

VISION

Vision Statements and Framework Goals

The Comprehensive Plan is a vehicle that will guide the physical, economic and social development of the City for the next 20 years. Its purpose is to help Shoreline, as it grows, to achieve its vision of the future.

~~By the year~~Between 1998 and 2015, Metropolitan King County, the governmental body responsible for allocating the State's population projections to cities within King County, projects that Shoreline has the capacity for 1,600 to ~~2,200~~2,400 new housing units within its pre-annexation boundaries and is likely to get growth pressures which will result in market demand for these units and perhaps more. Based on an average household size of 2.46 residents, this number of housing units translates into between ~~4,200~~3,840 and ~~5,720~~5,760 new residents, bringing the City's population to between 52,800 to 54,320 people (these figures do not include the recent annexation of the Briarcrest neighborhood or other potential annexation areas). In addition, the City projects that its economic development efforts will result in a total of ~~20,450~~19,815 jobs within Shoreline by the year 2015. This growth will include:

- new people moving into the community because of job, location, schools, etc.;
- children of existing residents who want to remain in the community in an independent residence;
- smaller households (more single adults, fewer children, childless couples);
- senior citizens choosing to move into alternative housing quarters in the community;
- new businesses; and
- expansion of existing employment generators.

Shoreline's principle challenge for the future is to protect community values while accommodating this projected growth.

VISION STATEMENTS

City Council Vision

The following Vision Statements are a result of the collective effort by the City Council at a February, 1996 Visioning Retreat. The Vision Statements were established as a set of overall principles to guide the development of the Comprehensive Plan.

Overview

The City of Shoreline in 2015 will capitalize on its unique physical strengths as well as its human assets.

Parks, Greenways and Green-spaces

The City's numerous parks and key buildings or other features (e.g., civic center, community college, waterways) shall be interconnected from Puget Sound to all points in Shoreline through natural and built trails, green streets and special pedestrian walkways. Significant stands of trees will be identified as parts of greenbelts and preserved where possible, to protect and enhance Shoreline's natural environment.

Waterbodies

The Puget Sound shoreline is a unique aspect of the City and should be made more available to all citizens. Other waterbodies within the City of Shoreline (e.g. Ronald Bog, Twin Ponds, Echo Lake) will be publicly owned and will be centers of public recreation.

Gateways

Each road and waterway into the City will have special treatment signaling entry into Shoreline. Gateways are defined by plantings, signage, three dimensional art, etc.

Neighborhoods

Preservation of existing residential neighborhoods provides safe, affordable housing of all types (e.g. single-family, accessory, townhomes, multi-family) for all segments of the community.

Commercial Centers

The City's several commercial areas are vital and active, including a variety of shops and services that are pedestrian oriented. Mixed uses, commercial, and light industrial establishments are permitted in selected areas. Centers exist along major arterials. For example, Aurora would have three major centers, each with a theme:

- Aurora at NorthN. 145th Street to NorthN. 160th Street would be a retail area,
- Aurora at NorthN. 175th - NorthN. 185th Street would serve as a civic hub
- Aurora at NorthN. 195th Street to NorthN. 205th Street would serve as an entertainment center.

Sidewalks, street trees, pedestrian crossings and other pedestrian amenities are provided. Neighborhood business centers would serve surrounding residential areas.

Transit

Regional and local linkages are made between homes, commercial areas, entertainment centers and employment areas.

Public Safety

Community policing and community pride will serve and protect all segments of the community.

"Wildcat Ideas"

Other ideas addressed by the Council included support for education, services and community events. Wildcat ideas -- ideas that may have merit but cannot be accomplished now because of technical complexity, inadequate resources or for other reasons -- were also listed, including:

- A tunnel created under Aurora Avenue to accommodate through traffic;
- A lid placed over I-5 to contain noise and enhance air quality;
- Light industrial uses on 205th and in the corridor from Aurora to Ashworth between NorthN. 165th and NorthN. 175th;
- I-5 interchanges improved; new interchanges added at NorthN. 185th Street;
- NorthN. 175th extended through Dayton Avenue.

See Figure_V-1, prepared by the City Council, at the end of this chapter:

FRAMEWORK GOALS

Through a series of more than 300 meetings, open houses, surveys and discussions, citizens, the Planning Commission, and the City Council refined the City Council's Vision Statements into the Comprehensive Plan's Framework Goals. These Framework Goals provide the overall policy foundation for the Comprehensive Plan and support the City Council's vision. When implemented, the Framework Goals are intended to preserve the best qualities of Shoreline's neighborhoods today and protect the City's future. To achieve balance in the City's development the Framework Goals must be viewed as a whole and not one pursued to the exclusion of others.

- FG1: Accommodate anticipated levels of growth and enhance the quality of life within the City of Shoreline.**
- FG2: Promote quality building and development that is compatible with the surrounding environment.**
- FG3: Support diverse and affordable housing opportunities which provide for Shoreline's population growth.**
- FG4: Pursue a strong and diverse economy and assure economic development that complements neighborhood character.**
- FG5: Protect the natural environment and preserve environmentally sensitive areas.**
- FG6: Promote improvements to human services**
- FG7: Assure effective and efficient public investment for quality public services, facilities, and utilities.**
- FG8: Improve multi-modal transportation systems which provide for Shoreline's present and future population.**
- FG9: Provide for wide involvement in community planning decisions.**

Shoreline in 2015

What kind of life will Shoreline residents enjoy if the Framework Goals become a reality? The following narrative provides a glimpse into what could be the Shoreline of 2015.

FG-1: Accommodate anticipated levels of growth and enhance the quality of life within the City of Shoreline.

In the year 2015, Shoreline's community image is enhanced by the fact that the City offers a high quality of life, personal comfort, community vitality, convenience and safety within the urban growth area. New residential and non-residential development is balanced and has been integrated into the community.

The City has made a commitment to ensure that growth is accommodated in a way that is sensitive to the natural environment and maintains the primarily residential character of various neighborhoods. Property values are preserved or enhanced. Even though there is growth and change, each neighborhood retains its special character.

The community has a thriving commercial area, including the Aurora Corridor and neighborhood business areas. There are quality, reliable goods and services, such as schools, roads, parks, and recreation facilities, emergency services and human services. There are also numerous employment opportunities available for Shoreline residents.

Shoreline's central geographical location and its setting along the Puget Sound shoreline have had a major impact on the community's development. The City continues to provide good access to the region's growing, changing goods and services. The City also benefits from its regional location by hosting facilities such as Shoreline Community College and the Washington State Department of Transportation that serve the state and region in addition to the local population.

FG-2: Promote quality building and development that is compatible with the surrounding environment.

Shoreline remains a proud residential community. Individual homes are well maintained, as are the businesses and public facilities that serve Shoreline's residents. The City has fulfilled its pledge to ensure that new residential and non-residential uses are compatible. Entries to this beautiful City are marked by gateways featuring art, trees, and signage.

Design standards ensure that development - both infill and significant new projects - will be compatible with the surrounding built environments. Older homes and businesses are maintained. Some have been remodeled or replaced by new houses that are compatible in design and scale with the surrounding area. Residential areas offer community gathering locations and other features which provide a sense of place. Commercial areas are designed to incorporate architectural improvements,

coordinated landscaping, and safe, convenient access for vehicles and pedestrians. These residential and non-residential development patterns keep all neighborhoods vital and protect their character and value.

The natural environment is preserved through control of surface water run-off, protection of sensitive slopes, and significant trees. Shoreline's neighborhoods are now linked together and to the various schools, parks and commercial areas, and to Puget Sound by a complete system of green streets (pedestrian systems of walkways) along specified streets.

FG-3III: Support diverse and affordable housing opportunities which provide for Shoreline's population growth.

Shoreline has an increasingly diverse community. This diversity of people and lifestyles is reflected in a number of ways including age, race, country of birth, household size, income, physical ability, housing situation and ownership. Diversity provides richness to the community.

Shoreline's support of regional efforts to create affordable housing opportunities has been successful. The range of housing types and densities reflects the variety of interests and needs in the community, while preserving community character. ~~Affordable single family homes and a variety of other housing options are now available. Housing options are well integrated into established neighborhoods and there are attractive new developments. This means that our newcomers have a safe, comfortable place to call home. Young families and our children can find independent housing in Shoreline and our parents can remain in the community in smaller, more convenient and affordable housing.~~

While little undeveloped residential land remains, there are still a variety of ways that housing growth is accommodated within the City including: single family houses, apartments, accessory units (mother-in-law apartments), shared housing, and cottage housing. There are also still opportunities for increasing the numbers of single family lots (through subdivision), duplexes, townhomes, and multi-family units.

Affordable single-family homes and a variety of other housing options are now available. ~~Housing options are well-integrated into established neighborhoods and there are attractive new developments. This means that our newcomers have a safe, comfortable place to call home. Our young families and our children can find independent housing in Shoreline and our parents can remain in our community in smaller, more convenient and affordable housing.~~

FG-4IV: Pursue a strong and diverse economy and assure economic development complements neighborhood character.

The City has forged strong links among the business community, residential neighborhoods, educational community, institutions, employers and the development

community. This team is working to ensure a creative, sustainable economic base for Shoreline.

There are stable, healthy commercial districts in the City with a variety of well-designed, conveniently located commercial areas exist to provide a broad-spectrum of shopping and service choices for City of Shoreline residents. Retail uses predominate, but there is office and multi-family development located on the Aurora Corridor and in other commercial areas. City revenues are improved by the increase in level of development and improvement of commercial districts.

The community encourages additional employment opportunities and support for 'living wage' jobs. This effort might be accomplished by increasing the density or size of commercially zoned areas to allow new development. Commercial development could also be allowed in more areas, such as the Fircrest Campus. Finally, home occupations and telecommuting can also provide additional economic vitality to the community.

FG-5V: Protect the natural environment and preserve environmentally sensitive areas.

Shoreline is strongly committed to environmental stewardship and plays a strong local and regional role in promoting a quality, sustainable urban environment. The City successfully accommodates growth while preserving environmentally sensitive resources (e.g., land, air, water, plants and animals). Because of its successful stormwater management program and facilities, Shoreline has a sound record of preventing pollution and responding immediately when pollution does occur.

FG-6VI: Promote improvements to human services.

Shoreline is a community that cares for and nurtures all of its people. Shoreline's citizens -- young and senior, singles and families, newcomers and long-time residents, -- at all income levels -- are supported by good basic human services. The City plays an active role in shaping and supporting a system of human services which not only assists people in times of need, but also promotes the development of healthy individuals and families. The City engages both public and private partners throughout the region to share resources and respond to the changing needs of its citizens.

FG-7VII: ~~Maximize~~ Assure effective and efficient public investment for quality public services, facilities, and utilities.

Community residential and non-residential development is supported by adequate public services and facilities, including a variety of public institutions, public safety, parks and recreation, and human services. Public and private services and facilities have been created to correct deficiencies and to support new growth. The City accommodates its fair share of essential local, regional and state public facilities. These may include large uses such as hospitals, highways and utilities transmission

lines as well as smaller facilities such as government offices, schools, and houses of worship.

Shoreline citizens continue to feel secure and safe in their community. The emphasis is on protection from, and the prevention of, emergencies such as crime, fire, accidents and illness. The City, however, continues to be prepared to respond to emergencies with local resources or regional resources. Preparedness remains a major focus to assure that when an emergency occurs, the City can respond effectively.

Utilities and infrastructure provide for healthy, safe living and there is wise, efficient use of facilities. Capital Improvement Programs are in place. Deficiencies in the infrastructure have been rectified. The City has established interlocal agreements and has developed contracts with private purveyors and public districts for services to Shoreline. The City has the option of maintaining agreements or adjusting the current provider agreements, contracting with different utility providers, or assuming the provision of some utilities.

The City has developed and implemented plans to address surface water issues and the coordination of utility improvements with transportation and economic development plans.

FG-8VIII: Improve multi-modal transportation systems which provide for Shoreline's present and future population.

In 1997, Shoreline made a commitment to design transportation systems which provide a variety of ways to move people and goods. The City has taken many steps to preserve and enhance the adequacy of pedestrian and vehicle access. Improvements have emphasized convenient and workable alternatives to the single-occupant car.

Aurora Avenue remains a key transportation corridor as well as the commercial backbone of the City. More east-west transit service is available in Shoreline during midday, evenings and weekends. Transportation design and facilities (e.g. ride share facilities and services, public transit) improvements accommodate travelers safely and efficiently. Safe pedestrian travel is enhanced by improvements, such as crosswalks and signals on major arterials, sidewalks, as well as curbs, gutters, and driveway-access improvements. Other transportation improvements include bike lanes, linkages with the regional trail systems, park-and-ride lots, and the designation of truck routes to more efficiently direct goods.

The Shoreline area continues to be impacted by regional growth and traffic because of its central location between Seattle, the Eastside and Snohomish County, all of which have continued to grow rapidly. Regional needs and impacts are carefully balanced between local Shoreline capabilities to accommodate services and measures to fairly mitigate the regional facility impacts. For example, improvements have been made to five highways traversing the City of Shoreline: I-5, Highway 99

(Aurora Avenue), State Route 104 (~~Northeast~~N.E. 205th/Ballinger Way), State Route 523 (~~Northeast~~N.E. 145th), and State Route 522 (Bothell Way).

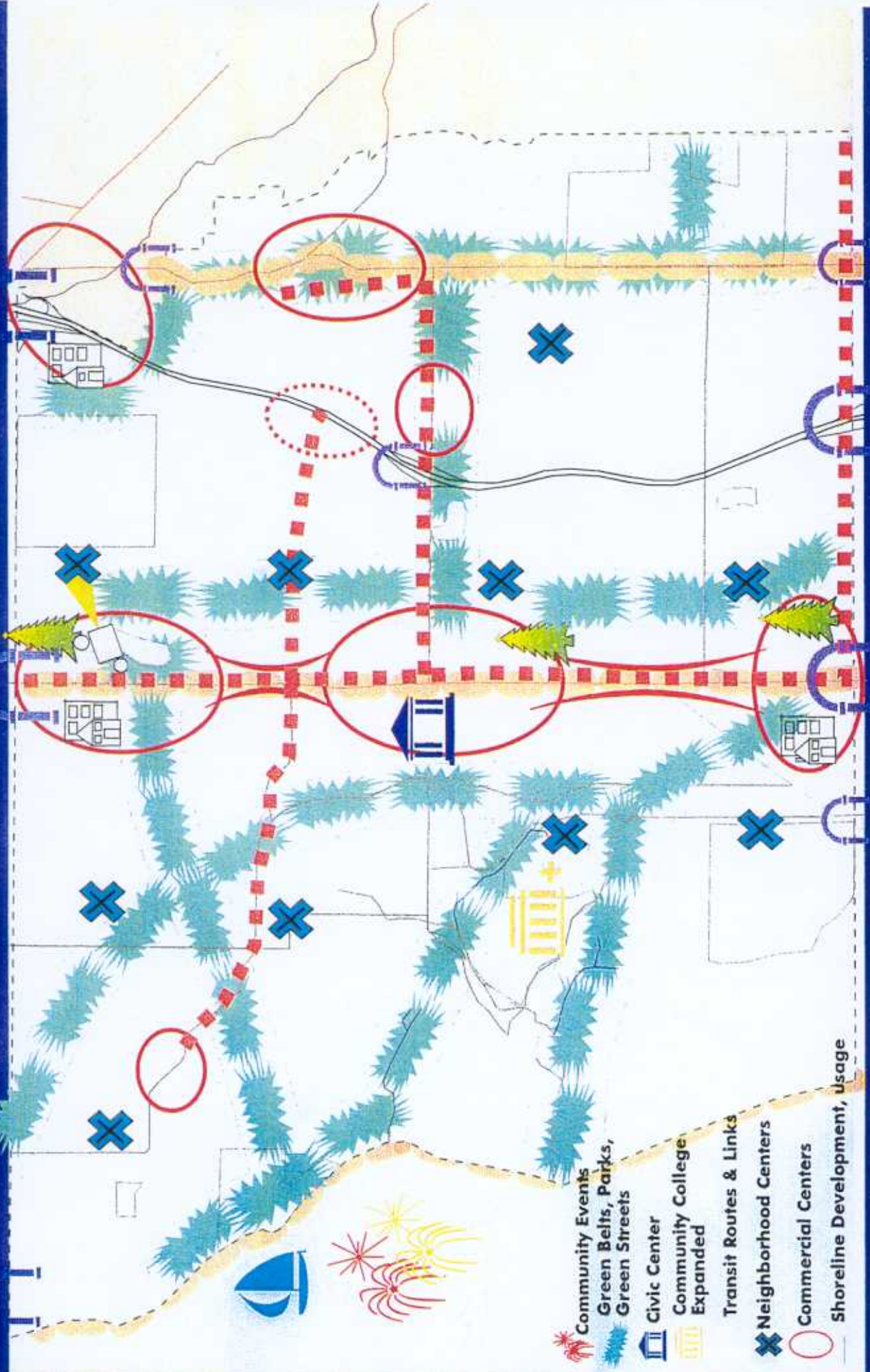
Now both land use and transportation are coordinated to provide a high-quality urban environment, which fosters mobility, but which is less dominated by the auto and more sensitive to air quality, energy consumption and protection of livable neighborhoods.

FG-9IX: Provide for wide involvement in community planning decisions.

The City encourages community groups, businesses and individuals to work together with City staff to identify and achieve community goals. Residents and businesses trust in their local government because the growth management principles and plans adopted in 1998 have been followed. When changes to the community make it necessary to modify plans, the community and the City work together to make Plan changes. Change is accepted and proceeds in an orderly fashion based on the growth management plan of 1998.



SHORELINE "VISIONING MAP" City of Shoreline



- Community Events
- Green Belts, Parks, Green Streets
- Civic Center
- Community College Expanded
- Transit Routes & Links
- Neighborhood Centers
- Commercial Centers
- Shoreline Development, Usage