in the state, regional and countywide plans. Specifically, the Land Use Element describes anticipated land use assumptions and growth targets over the current planning period. This information is the basis for current land use designations and zoning districts as well as the city's local growth strategy. Updated growth targets for the year 2044 are scheduled to be adopted in late 2021.

In order to meet projected growth targets, the Lake Stevens UGA must accommodate a population of **46,380** and **7,821** jobs by 2035 (Source: Appendix A Table 1 Snohomish County 2035 Population Growth Targets). The city’s portion would include a population of 39,340 or an increase of 11,130 people over the planning period. The current employment target for the city is 7,412 or an increase of 3,818 jobs by 2035. (Source: Appendix D, Table 1 - 2035 Population Growth Targets for Cities, UGAs and the Rural/Resource Area). Figure 2.1 illustrates the total number and percent of both the city’s and the unincorporated UGA’s 2035 population and employment growth targets.

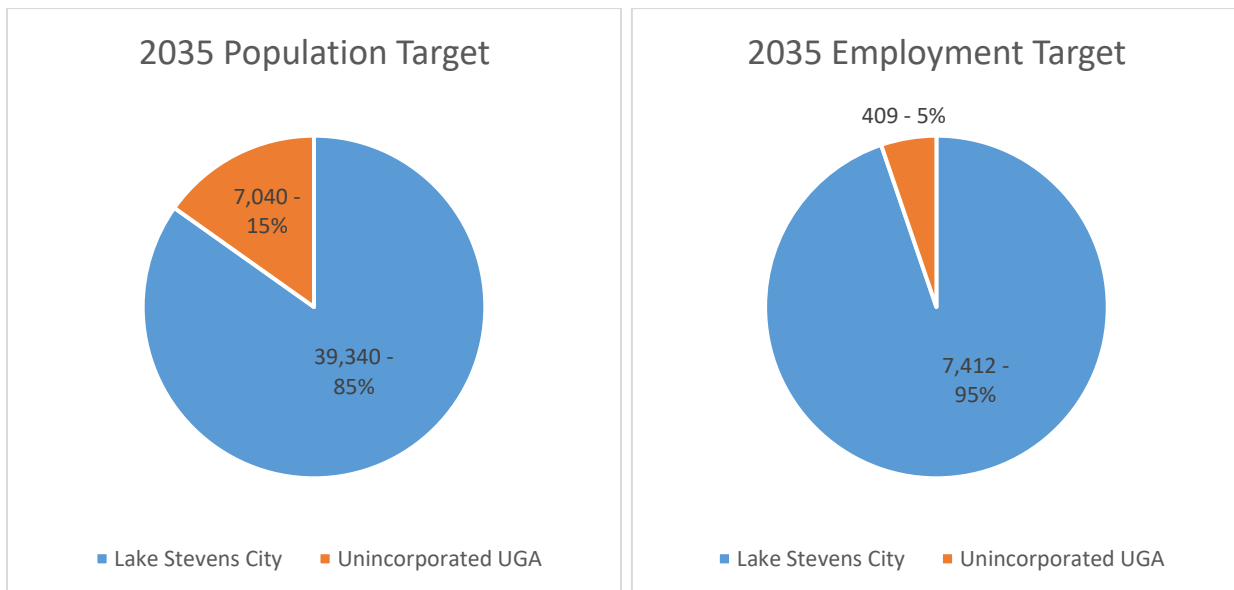


Figure 2.1 – 2035 Growth Targets



LAKE STEVENS GROWTH STRATEGY

The Snohomish County Growth Monitoring Report indicates the population of the city grew by over 341 percent between 2000 and 2010 adding 21,708 people. Annexation and steady residential development fueled this rapid growth. Since 2010, the city population has continued to grow annually by approximately 3.9 percent.

The city's growth strategy directs most residential and employment growth into concentrated centers readily available for development. It is the city's vision to accommodate and attract new businesses that provide family-wage jobs by growing a range of employment sectors near Growth Centers in proximity to housing. Downtown Lake Stevens, Lake Stevens Center, and the 20th Street SE Corridor are identified as Community Growth Centers, while the Hartford Industrial area is an Industrial Center. Figure 2.2 illustrates the location of the four primary centers. A summary of development potential for each growth center is summarized in Table 2.1.

Each defined Growth Center has varying suitability and potential for future employment uses due to location, access to the transportation network, overall size, development potential, and range of parcel sizes. This growth center strategy implements countywide, regional and statewide goals by focusing development where infrastructure and services are or will be available and preserving the natural characteristics of the city. The city's growth center strategy is consistent with the public vision expressed during the community outreach for this project and others.

To complement its growth strategy, the city began developing an economic development approach. In 2010, the city completed an Economic Development Assessment. The main findings suggested residents were spending retail dollars outside the city and leaving the city to work. This document was followed by a demographic assessment and economic profile of the city. These documents laid the foundation for future economic development and complemented the evolving growth strategy.

The city's ultimate goal for each center, based on the economic and demographic assessments, is to develop a unique subarea plan with distinguishing characteristics that serve slightly different markets ensuring economic diversity and vitality. The city has adopted three Subarea Plans: Lake Stevens Center and the 20th Street SE Corridor in 2012 and the Downtown Lake Stevens Subarea in 2018. As a development incentive, the city adopted a Planned Action Ordinance for each subarea to satisfy State Environmental Policy Act review requirements. Adoption of the plans resulted in area-specific design guidelines, development regulations and zoning districts.

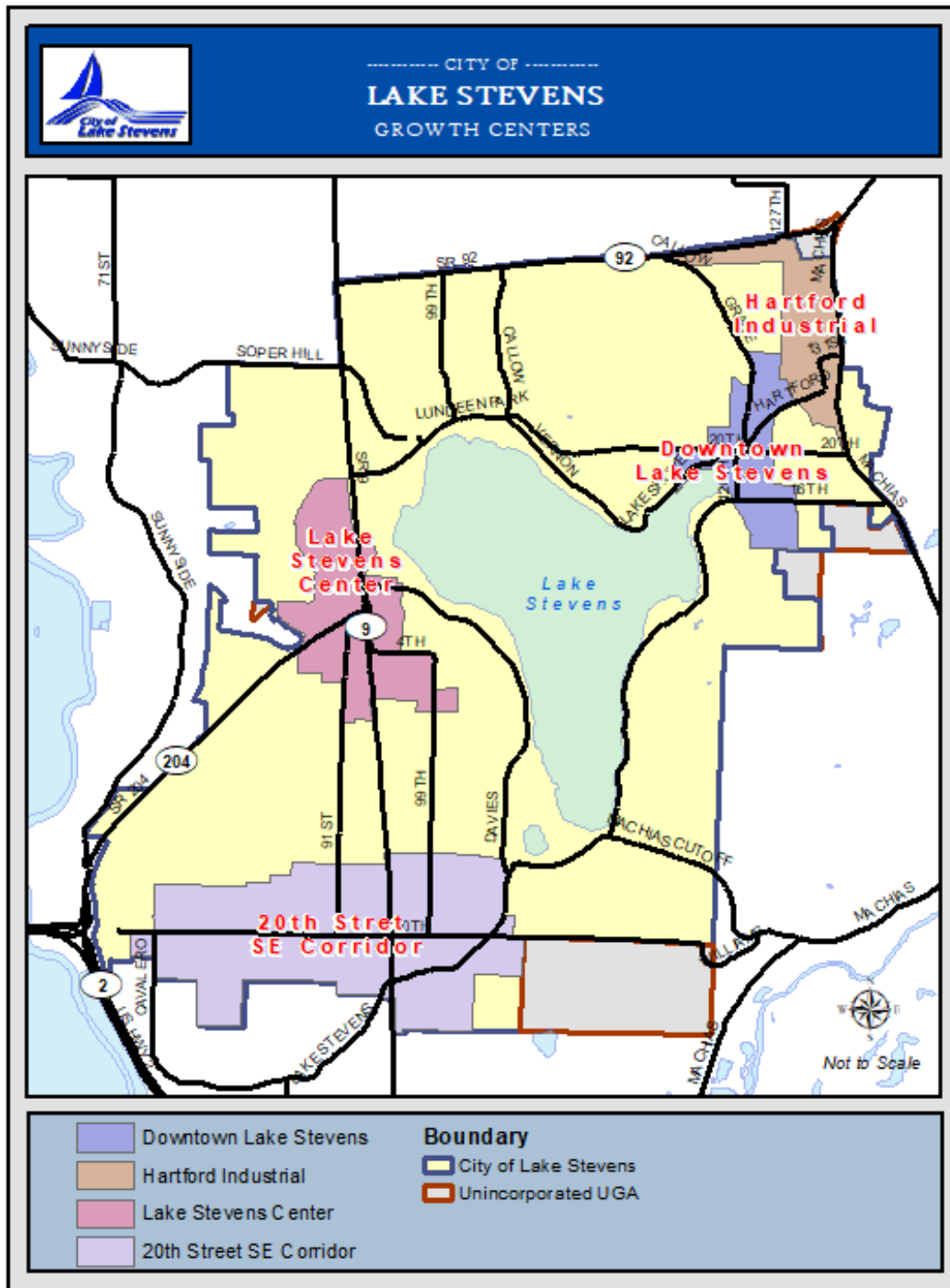


Figure 2.2 – Growth Centers Map



Table 2.1 - Growth and Development Potential of Existing Growth Centers

	DOWNTOWN LAKE STEVENS	LAKE STEVENS CENTER	HARTFORD CENTER	20TH STREET SE CORRIDOR
Size (Acres)	30	359	267	845
Subarea Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework plan completed in 2012 • Subarea plan completed July 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subarea Plan adopted 2012 • Planned Action Ordinance adopted 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subarea Plan adopted 2012 • Planned Action Ordinance adopted 2012
Relation to Transportation System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local access via 20th St NE • Indirect access to SR 92 via Grade Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct access to SR 9 and SR 204 • Indirect access to US 2 via SR 204 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect access to SR 92 via Machias Rd., Old Hartford Dr. • Indirect access to US 2 via Machias Road • Limited internal network of roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect access to SR 9 via 20th St SE, S Lake Stevens Rd.
Existing Land Use Pattern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small to medium parcels (0.2-3.0 acres) in Historic Town Center • Existing residential uses on commercially zoned parcels • Significant amount of multi-family residential uses and zoning in southeast portion of center with small to large parcels (0.3-10 acres) • Medium to large parcels (1-10 acres) in Grade Rd. area, largely undeveloped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto-oriented commercial uses primarily on large parcels (>10 acres) with smaller parcels (<0.5 acres) carved out along street frontage • Primarily multi-family residential uses and zoning at edges of center with some single-family residential uses in eastern portion of center • Significant portion of government-owned property on eastside of SR 9 @ Market Pl. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily medium to large parcels (3-30 acres) • Cluster of smaller parcels (< 1 acre) in middle of center • Largely undeveloped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily medium to large parcels (1-10 acres) with several irregular parcels due to diagonal intersection • Limited existing commercial uses and zoning at intersection of 20th St SE and S Lake Stevens Rd. in eastern portion of center • Primarily mix of multi-family and single-family residential uses • Several large parcels (> 10 acres) zoned multi-family



	DOWNTOWN LAKE STEVENS	LAKE STEVENS CENTER	HARTFORD CENTER	20TH STREET SE CORRIDOR
Environmental Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands and flood prone areas within Grade Rd. area Category 2 wetlands east of historic town center area where zoned multi-family residential. Catherine Creek bisects the Grade Rd. area and downtown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands between SR 9 and 91st Ave SE, near SR 204 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small amount of wetlands just north of Hartford Dr. NE and just north of 36th St NE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands at northeast corner of S Lake Stevens Rd and 20th St SE, north of S Lake Stevens Rd
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Stevens shoreline access Catherine Creek View potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View potential
Potential Land Use Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center has lower intensity single-family uses to the north, west, and south and higher intensity industrial uses to the east 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center is surrounded by lower-intensity single-family and multi-family residential uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center is surrounded by lower intensity residential uses Lack of Utilities & Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center is surrounded by lower-intensity single-family residential uses
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited potential for larger employment uses due to transportation access and small parcel sizes More suitable for local-serving retail and small commercial uses Potential as a Mixed-Use Town Center consisting of civic and local-serving retail uses, limited office and residential uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some potential for larger employment uses given transportation access and large parcels, but contingent upon redevelopment potential Potential for Main Street center on 91st Street NE between Market Place/SR204 Potential as a Commercial Mixed-Use Center consisting primarily of regional retail commercial uses with multi-family residential uses towards the edges of the center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to accommodate larger employment uses, but limited by location and transportation access Potential as an Industrial Center consisting primarily of industrial uses and limited office uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for larger employment uses including business parks and retail centers Potential for Mixed-Use Centers consisting primarily of residential uses with some office and local-serving retail commercial uses



DOWNTOWN LAKE STEVENS

The greater downtown Lake Stevens includes an area of more than 200 acres near 20th St NE, Main St and Hartford Drive NE, and consists of the historic town center adjacent to the northwestern tip of the lake, the Grade Road Planned Business District, and associated residential areas. As adopted, the subarea plan takes in the historic downtown core encompassing a compact area of approximately 30 acres. This area has been characterized primarily by low-intensity commercial and residential development on small to medium-sized parcels.

The historic town center has several key attributes to support its revitalization including its lake front setting, strong projected population growth and the potential for higher density residential development. Development of an effective plan and an active marketing campaign for this area is a high priority for the city. In 2005, the city developed a conceptual plan for downtown Lake Stevens. In 2012, the city proposed a framework plan for the area that identified preferred land uses and potential infrastructure improvements to facilitate desired growth patterns. In 2018, the city adopted a full subarea plan that identified land uses, development intensity, parking requirements, public improvements, program development, etc.

Downtown Lake Stevens has some challenges, specifically access and infrastructure. Several road improvements are proposed to improve access throughout downtown and to the Hartford Industrial Center, and to the to the regional highway system. The city continues to work with utility providers to assess needed infrastructure improvements.

LAKE STEVENS CENTER SUBAREA (FORMERLY FRONTIER VILLAGE GROWTH CENTER)

Lake Stevens Center is comprised of approximately 360 acres of land centered on the State Route 9/State Route 204 intersection. In September 2012, the City Council adopted the Lake Stevens Center Subarea Plan to revitalize the center, emphasizing retail and office growth. The plan also amended the Land Use Map for many parcels within the subarea. Future residential development would be primarily high-density residential. The general land use pattern would consist of a commercial core, smaller commercial and mixed-use areas, a main street area, and transit-oriented development. Following a recent market analysis in 2019, the city has updated the land use designation to more closely match current market conditions. The plan assumes future growth of 140,000-150,000 gross square feet of retail, 140,000-150,000 gross square feet of office, and 180 to 200 additional dwelling units. A Planned Action Ordinance, capital facilities plan, development regulations, and design guidelines were also adopted.



20TH STREET SE CORRIDOR (FORMERLY SOUTH LAKE GROWTH CENTER)

The 20th Street SE Corridor is comprised of approximately 850 acres of land crossing the southern portion of the city from approximately South Lake Stevens Road in the east to Cavalero Road in the west. In September 2012, the City Council adopted the 20th Street SE Corridor Subarea Plan to create an employment center emphasizing business parks and commercial development. Future residential development would be primarily higher-density development including townhomes, row houses, cottage housing, and live/work units. The general land use pattern would consist of at least one large business park, a regional retail center, and commercial or mixed-use nodes with higher-density residential growth in transitional areas between existing single-family developments and higher intensity development. Following a recent market analysis in 2019, the city has updated the potential growth sectors to more closely match current market conditions. The revised plan predicts 500,000 gross square feet of retail, 500,000 gross square feet of office, and 1,000 additional dwelling units. A Planned Action Ordinance, capital facilities plan, development regulations, and design guidelines were also adopted.

HARTFORD INDUSTRIAL CENTER

The Hartford Industrial Center is an area of approximately 267 acres located in the northeast portion of the city, between Downtown Lake Stevens and unincorporated Snohomish County. The Hartford Center is adjacent to industrially zoned properties outside the city limits. The area is zoned General Industrial (GI) and Light Industrial (LI), which allow a wide range of industrial uses. The area currently has a mix of low-intensity industrial uses, some retail and older single-family residential pockets. The Hartford Industrial Center currently has additional employment capacity available for redevelopment. It is the city's intention to promote and develop the Hartford Industrial Center as a local employment center. The Hartford Industrial Center's potential to accommodate larger employment uses are currently limited by location, limited visibility, lack of extensive public infrastructure and transportation access. The city will conduct a market study of the area to determine any need for expansion, infrastructure improvements, and marketing strategies to attract appropriate industries.

In February 2021, the city annexed an additional 66 acres of land known as the Machias Industrial area, which is zoned GI and is located just east of the Hartford Industrial Center. In late 2021, the city began a process to explore potential infrastructure improvements in the entire area (known collectively as the Lake Stevens Industrial Area), which will be integral in helping the city meet its employment growth targets.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTERS

In addition to the defined growth centers, the city has several small Neighborhood Service Centers located throughout the city zoned Local Business (LB) or Mixed Use. Small



neighborhood service centers serve the immediate shopping and service needs for the surrounding residential areas. These neighborhood service centers augment economic development activity citywide and balance the commercial uses found in larger growth centers.

ANNEXATION AND RURAL URBAN TRANSITION AREA (RUTA)

The city will continue to coordinate annexation of the remaining unincorporated UGA throughout the 2035 planning horizon. Additionally, the city of Lake Stevens is looking outside its borders given the impact that planning efforts have on the entire Lake Stevens community in preparation for future UGA expansions after build-out.

For the purposes of defining a Framework Plan that includes the Rural Urban Transition Area (RUTA) as an area for long-term employment growth, the city’s existing strategy for growth within the UGA has been reviewed and analyzed. Related documents such as County plans and Buildable Lands Report are discussed further below, together with summaries of information related to public services and utilities. The city completed a project report for the Lake Stevens South Rural Urban Transition Area in August 2008. The city recognizes the importance of review and analysis of all adjacent RUTA areas for future comprehensive planning and benefit.

The city of Lake Stevens recognizes that the UGA is bordered by areas labeled by the County as “transitional”. The city also recognizes that development policies within these areas and beyond will have direct and indirect impacts on the Lake Stevens community, its quality of life, infrastructure, transportation, services, finance and the stewardship of land and lake water quality. Therefore, the city’s vision requires its involvement in the decision-making in these areas as they affect development and its impacts.

LAND USES AND ZONING

Lake Stevens includes a mix of residential, commercial, industrial and public/semi-public land use designations. Residential designations are spread throughout the city and include both high-density and single-family oriented land uses. There are several commercial designations that vary in intensity by location. For example, the highest intensity commercial land uses are located along highways and arterials, while neighborhood level commercial use may be congregated at the intersections of arterials and collectors. The city’s industrial land uses are primarily located in the northeastern corner of the city, except for one area in the northwestern corner, subject to a development agreement. Public/Semi-public land uses are spread across the city. Most public/semi-public areas include school sites, municipal services and parks. Figure 2.3, the current Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map, illustrates the distribution of land use throughout the city as well as predesignations for the UGA that would be effective upon annexation.



Residential Land Uses – Residential land uses include all single-family development and multifamily uses including, apartments, condominiums, manufactured housing, foster care facilities, group quarters, and cooperative housing.

- High Density Residential allows single-family, two-family, and multifamily residential uses. It also allows limited public/semi-public, community and recreational uses. This designation should be generally located in transitional areas between single-family designations and commercial designations where infrastructure and public transportation is readily available.
- Medium Density Residential allows single-family, two-family and some multifamily residential development with a density between four (4) to 12 units per acre based on zoning with the potential for bonuses. This designation includes detached and attached units, accessory units, townhouses, condominiums, duplexes, tourist homes, special service homes and manufactured/mobile structures. It also allows limited public/semi-public, community and recreational uses. This designation should be generally located in transitional areas between high density designations and rural areas where infrastructure is readily available.
- Waterfront Residential allows single-family residential uses with a density of four (4) units per acre with the potential for bonuses. This designation includes detached and attached units, accessory units, detached, tourist homes, and special service homes. It also allows limited multifamily, public/semi-public, community, and recreational uses. This designation is located in residential neighborhoods within the shoreline jurisdiction.

Through implementation of zoning regulations, the city will consider innovative and flexible residential options, in appropriate zoning districts, to allow a variety of housing. For example, the municipal code allows higher-density residential uses such as townhouses and small-lot, single-family residential units, and innovative housing options such as cottage housing. In all residential zones, cluster subdivisions and planned residential developments allow variations in housing styles and increases in housing density as a means of encouraging good design, specifically on challenging sites where natural characteristics (slopes, wetlands, streams, etc.) require careful design and development.

Commercial Land Uses – Commercial land uses include all commercial and mixed-use configurations including, small scale/neighborhood commercial, large scale retail, and employment designations.

- Downtown/Local Commercial: This designation permits moderate to higher intensity land uses including the Central Business District and other dense arrangements of professional offices and retail stores. This designation discourages uses that are land consumptive (i.e., warehouses) or that generate high-traffic volumes (e.g., drive-through businesses or gas stations). It allows mixed-use development.

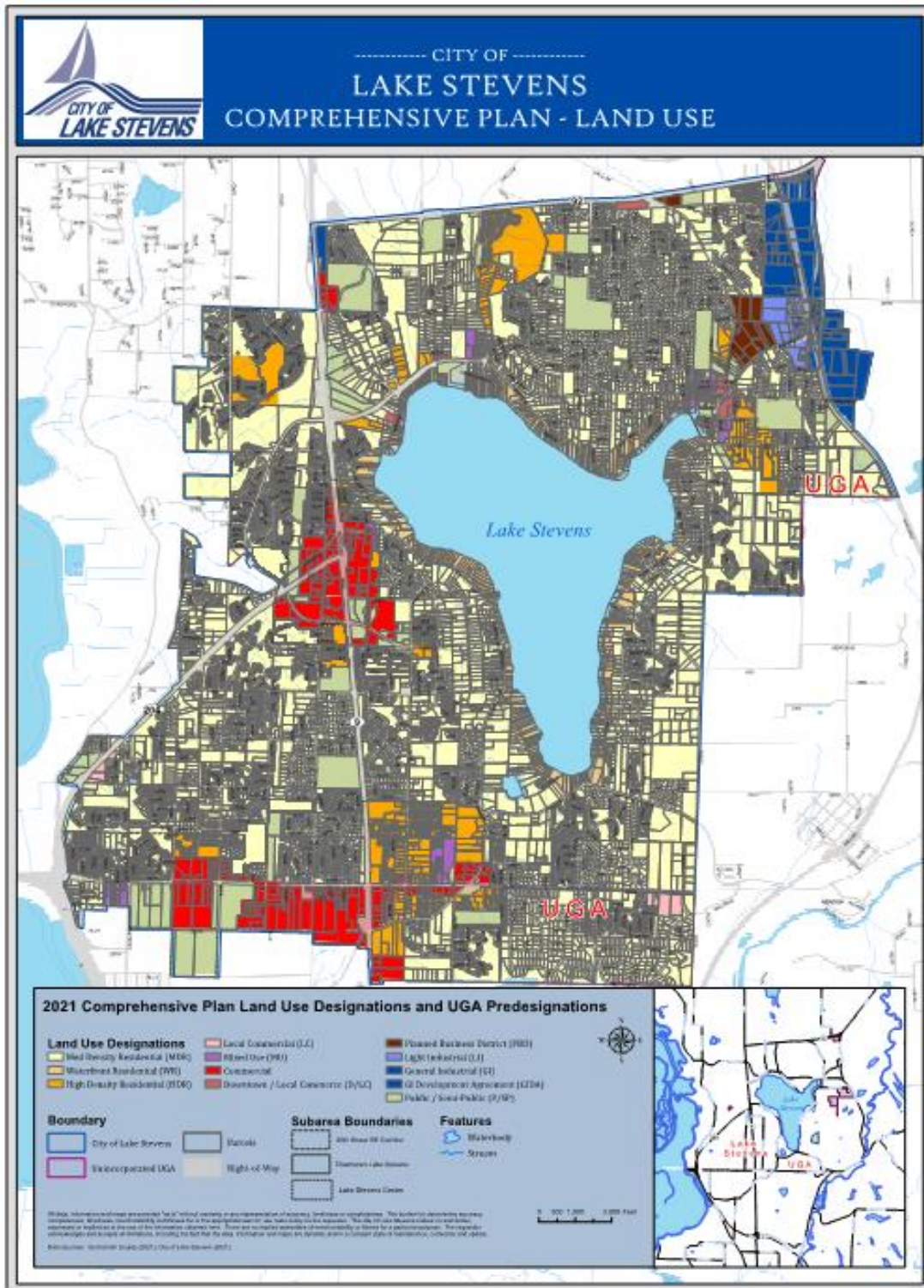


Figure 2.3 – City Land Use Map



- **Mixed-Use Commercial:** This designation permits moderate to higher intensity land use that includes both commercial and residential elements and encourages mixed-use (commercial and residential). It is intended that this land use designation will be placed where a "village atmosphere" is desired, or as a transition between high and low intensity zones.
- **Planned Business District:** The Planned Business District allows moderate intensity commercial or mixed-use development through a Master Development Plan. It is intended that this land use designation be placed on lands between high and low intensity uses to act as a buffer; or on sites containing sensitive resources; or other sites where, due to property specific circumstances, detailed planning would benefit all property owners involved as well as the public by allowing transfer of densities among parcels in order to avoid impacts to critical areas or local infrastructure. It also allows limited public/semi-public, community, and recreational uses.
- **Commercial:** This is a high intensity land use that includes both high-intensity retail and employment uses including community and regional retail centers, offices, business parks, and associated uses. Multifamily residential uses could be included above or behind commercial uses. It should be located in areas with direct access to highways and arterials in addition to transit facilities, adequate public services and traffic capacity.

Industrial Land Uses – Industrial uses include a mix of light and general industrial trades geared toward manufacturing, resource extraction, agriculture, warehousing and other intensive types of land uses.

- **General Industrial** – This designation allows a full range of industrial uses which may impact surrounding properties. This category also allows retail sales, public/semi-public, community and recreational uses. It should be located in areas with direct access to truck routes, adequate public services, infrastructure and traffic capacity.
- **Light Industrial** – This designation allows a full range of industrial uses with less impact to surrounding properties than general industrial properties. The city looks to this designation as accommodating the future high-tech industries and family-wage jobs. This category also allows retail sales, public/semi-public, community and recreational uses. It should be located in areas with direct access to truck routes, adequate public services, infrastructure and traffic capacity, and be transitional to commercial/mixed-use areas.

Public/Semi-Public – This category includes public buildings, public services, and transportation facilities to support operations of the city, the school district, fire district and miscellaneous other governmental functions. These services require land throughout the city.



EXISTING ZONING IN CITY AND UGA

The city establishes zoning for areas within the city limits while Snohomish County establishes zoning for areas within the unincorporated portions of the Lake Stevens UGA. Existing zoning within the city and its UGA allows a range of residential and employment uses.

As part of the 2019 update, the city hosted public outreach as it considered future land uses designations and zoning districts for land within the unincorporated Urban Growth Area. In general, the land use designations will closely follow the current county designations. Current industrial and business park areas will be zoned General Industrial. Notably a commercial node for land use and zoning has been identified in the southeastern area along 20th St SE. The pre-designations are shown on Figure 2.3, which was amended in 2020 to change the land use designation for four parcels on the north side of 20th St SE to Medium Density Residential.

Commercial/Industrial Zoning Districts

The city's zoning districts that allow employment uses primarily occur within growth centers and subareas. These zones vary in type of permitted uses and requirements for special or conditional use permits. Residential uses above and/or behind permitted non-residential uses are allowed in some commercial and mixed-use zones. There remains untapped capacity for new commercial development in the two Planned Business District (PBD) zones, and in the Central Business District (CBD) and Mixed Use (MU) zones, where existing houses have not yet converted to commercial uses. Table 2.2 shows a summary of employment zones by acres within the city and its UGA, which is followed by a brief description of the various employment zoning districts.

The three industrial zones – General Industrial (GI), Light Industrial (LI) and General Industrial with Development Agreement (GIDA), permit a range of uses including manufacturing, processing and equipment repair uses, as well as allowing indoor recreational uses, restaurants, storage, motor vehicle sales, and home occupations.

Other employment zones include Planned Business District (PBD), Local Business (LB), Central Business District (CBD), Mixed Use (MU), and Public/Semi-Public (P/SP). These zones allow a wide range of employment uses including sales and rental of goods, office, some manufacturing uses, and retail uses. The CBD zone allows two-family and multifamily residences.

New employment zones since adoption of the subarea plans include Business District (BD), Commercial District (CD), Neighborhood Business (NB), and Mixed-Use Neighborhood (MUN). The BD zone is geared toward high-tech and other professional occupations. The CD zone allows the most intensive retail uses in the city, while the NB zone is geared toward retail needs of adjacent neighborhoods. The MUN zone is a mixed-use zone. With



amendments to the Lake Stevens Center and 20th Street SE Corridor subarea plans, approximately 13 percent of the land within the city, or 10 percent of total UGA (city plus UGA) is zoned for commercial and employment uses.

Employment zones in the unincorporated UGA are found in the northeast portion of the city adjacent to the Hartford Industrial Center. It is assumed that similar city zoning would be applied once these areas are annexed into the city.

TABLE 2.2 - EMPLOYMENT ZONING IN LAKE STEVENS UGA (2019)

EMPLOYMENT ZONE	ACRES	PERCENT OF CITY	PERCENT OF UNINCORPORATED UGA ¹
CITY			
General Industrial	94.39	1.63	1.19%
General Industrial w/Development Agreement	7.02	0.12%	0.09%
Light Industrial	40.19	0.69%	0.51%
Central Business District	21.42	0.37%	0.27%
Planned Business District	43.83	0.76%	0.55%
Local Business	18.88	0.33%	0.24%
Mixed Use	11.79	.20%	0.15%
Business District	0.90%	0.02%	0.01%
Commercial District	400.69	6.92% %	5.05 %
Main Street District ²	0%	0%	0%
Neighborhood Business District ³	0%	.0%	0%
Mixed-Use Neighborhood	55.61	0.96%	0.70%
City Total	683.64	12%	8.76%
EMPLOYMENT ZONE	ACRES	PERCENT OF CITY	PERCENT OF UNINCORPORATED UGA
UNINCORPORATED AREA			
Heavy Industrial (Snohomish County Code)	62.35	3.06%	0.78%
Business Park (Snohomish County Code)	23.62	1.16%	0.30%
Unincorporated Total	85.97	4.22%	9.68%
UGA Total	769.61	13.01%	9.67

¹ Combined UGA (city and unincorporated UGA) total approximately 7,952 acres, city portion is 5,801 acres.

² The Main Street District has been eliminated and re-designated Commercial District.

³ The Neighborhood Business District has been eliminated and re-designated Commercial District.



Residential Zoning Districts

Table 2.3 shows a summary of residential zones by acres within the city and in the unincorporated UGA as of 2019. Single-family zones include R4 (previously Suburban Residential), R6 (previously Urban Residential), and Waterfront Residential. The higher-density residential zones include R8-12 (previously High-Urban Residential), Multi-family Residential, and MF Development Agreement.

TABLE 2.3 - RESIDENTIAL ZONING (2019)

	CITY ONLY		UNINCORPORATED UGA	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Higher-Density Zoning ⁴	914.24	15.76 %	9.8	0.12%
Single-family Zoning	3712.07	63.99%	1010.2	12.76%

Approximately 16 percent of the city is zoned for higher-density residences while approximately 64 percent is zoned for medium to lower density single-family residential uses. Areas zoned for higher-density residential development are found within designated growth centers, subareas and several areas outside of these centers, along SR 9 and Callow Road in the northern portion of the city. A smaller area zoned for multifamily residential uses occurs along Lundeen Parkway, approximate to the northwest tip of the lake. Snohomish County zoning applies to unincorporated areas within the Lake Stevens UGA. Approximately 0.12 percent of the unincorporated UGA is zoned for multifamily residential uses while approximately 13 percent of the area is zoned for single-family residential.

BUILDABLE LANDS ANALYSIS / GROWTH TARGETS

Recent annexations have increased the amount of buildable land in the city. The city recognizes the importance of efficient planning and use of remaining lands to meet the population, employment, environmental and other objectives of growth management. The amount of land that is fully developable within the city limits is limited, with large portions of remaining land constrained by topography, critical areas and infrastructure needs. A vital community must find a balance between inevitable growth, a quality environment, good service to citizens and fiscal responsibility. The Land Use Plan is a key factor in developing this balance. Coordination between the Land Use Element and the Capital Facilities Element is essential to produce a Plan that can realistically be implemented. The

⁴ Higher Density Zoning includes R8-12 (formerly High Urban Residential), Multifamily Residential and Multifamily Residential Development Agreement zoning districts.



Comprehensive Plan must ensure that infrastructure can support existing and new development.

Under the GMA, Snohomish County and its cities review and evaluate the adequacy of suitable residential, commercial and industrial land supplies inside the UGA for accommodating projected population and employment growth every five years. Regular updates to the buildable lands report ensure that communities continue to meet growth targets for the remaining portion of its current planning horizon.

Going into the 2007 buildable lands update, the Lake Stevens UGA had a population surplus and employment deficit of 264 jobs. These findings were generally consistent between Snohomish County’s analysis and the city’s independent analysis. The city’s independent study was designed to reflect a more accurate picture of the growth potential and/or limitations in the city limits and the UGA given the city’s annexation goals and schedule. The county and cities worked diligently to reach consensus on the methodologies used to calculate land capacity; all major differences were reconciled at the UGA level.

Since 2007, as the city limits grew through annexation, the city identified reasonable measures to address capacity deficiencies and inconsistencies within the UGA. A detailed list of reasonable measures is found later in this section. As discussed previously, through the city’s growth center strategy it has developed two subarea plans, which directly address employment deficiencies. Moving into the 2012 BLR, the Lake Stevens UGA has reconciled its forecasted employment deficit. Overall, there is an adequate land capacity to accommodate the adopted 2035 population and employment growth targets.

Table 2.4 compares the 2012 buildable lands capacity estimates and adopted 2035 growth targets for population and employment for the Lake Stevens UGA. The city’s portion of the 2035 growth targets for employment would be 7,412 jobs and 39,340 population respectively. Updated 2044 growth targets are expected to be adopted in late 2021, and this chapter will be updated to reflect those numbers in subsequent years.

Table 2.4 Buildable Lands / 2035 Growth Target Comparison

	2035 GROWTH TARGETS	2025 POPULATION CAPACITY	DIFFERENCE
Population	46,380	46,634 (BLR)	254
Employment	7,821	7,988 (BLR)	167

Tables 2.5 summarizes the 2012 buildable lands capacity for residential zoning districts within the city of Lake Stevens. Each total includes the remaining acreage.



Table 2.5 - Buildable Lands Analysis – Residential Capacity⁵ (2012)

ZONING DISTRICT – RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL ACRES ⁶	BUILDABLE ACRES ⁷
Commercial District	401.693	0.165
Main Street ⁸	0	0
Mixed-Use Neighborhood	55.61	31.939
Mixed-Use	11.79	1.636
Multifamily Development Agreement	80.03	29.881
Multifamily Residential	132.71	10.346
R8-12 (formerly High Urban Residential)	701.50 4	205.271
R4 (formerly Suburban Residential)	1485.14	144.852
R6 (formerly Urban Residential)	1968.78	268.448
Waterfront Residential	261.59	14.844
City Totals		716.63
Unincorporated UGA Residential		385.923
Lake Stevens UGA Total		1,212.016

Of the estimated 3,784 city units, 3,145 would be single-family and 639 would be multifamily. The 2035 housing unit target is 4,413, which is less than assumed buildable lands capacity. The 2012 BLR did not provide a complete estimate for potential mixed-use residential developments in the commercial and mixed-use zones. By comparison, the unincorporated UGA has approximately 385 buildable acres. After reductions, the estimated buildable housing capacity in the unincorporated UGA would be 1,211 new single-family units.

Tables 2.6 summarizes the 2012 buildable lands capacity for employment zoning districts within the city of Lake Stevens. Each total includes the remaining acreage.

⁵ Adapted from the Lake Stevens UGA - Additional Population Capacity Table Snohomish County Tomorrow 2012 Buildable Lands Report, June 2013

⁶ Approximate zone area that includes rights-of-way.

⁷ This column represents estimates the amount of buildable land that is not constrained by critical areas or other limiting factors and includes pending, vacant, partially-used and redevelopable parcels from the 2012 Buildable Lands Report. The estimate is not a precise inventory. Site-specific studies are necessary at the time of development to identify location and size of potentially unbuildable lands precisely.

⁸ The Main Street District has been eliminated and re-designated Commercial District.



Table 2.6 - Buildable Lands Analysis– Employment Capacity⁹ (2012)

ZONING DISTRICT - EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL ACRES	BUILDABLE ACRES
High Urban Residential	701.50	33.86
Mixed-Use Neighborhood	55.61	25.36
Mixed-Use	11.79	1.64
Main Street ¹⁰	0	0
Commercial District	344.33	32.61
Neighborhood Business ¹¹		0
Local Business	18.88	4.36
Business District	0.90	0
General Industrial	94.39	2.18
City Totals		161.43
Unincorporated UGA Employment		56.74
Lake Stevens UGA Total		218.17

DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

A look at development trends inside city limits is helpful to understand how current zoning affects future development potential inside the city and shapes the city’s growth strategy.

Residential

The current population target for the Lake Stevens UGA is 46,380. Under current zoning the city and unincorporated UGA should have a surplus population based on the buildable lands report. Large portions of the city have developed within the past several decades resulting in a relatively new housing stock. Much of the development within recently annexed areas of the city occurred while these areas were part of unincorporated Snohomish County. Since 2006, Lake Stevens has experienced a steady stream of residential construction, as anticipated in the 2012 Buildable Lands Report.

As mentioned, the buildable lands study did not assign a large amount of residential capacity to commercially zoned and mixed-use properties, which allow apartments above the ground

⁹ Adapted from the Lake Stevens UGA - Additional Population Capacity Table Snohomish County Tomorrow 2012 Buildable Lands Report, June 2013

¹⁰ The Main Street District has been eliminated and re-designated Commercial District.

¹¹ The Neighborhood Business District has been eliminated and re-designated Commercial District.



floor. It is difficult to predict how many dwellings these zones would accommodate because of a lack of past development history in the city. The potential for accommodating additional dwellings in mixed-use projects is increasing as the city continues to become more urban and with the focus on growth centers through the adoption of distinct subarea plans.

Commercial and Industrial

Lake Stevens has historically had one of the lowest jobs to household ratios compared to other Snohomish County cities. The city desired to increase the number of employment opportunities given the increasing size of its population and the need to maintain a sustainable and economically healthy community. The city continues to work to improve its house-to-employment ratio through the implementation of reasonable measures, development of subarea plans and its growth strategy.

Commercial development has been modest in the city’s commercially zoned districts. Downtown Lake Stevens and Lake Stevens Center continue to redevelop. A recent market analysis performed for the city shows that this trend is changing with a reported 3.9 percent annual growth (BERK consulting 2019). The most significant growth during this time has been in Warehousing, Transportation, and Utilities (15%/year); Construction (11%/year); Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (9%/year), and Services (3%/year).

There remains untapped capacity for new commercial development throughout the city, notably in the two Planned Business Districts, undeveloped or underdeveloped downtown properties, and properties located in the Lake Stevens Center and 20th Street SE Corridor.

The industrial zones remain largely underdeveloped. Much of the industrial activity has occurred on the individual sites or within existing buildings. New construction has been in the form of small additions or low-employment activities (e.g., self-storage, etc.).

REASONABLE MEASURES

The Growth Management Act requires that cities consider “reasonable measures” to allow growth to meet the adopted population and employment targets. The following table (Table 2-7) lists the reasonable measures included in the Countywide Planning Policies (part of the 2005 County Comprehensive Plan update), identifies those in effect in Lake Stevens, and comments on their effectiveness or potential.

The reasonable measures with the greatest potential to increase employment in suitable locations include establishment of an economic development strategy and then, encouraging development in centers through subarea planning.

As the city moves forward with the implementation of its Comprehensive Plan, these reasonable measures will be reviewed, revised or added to the city’s regulations and development programs.



Table 2.7 – Reasonable Measures Included in Countywide Planning Policies

MEASURES TO INCREASE RESIDENTIAL CAPACITY			
MEASURE	ADOPTED?	APPLICABILITY	EFFECTIVENESS/POTENTIAL
Permit Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in single family zones	Yes	Allows small accessory units. Some zones require 125% of the minimum lot size to allow ADUs.	The city currently allows accessory dwelling units in all residential zones and the Mixed-Use Zone. 11 ADU applications were received between 2018 and 2020.
Multi-family Housing Tax Credits to Developers	Yes	Target areas established by Ordinance 1103 and codified in LSMC 3.27.	Multi-family housing tax exemption (MFTE) program provides a property tax exemption to developers of market rate and affordable housing in targeted areas of the city.
Transfer of Development Rights	Yes	Properties with critical areas	The city has adopted provision in its subdivision code and critical areas codes to allow reduced lots size and development transfers.
Clustered Residential Development	Yes	PRDs and Cluster Subdivisions	The city has adopted provision in its subdivision code and critical areas codes to allow reduced lots size and development transfers.
Allow Co-Housing	Yes	Shared housing by non-family members	The zoning code allows boarding houses and other congregate living arrangements in specified zones.
Increased Residential Densities	Yes	Single-family zones.	The city allows detached single-family residences in a variety of zones at densities ranging from 4.5-11 units per acre.
Maximum Lot Sizes	No		
Minimum Residential Densities	Yes	Discourages residential sprawl	The city allows a range of single-family densities ranging from 4 -12 units per acre.
Reduce Street Width	Yes	Reduced street standards in residential areas	The city allows a variety of standard and reduced road profiles in its Engineering Design & Development Standards
Allow Small Residential Lots	Yes	Smaller lots in compact neighborhoods	The city allows a range of single-family lot sizes.
Encourage Infill and Redevelopment	Yes	Zones identified in Zoning Code's Innovative Housing and Infill Chapter.	The zoning code allows cottages and attached housing options up to four units in specific areas and subject to the provisions of LSMC 14.46.
Inclusionary Zoning	No		Subarea plans encourage as an optional development incentive
Manufactured Housing	Yes	Manufactured homes allowed under the same rules as other housing types	Lake Stevens allows manufactured housing in all residential zoning districts.



MEASURES TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT CAPACITY			
MEASURE	ADOPTED?	APPLICABILITY	EFFECTIVENESS/POTENTIAL
Economic Development Strategy	Yes	Lake Stevens Center, 20 th Street SE Corridor, and Downtown Lake Stevens Subareas.	In 2012, two subareas were adopted with planned actions to create areas for employment and additional commercial development. An Economic Development Strategy began as part of the subarea planning and will continue in the future. The Downtown Subarea plan was adopted in 2018.
Create Industrial Zones	Yes	General and Light Industrial Zones	Capacity exists. Largely undeveloped. Minimal potential for additional implementation.
Zone by building type, not use	Yes, some	Current city zoning is based on use; adopted subarea plans include some regulation by building type	Minimal potential for implementation to significantly alter the growth strategy except within subareas.
Brownfields Programs	No	No known brownfields within the city	
Urban Centers/Villages	Yes	Lake Stevens Center, 20 th Street SE Corridor, and Downtown Lake Stevens Subareas.	The city has utilized subarea planning with rezoning to increase intensity and density and create a mix of residential and non-residential uses, with transition areas between existing residential areas and planning for a multi-modal transportation system.
Allow Mixed Uses	Yes	CBD, PBD and MU zones and within the subareas	City allows mixed-use in MU zones and most commercial zones.
Transit Oriented Design	Yes	Currently there is limited transit service within the Lake Stevens area	Included within subarea plans and Community Transit has identified 20 th Street SE as a transit emphasis corridor for future frequent service.
Downtown Revitalization		The Downtown Subarea Plan includes a Capital Facilities Improvement Plan.	The Downtown Lake Stevens Subarea Plan was adopted mid-2018. Several projects in the Capital Facilities Improvement Plan have already been undertaken. The city will continue to support downtown revitalization through city-lead implementation measures
Adequate Public Facilities	Yes	Concurrency standards for infrastructure.	The city has adopted concurrency standards and GMA-based traffic impact, school and park mitigation fees.
Transportation Efficient Land Use	Yes	Mixed-use zoning	No specific measures for transit oriented development.
Urban Growth Management Agreements	Yes		Annexation interlocal agreement with Snohomish County; Traffic interlocal agreement with Snohomish County.



Annexation plans	Yes		Annexation plan adopted for eventual “One Community Around the Lake” in the future.
Reduce off-street surface	Yes	Reduced minimum standard required for office uses	Subarea plans include use of low impact development and building height incentives for reducing surface coverage.
Identify and redevelop vacant buildings	No	Few vacant buildings within city and UGA	Minimal potential for additional implementation to significantly alter the growth strategy. Due to market conditions, some of the few vacant buildings have been redeveloped.
Concentrate critical services near homes, jobs and transit	Yes	Subareas	Subarea plans should bring much needed services to the city at Lake Stevens Center and along 20 th Street SE and additional planning to Downtown.
Locate civic buildings in existing communities rather than in greenfield areas	Yes		City campus, library and post office are located in historic downtown. Plans for new or replaced civic buildings are being proposed in existing commercial zoned areas.
Implement permit expedition	Yes	Processing Code and Planned Actions	Although permit review times are not currently extensive, the new processing code adopted in 2010, planned actions adopted in 2012 and a new permit tracking system in 2012 should provide specific requirements for submittal and minimize necessary review times.



MEASURES TO MITIGATE IMPACTS OF DENSITY			
MEASURE	ADOPTED?	APPLICABILITY	EFFECTIVENESS/POTENTIAL
Design Standards	Yes	Applies to commercial and high-density residential development	Community design quality and expectations have increased as a result of the adopted standards. Creating new design standards for cottage housing. Subarea Design Guidelines were adopted for development within the subareas using review.
Urban Amenities for Increased Densities	Yes	Planned Residential Developments (PRDs) and subareas	PRD subdivisions are eligible for a density bonus in exchange for providing amenities such as active recreation areas and tree preservation. Subarea plans allow for increased floor area ratios with a menu of amenity options.
Community Visioning	Yes		Provided basis of land use policies. Updated in 2015 Plan. Important part of subarea planning, downtown framework planning and shoreline planning.
OTHER MEASURES			
MEASURE	ADOPTED?	APPLICABILITY	EFFECTIVENESS/POTENTIAL
Low Densities in Rural and Resource Lands	N/A		
Urban Holding Zones	Yes	Does not apply to areas within the city	None
Capital Facilities Investment	Yes	Subarea Plans and GMA Traffic Impact Fees	Subarea planning included adoption of a subarea capital facilities plan and GMA traffic impact fees adopted. Expectation is that investment will spur development.
Environmental review and mitigation built into subarea planning process	Yes		Planned actions adopted for the subareas include required mitigation measures. In addition, a GMA-base traffic impact mitigation fee code was adopted with specific fees identified.
Partner with non-governmental organizations to preserve natural resource lands	In Process		City in discussions with various organizations.



LAND USE GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL 2.1 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT LAND AREA TO MEET THE PROJECTED NEEDS FOR HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKE STEVENS.

Policies

- 2.1.1 Accommodate a variety of land uses to support population and employment growth, consistent with the city's responsibilities under the Growth Management Act, Regional Growth Strategy and the Countywide Planning Policies.
- 2.1.2 Review cumulative changes to residential, commercial, industrial and public land use designations during the annual comprehensive plan cycle to ensure employment and population capacity estimates are being met.
- 2.1.3 Review land uses in conjunction with updates to the Buildable Lands Report and Growth Monitoring Report to ensure employment and population capacity estimates are being met. The strategy will be used to amend the Plan as necessary to remain consistent with actual development trends.
- 2.1.4 Direct new growth to areas where infrastructure and services are available or planned to ensure growth occurs in a fiscally responsible manner to support a variety of land uses.
- 2.1.5 Coordinate land use decisions with capital improvement needs for public facilities including streets, sidewalks, lighting systems, traffic signals, water, storm and sanitary sewer, parks and recreational facilities, cultural facilities and schools.

GOAL 2.2 ACHIEVE A WELL BALANCED AND WELL-ORGANIZED COMBINATION OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND PUBLIC USES.

Policies

- 2.2.1 Allow the following residential land use designations as described.
 - 1. High Density Residential – Encourage a variety of residential forms of residential structures containing three or more dwellings. Multiple structures may be located on a single parcel, and there are no density limits, provided the project meets the zoning district requirements and other pertinent codes, standards and adopted development guidelines. This land use category also allows limited public/semi-public, community, recreational, and commercial uses.



2. Medium Density Residential – Encourage single-family (1 du/lot), two-family residential and some multifamily housing with a density between 4 and 12 units per acre with the potential for bonuses. This designation allows detached, attached, conversion, accessory apartments, townhouses, condominiums, duplexes, tourist homes, special service homes and some manufactured/mobile structures. Also allows limited public/semi-public, community, recreational, and neighborhood commercial uses.
3. Low Density Residential – Allows for single-family homes on large lots, with fewer than four units per acre. Buildings usually have fewer stories and are spaced farther apart with large setbacks to side boundaries and the street, and have large areas of private open space.
4. Waterfront Residential – Provides single-family (1 du/lot) residential uses with a density of 4 units per acre with the potential for bonuses on residential properties located adjacent to Lake Stevens subject to the regulations of the shoreline master program. This designation includes detached and attached units, accessory units, tourist homes, special service homes, limited multifamily, public/semi-public, community, and recreational uses.

2.2.2 Allow the following commercial land use designations as described.

1. Downtown/Local Commercial – Encourages medium to high intensity commercial uses and other dense arrangements of professional offices and retail stores. This designation allows mixed-use development. This land use designation may be placed on lands between higher-intensity commercial areas and residential areas to act as a buffer. This designation also allows limited public/semi-public, community and recreational uses.
2. Mixed-Use – Allows medium to high intensity mixed-use (commercial and residential). It is intended that this land use designation will be placed where a "village atmosphere" is desired, or on lands between higher and lower intensity uses to buffer commercial and residential areas. This designation also allows limited public/semi-public, community and recreational uses.
3. Planned Business District – The Planned Business District allows moderate intensity commercial or mixed-use development. It is intended that this land use designation be placed on lands between higher and lower intensity uses as a buffer or on sites containing sensitive resources. The intent of this designation is to provide detailed planning that would benefit all property owners involved, as well as the public, by allowing transfer of densities among parcels in order to avoid impacts to sensitive resources. It achieves this by requiring that a Master Development Plan be developed for all similarly zoned contiguous parcels before any one parcel can be developed, and that any parcel developed is developed according to that plan. This designation encourages high floor area ratios by allowing a minimum of 2:1, with a 3:1



ratio allowed in designated density receiving areas when excess density is transferred from a designated sending area. This designation also allows limited public/semi-public, community, and recreational uses.

4. Commercial District – The Commercial District allows for high-intensity commercial and employment with some mixed-use. Principal uses include community and regional retail centers, offices, business parks, civic, cultural, recreational, and associated uses. Multi-family residential uses could be included above or behind commercial uses. This land use designation should be located in areas with direct access to highways and arterials that provide adequate public services and traffic capacity, in addition to transit facilities.

2.2.3 Allow the following industrial land use designations as described

1. General Industrial – This category allows a full range of industrial and employment uses which traditionally can cause impacts to surrounding properties because of the high intensity uses. This designation does not allow any residential (except temporary or caretaker residences). This land use designation should be located in areas with direct access to highways and arterials that provide adequate public services and traffic capacity.
2. Light Industrial – This category includes only those types of industrial, sale, or service uses, which have minimal externalities, but can cause impacts to surrounding properties because of the high intensity uses. This designation does not allow any residential (except temporary or caretaker residences). This land use designation should be located in areas with direct access to highways and arterials that provide adequate public services and traffic capacity.

2.2.4 Allow the Public/Semi-Public land use designation, which is intended for use on all land that is publicly owned. It allows public buildings and services, recreational uses, utilities, and transportation facilities. This designation may also allow a limited range of commercial uses.

GOAL 2.3 APPLY THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE CITY'S DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO ENSURE PREFERRED COMMUNITY GROWTH PATTERNS ARE ACHIEVED.

Policies

- 2.3.1 Review development standards and regulations to ensure that they possess an appropriate level of flexibility to promote efficient use of buildable land, balanced with the need for predictable decision-making.



- 2.3.2 Preserve and promote the character of existing neighborhoods through thoughtful development regulations and design standards.
- 2.3.3 Encourage infill development on suitable vacant parcels and redevelopment of underutilized parcels. Ensure that the height, bulk and design of infill and redevelopment projects are compatible with their surroundings.
- 2.3.4 Maintain development regulations to promote compatibility between uses; retain desired neighborhood character; ensure adequate light, air and open space; protect and improve environmental quality; and manage potential impacts on public facilities and services.
- 2.3.5 Promote architecture that is pedestrian friendly and conducive to human interaction (e.g., front porches, garages behind houses, small front yard setbacks, no "walled" neighborhoods).
- 2.3.6 Ensure that subdivisions are pedestrian friendly and include ample street trees, adequate sidewalks, walkways and paths connecting plats.
- 2.3.7 Review Development and Design Guidelines for Multifamily Residential, Planned Residential Developments, Commercial and Mixed-Use development outside of subareas.
- 2.3.8 Promote neighborhood commercial uses in appropriate places where the property:
 - a. is located at an intersection with at least one arterial street;
 - b. is at least one-half mile distance from other similarly designated properties; and
 - c. results in no more than two acres of land being designated for neighborhood commercial uses at the same intersection.
- 2.3.9 Promote commercial uses catering to day to day needs of neighbors in locations that are easily reached by foot or local commuters. Proposed uses shall clearly reflect this intent.
- 2.3.10 Encourage nodal development through adoption of zoning designations, specific design guidelines and development regulations.
- 2.3.11 The Planning Commission shall continue to welcome citizen input from all citizens within the incorporated city and unincorporated Urban Growth Area when making planning decisions that affect the city and future annexation areas.



GOAL 2.4 ENCOURAGE THE CONTINUED PLANNING OF LOCAL GROWTH CENTERS TO DEVELOP A BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY THAT PROVIDES A FOCUS FOR EMPLOYMENT, PUBLIC AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Policies

- 2.4.1 Prior to the adoption of a subarea plan, the city should develop a thorough economic analysis for each growth center that considers investments and expenditures to provide a full range of services and infrastructure in relation to project revenue.
- 2.4.2 Each growth center should consider impacts on existing commercial properties, and residential areas to ensure the compatibility and synergy between existing and new development as a subarea plan is developed.
- 2.4.3 Future subarea planning of growth centers shall include substantial public involvement through multiple meetings, updates in the media and on city-owned modes of communication. The city shall provide clear information as to the benefits, costs, and risks so that the community can provide informed opinions to the Planning Commission and City Council.
- 2.4.4 Ensure that adequate connections are made to link growth centers, subareas and adjacent residential areas.

GOAL 2.5 CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE REDEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN LAKE STEVENS THAT ENCOURAGES A COMPACT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT THAT FACILITATES EASY PEDESTRIAN ACCESS BETWEEN SHOPS AND BUILDINGS, ALLOWS MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPATIBLE WITH THE CHARACTER OF LAKE STEVENS AND STIMULATES A DIVERSE ARRAY OF BUSINESS TYPES TO ATTRACT VISITORS AND MEET THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS.

Policies

- 2.5.1 Ensure that significant lakeside non-commercial public access is maintained for informal and formal recreational opportunities, and is balanced with the desire to develop a vibrant mixed-use downtown
- 2.5.2 Emphasize high-quality design, pedestrian orientation and integrated flexibility in the redevelopment of downtown Lake Stevens.



- 2.5.3 Encourage strong traditional downtown elements as expressed in the Downtown Lake Stevens Subarea Plan that accentuate a stable design concept that will survive the life of the buildings.

GOAL 2.6 PROMOTE AN ACTIVE, HEALTHY AND DIVERSE HARTFORD ROAD AND MACHIAS INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

Policies

- 2.6.1 Pursue and implement incentive programs that would encourage industrial uses which result in high employment densities.
- 2.6.2 Aggressively market the Hartford and Machias Industrial Center and aggressively pursue family-wage employers to that revitalized area.
- 2.6.3 Review development regulations to ensure that impacts are kept to a minimum, especially those that affect adjoining, non-industrially zoned areas.
- 2.6.4 Conduct a market study as part of the Hartford Road Industrial Area study to determine any need for expansion, infrastructure needs and marketing strategies.
- 2.6.5 Consider developing a framework plan for the Hartford Industrial Center based on market study.
- 2.6.6 Pursue local improvement districts and grant funding for infrastructure development.

GOAL 2.7 PROVIDE APPROPRIATE BUFFERS BETWEEN LAND USES ADJACENT TO MACHIAS ROAD AND SR-92.

- 2.7.1 Require retention of all trees within a 30' visual/noise buffer along SR-92, SR-9, and the Hartford/Machias Road (as measured from the edge of ultimate right-of-way). Where trees need to be removed because of instability, require replanting of 5-gallon (minimum) conifers at a 3:1 ratio within the 30' buffer.
- 2.7.2 Ensure that design of highway accessible/visible commercial uses along SR-92, SR-9, and the Hartford/Machias Road is aesthetically pleasing from both the roadway and the local roads.

GOAL 2.8 COORDINATE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT WITH ADJACENT JURISDICTIONS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT INTERJURISDICTIONAL INTERESTS.



Policies

- 2.8.1 Participate in the Snohomish County Tomorrow Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) to improve inter-jurisdictional coordination of land use planning activities in the adopted urban growth area.
- 2.8.2 Coordinate planning efforts among jurisdictions, agencies, and federally recognized Indian tribes, where there are common borders or related regional issues, to facilitate a common vision.
- 2.8.3 Promote cooperation and coordination among transportation providers, local governments and developers to ensure that developments are designed to promote and improve physical, mental and social health, and reduce the impacts of climate change on the natural and built environments.

GOAL 2.9 PROMOTE ANNEXATIONS OF LANDS INTO THE CITY IN A MANNER THAT IS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE THE CITY IS ABLE TO PROVIDE A HIGH LEVEL OF URBAN SERVICES.

Policies

- 2.9.1 Affiliate all urban unincorporated lands appropriate for annexation with an adjacent city or identify those that may be feasible for incorporation.
- 2.9.2 It is the city’s intent to annex the entire Lake Stevens Urban Growth Area over the planning horizon to become one city, considering the following:
 - a. To manage growth in the UGA it is important to note that elected officials who reside within, and represent the Lake Stevens community make the best land use and Comprehensive Plan decisions for the Lake Stevens area.
 - b. To keep locally generated sales tax revenues within the community to meet local needs rather than allowing those revenues to be distributed throughout the entire county.
 - c. To provide an accessible and open forum in which citizens may participate in their own governance.
 - d. To create a larger city which can have greater influence on regional and state policy decisions and can be more competitive for grants.
 - e. To stabilize the development environment, striving to bring land use predictability to residents and property owners.



- d. To ensure that urban infrastructure is provided at the time development occurs to minimize the need to retrofit substandard improvements in the future.
- 2.9.3 To the degree reasonably possible, annexations should serve to regularize city boundaries, and not divide lots. The intent is to ensure practical boundaries in which services can be provided in a logical, effective and efficient manner.
- 2.9.4 Prior to any annexation, the city should consider the effects on special purpose districts and County services within the Urban Growth Area, considering the following:
- a. Outstanding special bonds or other debt,
 - b. Absorbing the district’s or county’s service provision responsibilities and acquiring the necessary assets at the appropriate stage (set by state law); and
 - c. Impacts on the district’s or county’s operations and personnel.
- 2.9.5 The city’s intent is to minimize disruption to residents, businesses and property owners in annexed areas, considering the following:
- a. Annexed property should be designated in the Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinance in a manner that most closely reflects the designations identified in Figure 2.3. The City Council will consider alternative designations proposed by those properties included in the annexation. Council may adopt alternative designations if it finds the proposal protects the general health, safety, and welfare of the community and it meets the requirements of the Growth Management Act.
 - b. Uses that are either previously established legal non-conforming, or are made non-conforming with the annexation, will be allowed to continue in a manner consistent with the rights established in the city’s land use code.
 - c. Annexed areas shall be accorded equal accommodation in the distribution of capital improvements, maintenance of roads and other facilities, police and other services.
 - d. For annexed areas, the city shall strive to ensure annexed areas are fairly represented by the Mayor and city Council, with extra care during the initial two years in which the annexed area may have not had a chance to vote for their local officials.
- 2.9.6 At such time an annexation proposal is made, the city shall make every reasonable effort to provide accurate, timely and useful information to community members so that they may make reasoned and well-informed decisions.



GOAL 2.10 ENSURE THAT LAND USES OPTIMIZE ECONOMIC BENEFIT AND THE ENJOYMENT AND PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES WHILE MINIMIZING THE THREAT TO HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.

Policies

- 2.10.1 Preserve and accentuate the lake as the centerpiece of Lake Stevens in compliance with the shoreline master program.
- 2.10.2 Preserve and promote a safe, clean living environment.
- 2.10.3 Prohibit storage of soil, yard waste, refuse, machines and other equipment in front yard setbacks.
- 2.10.4 Where a sight distance or safety problem is created, prohibit storage of vehicles in front and side yard setbacks, except on driveways (and then no more than three) or in parking lots.
- 2.10.5 Protect and preserve wetlands and riparian corridors associated with Shorelines of the State and open space corridors within and between urban growth areas useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas.
- 2.10.6 Encourage growth that is responsive to environmental concerns and that enhances the natural environment of the lake drainage basin and the area watersheds.

GOAL 2.11 WHERE POSSIBLE, USE ELEMENTS OF THE NATURAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM TO MINIMIZE STORM WATER RUNOFF IMPACTS.

Policies

- 2.11.1 Encourage new developments to use natural drainage patterns and incorporate means to contain storm water pollutants.
- 2.11.2 Encourage new developments to implement “low impact development” techniques which can better manage stormwater while providing cost savings in terms of land and improvements.
- 2.11.3 Recognize that storm drainage problems cross jurisdictional lines and therefore create the need to work with the Drainage Improvement District and residents to address those problems.
- 2.11.4 Adopt and keep current a stormwater control ordinance requiring best management practices for stormwater control, addressing such issues as detention, release, erosion and siltation, etc.



GOAL 2.12 ENCOURAGE ENERGY-SAVING METHODS IN TRANSPORTATION, LAND USE AND BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.

Policies

- 2.12.1 Encourage the development of paths and easements for non-motorized transportation to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle use throughout the city.
- 2.12.2 Encourage new developments to compliment and improve development of a grid system to reduce public and private utility and transportation costs.
- 2.12.3 Encourage energy-saving construction and building operation practices and the use of energy-conserving materials in all new construction and rehabilitation of buildings.
- 2.12.4 Encourage small scale, neighborhood compatible, commercial uses to be distributed throughout the community, thus reducing the need to drive to the nearest “big-box” retailer to pick up day-to-day convenience items. This also provides the opportunity for pedestrian access to stores along with the health and social benefits related to pedestrian activity.

GOAL 2.13 PROMOTE THE IDENTIFICATION, MAINTENANCE, AND PRESERVATION OF SPECIAL HISTORIC, GEOGRAPHIC, ARCHITECTURAL, AESTHETIC OR CULTURAL RESOURCES OR STRUCTURES WHICH HAVE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE OF HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL, RECREATIONAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND/OR SCENIC IMPORTANCE THROUGH THE DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND DISTRICTS AND THE ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE INCENTIVES

Policies

- 2.13.1 Work with other public agencies and/or a local historical society to determine priorities and establish methods for public and private funding to achieve this goal.
- 2.13.2 Encourage the development of written narratives and maps for self-guided tours of significant areas and the provision for site markers to identify significant sites.
- 2.13.3 Encourage additions and alterations to significant architectural buildings to conform to the style and period of the initial construction as much as possible.



GOAL 2.14 DESIGN AND BUILD A HEALTHY COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK, LEARN, AND PLAY WITHIN THE CITY.

Policies

- 2.14.1 Encourage mixed land use and greater land density to shorten distances between homes, workplaces, schools and recreation so people can walk or bike more easily to them.
- 2.14.2 Provide good mass transit to reduce the dependence upon automobiles.
- 2.14.3 Decreases dependence on the automobile by building good pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, including sidewalks and bike paths that are safely removed from automobile traffic as well as good right of way laws and clear, easy-to-follow signage in proximity to homes, businesses, schools, churches and parks closer to each other so that people can more easily walk or bike between them.
- 2.14.4 Provide opportunities for people to be physically active and socially engaged as part of their daily routine, improving the physical and mental health of citizens by promoting community centers , public/semi-public areas and by offering access to green space and parks where people can gather and mingle as part of their daily activities.
- 2.14.5 Allow persons, if they choose, to age in place and remain all their lives in a community that reflects their changing lifestyles and changing physical capabilities.
- 2.14.6 Develop high quality, compact urban communities throughout the region's urban growth area that impart a sense of place, preserve local character, provide for mixed uses and choices in housing types, and encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use.



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