



City of Kirkland
Planning and Building
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
425-587-3600 | www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission

From: Janice Swenson, Senior Planner
Allison Zike, AICP, Deputy Planning & Building Director
Adam Weinstein, AICP, Planning & Building Director

Date: December 27, 2023

Subject: **2044 Comprehensive Plan - Vision Statement, Guiding Principles, Introduction, and General Chapters**

Recommendation

Receive a briefing on the 2044 Comprehensive Plan update process as it relates to the final draft Vision Statement, draft Guiding Principles, Introduction, and General Chapter including draft goals and policies. The Planning Commission (PC) will hold the public hearing on the revised goals and policies in Spring 2024 as a formal part of the legislative process to amend the Comprehensive Plan.

Kirkland 2044 Comprehensive Plan (K2044) Update Process Overview

The City of Kirkland is in the process of conducting a State-mandated update of the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan (Plan) with a target adoption date of mid 2024 (the State deadline for City Council adoption is December 31, 2024). The Comprehensive Plan is the primary citywide guide for how we, as a community, manage growth over the next 20 years (with a horizon year 2044), and is the policy basis that guides all related decisions. The Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies for how the City addresses land use, transportation, housing, sustainability and climate change, parks and open space, human services, and the public facilities and services necessary to support growth.

The K2044 Plan update must be consistent with updated State, regional, and King County policies and plans, along with local plans, as discussed further in the element subsections below. As part of the process to certify Kirkland's K2044 Plan, the State Department of Commerce will review drafts of the Plan to be sure it is consistent with those plans and mandatory requirements, and will approve the final Plan once it is adopted by City Council.

Community Outreach and Engagement Activities

Beginning in late 2022, staff conducted a substantial number of public outreach and community engagement activities to implement the community engagement plan¹. In addition to the public outreach and engagement for the entire Comprehensive Plan, a subset of activities centered around reevaluating the existing Vision Statement, including City Hall for All events in September 2022 and September 2023, a visioning event in January 2023, a vision survey, and engagement specific for each Element.

Additional information about the update process can be found in meeting packets, presentations, and other documents and resources that are available on the City's K2044 Comprehensive Plan update webpage².

Vision Statement

Background

The last major (periodic) update to the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2015 (with a horizon year of 2035). The existing Comprehensive Plan³ contains the City's 2035 Vision Statement in Chapter II⁴ and Guiding Principles⁵, which form the foundation for the goals and policies contained in the General Elements (chapters of the Comprehensive Plan). Chapter II provides more background on how the Vision Statement was prepared. These two components establish an overall goal of maintaining Kirkland as a livable, sustainable, and connected city, which is still relevant today.

The purpose of a vision statement is to reflect the community's collective vision, values, and aspirations for how the city should grow and evolve over the next 20 years. The City conducted a K2044 Community Survey and held a virtual Visioning event to better understand how the 2035 statement aligns with the community's values and vision today, and how it might need to be revised to best reflect the vision for 2044.

With a majority of the planned community engagement activities complete, the revised draft Vision Statement in Attachment 1 has gone through several versions to reflect community input and PC and City Council comments:

- First, staff crafted a revised draft Vision Statement using the community feedback received from the Visioning survey and engagement events, recommendations from the Comprehensive Plan Equity Review Report (2022) prepared by

¹ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/community-engagement-plan-k2044-kirkland-comprehensive-plan-finalwappendixabc12152022.pdf>

² <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Planning-and-Building/Planning-Projects/Kirkland-2044-Comprehensive-Plan-Update>

³ <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandCPNT.html>

⁴ <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandCP02/KirklandCP02.html>

⁵ <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandCP02/KirklandCP02.html>

EcoNorthwest⁶ and input from the City’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Manager. Staff felt it was important to include the feedback received while also recognizing that the resulting draft is significantly longer than the current Vision Statement.

- On June 22, 2023, the PC reviewed and commented on staff’s draft Vision Statement and identified the length of the statement as one issue. Staff made revisions to the Vision Statement to respond to feedback from the PC.
- On July 18, 2023, the City Council reviewed the draft Vision Statement that incorporated PC comments and suggested a modified version with edits from various Councilmembers.
- Attachment 1 is the latest version of the Vision Statement that incorporates comments from both the City Council and PC (as of July 27, 2023). Although the Vision Statement can continue to change, this should be considered the final draft so staff can use it along with the Guiding Principles to help guide revised goals and policies for each Element. The 2044 Vision Statement will be formally adopted with the rest of the Comprehensive Plan in mid-2024.

Guiding Principles

Background

The Guiding Principles are intended to express the key fundamental goals, or priorities, for guiding growth and development in Kirkland over the 20-year horizon of the Comprehensive Plan. They are based on, and provide an extension of, the aspirations and values embodied in the Vision Statement. The Principles address a wide range of topics and form the foundation of the goals and policies contained in the elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Although all of the Guiding Principles broadly apply to all Comprehensive Plan elements, some of the principles are more applicable to certain elements than others.

Attachment 2 shows revised Guiding Principles prepared by staff for the PC’s review and comment. The changes build on the existing 2035 Principles and reflect key themes received from the community engagement and outreach process, the City’s DEIB roadmap⁷, and sustainability, resilience, multimodal transportation, and human service goals that will be integrated throughout the updated Comprehensive Plan.

Introduction and General Elements

Introduction (Chapter 1)

The existing Introduction Chapter⁸ contains a guide to the various chapters in the Comprehensive Plan, describes the planning context in which we plan the growth of the city (including State, region and Countywide policies), the process for updating the Plan,

⁶ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/equity-review-report-kirkland-comprehensive-plan-econorthwest-final20221108.pdf>

⁷ https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/roadmap-as-adopted_1.pdf

⁸ <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandCP01/KirklandCP01.html>

historical summary of Kirkland (post Native History), historical annexations, community profile (race, income, population and other key demographic data), and the neighborhood map.

General (Chapter III)

The General Chapter⁹ describes the planning context within which Kirkland plans for growth, and statutory consistency requirements with State, regional, and County requirements mandated by the Growth Management Act. The chapter provides a summary of each Element, and a list of general goals and policies for how the City conducts intergovernmental coordination, the community engagement process, and land use decisions.

Attachment 3 contains revised General Element goals and policies for PC review and comment. Getting feedback from the PC on these goals and policies will be useful before moving forward with revising the remainder of the chapter. The staff-recommended edits reflect the City's important DEIB goals for the community including moving some of the policies currently in the Community Character Element into the General Element.

Introduction and General Chapters: Staff Recommendations -

For the K2044 update, staff recommends combining the Introduction and General Elements into one Introduction Chapter to reduce redundant text describing the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan and the planning context while improving the accessibility and readability of the plan overall. The following broadly describes the recommended changes to the two chapters:

- Add the City's adopted Land Acknowledgement¹⁰ statement to the Introduction Chapter.
- Remove the history text in the Introduction Chapter and consolidate with other history text found in the Community Character Element and Neighborhood Plans into a single History of Kirkland narrative, to be included as an Appendix to the Comprehensive Plan. The combined history can be organized to describe key historical places, and structures unique to each neighborhood. The remaining history sections in each neighborhood plan will be reduced in length to focus on history unique to each neighborhood.
- In place of the history text in the Introduction Chapter (which could be moved to an Appendix), we are considering creating either a chart or timeline (similar to the one in the Station Area Plan¹¹) that lists chronologically key historical milestones in Kirkland.

⁹ <https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandCP03/KirklandCP03.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/City-Managers-Office/Local-Land-Acknowledgement>

¹¹ https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/planning-amp-building/station-area-materials/pc-hearing-drafts/web-version_final_stationareaplan_sections-1-10june2022.pdf

- Reduce the amount of text devoted to the Community Profile in the Introduction Chapter and insert the Quick Facts sheet with updated demographic and economic data. The revised Community Profile document (in progress) will be added as an Appendix to the Comprehensive Plan.
- Delete future trends section from Introduction Chapter.
- Add new text to refer to the City's DEIB 5-year road map document and select goals and policies from the Community Character Element that are broadly applicable to every element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Staff will be requesting any feedback the PC may have to guide these chapters. With PC's direction, staff will complete a revised draft Introduction chapter, including general goals and policies.

Questions for Planning Commission

1. Does the Commission have comments on the draft Guiding Principles?
2. Does the Commission have comments on the draft General Element goals and policies?

Next Steps

With the PC's feedback on the draft Guiding Principles, draft General Element goals and policies, and approach for the Introduction and General Chapters, staff will continue drafting the goals, policies and Elements in preparation for the public hearings on the Comprehensive Plan tentatively set for Spring-Summer 2024 with final adoption by the City Council in Fall 2024. Attachment 4 is a tentative schedule for key milestones and public meetings for 2024.

Other tasks in the K2044 update scope include completing the land use capacity analysis to confirm that the City has met its assigned jobs and housing growth targets (the PC will receive an update on this in the Land Use Element briefing on January 11), updating the Community Profile, and updating the Kirkland Transportation Strategic Plan (basis for the Transportation Element). On October 18, 2023, the City issued a Determination of Significance and Scoping Notice to receive comments on what should be evaluated in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, which evaluates the environmental effects of the Comprehensive Plan update. Scoping comments¹² received are on the K2044 Comprehensive Plan webpage. Staff anticipates issuance of the Draft SEIS in Summer 2024.

Attachments

1. Final Draft Vision Statement
2. Draft Guiding Principles
3. Draft General Element goals and policies
4. Comprehensive Plan tentative schedule for 2024

¹² <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/planning-amp-building/kirkland-2044-comp-plan/seis-scoping-comments-combined-webpage.pdf>