

Shoreline's Vision



Picture it. Plan it. Build it.

In the Spring and Summer of 2023, the City conducted a community survey and engaged with at a variety of events and festivals to gather information on how the community envisioned Shoreline in the future.

In Fall 2023, the City began working with the Planning Commission and City Council to create a vision for the next 20 years to help maintain and enhance Shoreline's quality of life. Based what was heard from the community and on the comments from Planning Commission and City Council, the vision statement below was prepared to be included in this updated Comprehensive Plan:

In 2044, Shoreline is a welcoming, safe, and inclusive home to people from a diverse set of cultures and economic backgrounds. The city is a place made for people and one that fosters connections to community, making the city even better for future generations.

Shoreline is:

» **A leader in anti-racism**

The city is a welcoming place for all and prioritizes transparent and inclusive decision making. Shoreline's commitment to anti-racism drives decision making and equitable and inclusive community involvement helps to prioritize city action.

» **A model for sustainability**

Shoreline is a resilient and sustainable community. The city continues to reduce emissions by prioritizing investments in public transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure, and increasing the tree canopy and green spaces. Sustainable development of the built environment contributes to the protection of the city's tree canopy and green spaces.

» **An economic and employment innovator**

The city is an innovator in emerging technologies, training, and employment. The city is a proponent for local businesses, thriving commercial centers, creative centers, and manufacturing space.

» **A city of walkable, well-connected neighborhoods**

Shoreline is a city of well-connected, convenient, and walkable neighborhoods featuring affordable, diverse, and quality housing; award-winning schools; plentiful parks, and opportunities for cultural and artistic expression to meet one's daily needs and lifestyles.

» **A caring and informed community**

Shoreline's commitment to the safety and well-being of its community helps to prioritize city actions and community services.

The people of Shoreline are committed to making the city even better for the next generation.

Key Themes



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Throughout the development of the Comprehensive Plan, the City kept **three key themes** in mind to create a cohesive and interconnected plan for the future. These three themes address important issues can help to define the direction of the community in the years to come and to ultimately meet Shoreline’s vision for the future.

These key themes are interwoven throughout the Comprehensive Plan and were used to guide the development of goals and policies for each element of the plan.

Climate

- » In August 2022, Shoreline’s City Council adopted Resolution 494, declaring a climate emergency.
- » *“Climate change is an urgent unfolding crisis that presents a serious threat to the survival of human, animal, and plant communities and ecosystems around the world, including within the City of Shoreline.... If unchecked, climate change will bring increasingly drastic declines to the health and prosperity of future generations, particularly for the most vulnerable communities.”*
- » Climate was selected as a key theme to make sure climate change considerations are a factor in all city decision making processes.
- » The Plan considered climate by evaluating goals and policies for their impacts on greenhouse gas reduction, resilience to climate change impacts, protecting ecosystem health, and climate and environmental justice for marginalized or vulnerable groups.

Housing

- » As noted on the Shoreline 2044–Picture It! Plan It! Build It! Background board, Shoreline is required to plan for 13,300 new housing units by 2044.
- » Additionally, House Bill 1220 changed the way communities are required to plan for housing; requiring all local governments to plan for and accommodate housing that is affordable to all income levels.
- » With these factors in mind, Housing was selected as a key theme to ensure Shoreline does its part to provide housing for all members of the community.
- » This includes establishing policies and strategies to provide opportunities for increased housing affordability, variety, supply, and resident stability.

Equity & Social Justice

- » In January 2017, Shoreline City Council passed Resolution 401, committing to make Shoreline a welcoming and safe community for all. In November 2020, they further committed to building an anti-racist community with Resolution 467.
- » Shoreline recognizes its responsibility to address systemic racism, which affects housing, education, employment, justice, and health. The city has integrated anti-racism into every goal and policy in its Comprehensive Plan.
- » Equity and Social Justice are key themes to ensure Shoreline stays accountable to its anti-racist commitments.
- » Every goal and policy was reviewed to avoid racial disparities and biased language, promoting equitable access and empowerment for all.

Key Changes to:



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Natural Environment

The Natural Environment Element supports the City's responsibility for protection of the natural environment, and covers topics such as the protection and enhancement of critical areas, including water sources; clean air, and adapting to and planning for climate change.

Key Changes:

- » Adds policies promoting environmental justice.
- » Emphasizes importance of increasing air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- » Strengthens policies on critical area protection.
- » Adds policy addressing sea level rise planning.
- » Strengthens policies on promoting resiliency, sustainability, and climate change.
 - » Shoreline will be adopting a Climate Change and Resiliency Element by 2029 to further these concepts.



Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Arts

The Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Arts Element creates a framework for future decisions for parks, recreation, open spaces, arts, and cultural services in Shoreline. More specific guidance is provided in the City's Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Arts (PROSA) Plan.

Key Changes:

- » Adds policies to strengthen the City's commitment to providing equitable and inclusionary programs.
- » Emphasizes preserving and enhancing the natural environment through parks and open spaces.
- » Strengthens policies on accessibility of parks.
- » Adds policies to support climate change mitigation efforts through critical area protection and tree preservation.
- » Add policies about expanding the use of public art to strengthen place-making.



Shoreline Master Program

The Shoreline Master Program Element supports the City's Shoreline Master Program plan, and applies to all "shorelines of the state". This element guides the protection, enhancement, and use of these areas.

Within the City of Shoreline there are only shorelines of statewide significance - the approximately 3.5 miles of Puget Sound coastline. No other water areas within Shoreline meet the criteria set forth in the SMA.

Key Changes:

- » Created complete set goals and policies for the element.
- » Increased emphasis on resiliency and the need for adaptation planning for changes to coastline due to climate change.
- » Emphasize importance of shorelines for their environmental and human benefit.

Key Changes to:



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Land Use

The Land Use Element supports the City's responsibility for managing land uses and to implement regulations, guidelines, and programs effecting the city's development and land use patterns. This element, along with the Comprehensive Plan Map, identifies the intensity and type of development recommended for each area of the city.

Key Changes:

- » Adds policies to support the creation of neighborhood commercial activity areas to provide convenient services.
- » Adds policies to support the creation of a variety of housing types affordable to all income levels.
- » Adds policies to strengthen the City's commitment to providing equitable services and planning decisions, and reduce disparate impacts.
- » Emphasizes policies encouraging growth around high-capacity transit areas.
- » Adds policies to encourage sustainable technologies and building techniques.
- » Adds policies to strengthen coordination efforts with other jurisdictions, agencies, local businesses, organizations, and non-profits in planning efforts.
- » Proposes new land use designations and a new land use designation map.



Housing

The Housing Element identifies the steps Shoreline can take to address the housing needs of the community, while ensuring the vitality of existing housing stock, estimating the current and future housing needs, and to provide direction on implementation programs to address those needs.

Key Changes:

- » Adds policies to support the creation of a variety of housing types affordable to all income levels.
- » Adds policies to allow and encourage middle housing types throughout the City (duplexes, triplexes, stacked flats, townhomes, courtyard apartments, cottage housing, etc.).
- » Adds policies to strengthen the City's commitment to providing access to affordable housing for low-income households.
- » Strengthens policies to support housing for those with special needs, specifically for older adults and those with disabilities.
- » Adds policies to strengthen the City's commitment to implementing anti-displacement regulations and programs.

Key Changes to:



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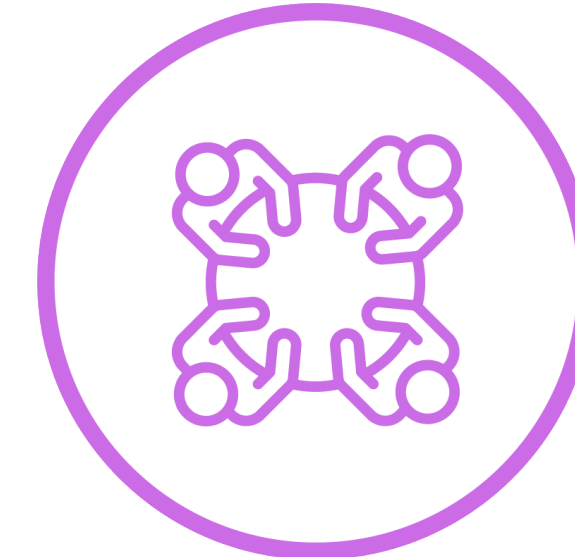


Economic Development

The Economic Development Element aims to improve the quality of life in the city by encouraging a greater number and variety of commercial businesses that provide services and create employment opportunities for Shoreline residents, as well as grow the tax base to take the burden off residential property tax.

Key Changes:

- » Emphasizes policies that encourage creating cell-connected and amenity-rich centers.
- » Adds policies to support anti-displacement strategies for existing businesses.
- » Emphasizes policies that encourage strengthening the diverse services and businesses in the City's centers and high-capacity transit areas.
- » Adds policies to promote creating a varied and resilient tax base.
- » Adds policies to improve access to living-wage jobs.
- » Strengthens policies that foster supportive and inclusive business environments.



Community Development

The Community Development Element influences how Shoreline physically appears and functions, and aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the City and quality of life of residents. This element also supports furthering the various human services provided by the City, and highlights the importance of community engagement all aspects of the City development.

Key Changes:

- » Emphasizes policies to encourage high-quality, functional, and aesthetically pleasing developments.
- » Strengthens policies that promote tree preservation to preserve and increase tree canopy.
- » Adds policies to encourage complete, well-connected, and safe bike and pedestrian networks throughout the City.
- » Adds policies supporting the City's existing human services programs.
- » Adds policies supporting the City's actions to inform and involve the community in planning decisions, particularly those historically underrepresented.

Key Changes to:



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Transportation

The Transportation Element provides a framework for future transportation investments, and provides a roadmap for creating a welcoming and functional system for all users, including people walking, biking, using shared-use mobility devices, riding transit, as well as driving.

Key Changes:

- » Adds policies strengthening the City's commitment to providing complete multi-modal transportation system.
- » Adds multi-modal level of service (LOS) standards for pedestrians, bicycles, and transit.
- » Strengthens policies that encourage the creation of well-connected streets, providing access to key locations, such as parks, schools, community services, commercial centers, places of employment, and housing.
- » Adds policies to encourage the addition of arts installations and signage in the public realm to promote placemaking efforts.



Utilities

The Utilities Element supports the City's responsibility for ensuring that residents are provided with basic utility services, and for coordinating with private utilities to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan is supported by utility infrastructure.

It covers the following utilities: electrical, natural gas, and telecommunication services (cable, telephone, etc.).

Key Changes:

- » Strengthens policies supporting coordination efforts with utility providers.
- » Adds policies to promote the City working with utility providers to provide resilient, reliable, and equitable services.
- » Adds policies supporting sustainable building and management efforts, such as the electrification of buildings, and utilization of composting and recycling programs.



Capital Facilities

The Capital Facilities Element supports the City's responsibility to provide facilities and services that are needed by the residents and businesses of the city for a safe, secure, and efficient environment.

It covers public facilities and publicly-provided services including water, sewer, stormwater, fire protection, police, and schools.

Key Changes:

- » Adds policies to promote the City providing resilient, reliable, and equitable services.
- » Strengthens policies to support establishing and monitoring level of service standards (LOS) for all City-run facilities and services.
- » Adds policies to support emergency management planning, programs, and infrastructure.
- » Strengthens policies supporting coordination efforts with the school district, emergency service providers, and other service providers.