

King County Town Hall Summary



Across Landscapes

What characteristics of the community are you proud of?

- **King county has beautiful, peaceful, and natural landscapes that protect and preserve natural open space, clean water, and biodiversity.**
- **King county communities have efficiently maintained viable clean water in aquifers and surface waters.**
- **King county has unique working landscapes that support commercial fishing, waterfront trade, timber harvesting, and farming.**
- **Our communities provide viable economic opportunities to the people who live in this region including natural resources jobs such as farming, fishing, and forestry.**
- **People in King county have access to the outdoors, natural resources, and a diversity of recreational opportunities in the many parks, trails, and access points to rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound.**
- **Our community recognizes the unique cultural identity of this place which is defined by the natural resources of the forested Cascades and running waters of the Puget Basin. Our community values protection, conservation, restoration, and stewardship of our community and natural resources.**
- **Communities in King county are small, close-knit, diverse and changing.**

What characteristics of the community worry you?

- **The continued urbanization, unplanned growth, consumption, and sprawling development from shorelines to ridgelines.**
- **The continued loss of open space, natural systems, and wildlife.**
- **The loss of natural resources-based economies and jobs due to the degradation of natural resources and a changing economy.**
- **Climate change, drought, and a limited reservoir capacity that challenges our ability to sustain water resources economically and equitably.**
- **Current economic systems that do not value the true benefits and costs of natural resources, and therefore inhibit our ability to efficiently and economically manage our resources.**
- **The lack and unfair distribution of funding for natural resources conservation, especially restoration, protection of urbanized natural areas, and stewardship.**
- **Our fast-paced and busy lifestyles that create feelings of apathy and loss of control toward threats and challenges to natural resource protection.**
- **Our short-term thinking that creates barriers to innovation and a willingness to try new solutions.**

What characteristics about the community do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

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- **Healthy, intact, and diverse ecosystems that support clean air, clean water, and biodiversity.**
- **Public access and proximity to trails, parks, and other recreational opportunities that provide a variety of outdoor experiences.**
- **Sustainable communities with strong and healthy economies and environments.**
- **Diverse, integrated, multi-generational, and well educated communities.**
- **Strategic and coordinated long-term plans and guidelines to manage growth, maintain a high quality of life, and protect natural resources.**
- **A shared vision and sense of responsibility to our community and resources promoted by communication and cooperation among elected officials, businesses, and the broader population.**

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- **Create a healthy economy and community where generations of people want to live, and invest by conserving our natural resources.**
- **Work together toward an integrated plan that combines environmental, economic, and community concerns, and anticipates changes in these systems over time.**
- **Investigate economic incentives and marketing for green development because open spaces make communities attractive and desirable places for people to live and work.**
- **Ensure the economic sustainability of our farms, forested, and recreational lands in order to have fresh food and timber products for our homes, preserve natural resource jobs, and maintain open and natural spaces in our region.**
- **Provide funding to protect and manage natural resources as well as stewardship of public lands.**
- **Pay for the true cost of the services natural system provide such as clean water, clean air, and recreational values.**
- **Educate and encourage people to think broadly.**

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- **Approach conservation, economic and community planning from a landscape and systems perspective that focuses on values, ecology, sustainability, innovation, flexibility, and active decision making.**
- **Reliable protection and restoration of a diversity of natural landscapes, including connective areas, urban green spaces, and watersheds.**
- **Recognition that ecosystems and natural resources provide important, valued services to our community and economy.**
- **An ethic that all of us are responsible for conserving the Cascades, Puget Sound and natural resources beyond our region.**

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Waters Landscape

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, are you proud of?

- King county has beautiful and peaceful natural landscapes that support marine and aquatic biodiversity.
- King county communities have efficiently maintained viable clean water in aquifers and surface waters.
- King county has unique working landscapes that support commercial fishing, waterfront trade, and other waterfront activities.
- People in King county have access to recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating, and fishing.
- Our community recognizes the unique value and cultural identity of this place which is defined, organized, and connected by water. Local people value protection, conservation, restoration, and stewardship of our community and natural resources.

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, worry you?

- The expanding population, over-consumption, and sprawling development from shorelines to ridgelines.
- Climate change, drought, and a limited reservoir capacity that challenges our ability to sustain water resources and balance our water budget economically and equitably.
- Current economic systems that do not value the true benefits and costs of natural resources, and therefore inhibit our ability to efficiently and economically manage our resources.
- Our fast-paced and busy lifestyles that create feelings of apathy and loss of control toward threats to natural resources protection.
- Our short-term thinking that creates barriers to innovation and a willingness to try new things, such as using urban lands more intensely.

What characteristics about the community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Restored and uncontaminated natural shorelines, estuaries, rivers, riparian areas, shellfish, fish, and other marine and aquatic resources.
- Livable communities with green open spaces, clean drinking water, and active economies that support local jobs.
- Livable communities that use innovative architecture, design and engineering to reduce our cumulative impact on water resources, and recognition that protecting natural functions, such as the filtering capacity of natural vegetation, has great economic benefits.

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- Long-term plans and guidelines to manage growth, maintain a high quality of life, and protect water resources.
- A shared vision and sense of responsibility to our community and resources promoted by communication and cooperation among elected officials, businesses, and the broader population.
- Community involvement and volunteerism promoted by a slower pace of life, a change of our work ethic to “work to live, not live to work,” and ecological education.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Restore natural shorelines of Puget Sound by removing bulkheads.
- Manage growth by investigating economic incentives and marketing for green development and using transfer of development rights as a tool.
- Consider the effects of global warming on our water supply.
- Understand that the costs of water conservation on our economy and increase efficiency of fresh water use.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- A systems approach to conservation and community development planning that focuses on sustainability, cooperation, trust, economics, ecology, innovation, flexibility and active decision making.
- Protection and restoration of waters, rivers, riparian habitats, connected natural areas and shorelines.
- Ecological education and experience with the outdoors for all people.

Cascades Landscape

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Cascades Landscape”, are you proud of?

- King county has sustainable large and intact forest landscapes with open spaces, trees, wildlife, and functioning watersheds.
- King county supports unique and economically viable working forest landscapes and communities that provide local forest products to the region. Our forestry economy has benefited from long-term stewardship and management of forests.
- People in King county have access to trails and parks for recreation and connecting greenways.
- People in our community value the historic heritage of our forested landscapes.

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Cascades Landscape”, worry you?

- The continued development that converts working forest lands to residential and commercial uses, restricts access to recreational opportunities, reduces

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wildlife and natural resource benefits, and leads to a loss of natural resource jobs.

- The loss of choices for affordable housing.

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Intact, large forested landscapes that support biodiversity.
- Livable communities with public access and proximity to trails, parks, and other recreational opportunities that provide a variety of outdoor experiences.
- Sustainable and coordinated planning for recreation, conservation, and community development with reasonable regulations, moderate taxation, and respect for private property rights.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Ensure the economic sustainability of our working farms and forested lands in order to have fresh food and timber products for our homes, preserve natural resources jobs, and maintain open and natural spaces in our region.
- Investigate economic incentives that maintain working landscapes.
- Consider all resources and impacts when planning for salmon habitat restoration.
- Enhance our tourism economy.
- Create sustainable communities that are modeled after older, compact, and self-sufficient towns.
- Provide funding for natural resources protection, management, and stewardship of public lands promoted by better accounting of the value of natural resources.

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Reliable protection of a variety of natural landscapes, including urban green spaces and forests, as well as other economically viable and sustainable land uses.
- Recognition that ecosystems and natural resources provide important and valued services to our community and economy and that all of us are responsible for conserving the Cascades and regions beyond King County.

Communities

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Communities Landscape”, are you proud of?

- King county has a beautiful diversity of wildlife and of naturally connected landscapes, rural areas, and open spaces.
- King county has economically viable farming communities that provide local produce throughout the region.

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- People in King county have access to the outdoors, natural resources and recreation through community trails and parks.
- Local people value protection, conservation, restoration, and stewardship of our community and natural resources.
- Communities in King county are small, close-knit, diverse and changing.

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Communities Landscape”, worry you?

- The continued urbanization, unplanned growth, and development.
- The loss of open space, shorelines, wetlands, wildlife and natural areas, especially in urban areas and less affluent communities.
- The narrow focus of community planning that excludes the consideration of economics, transportation, education, health, safety, and other community values.
- A lack of funding for natural resources conservation, especially restoration, protection of urbanized natural areas, and stewardship.
- A changing agricultural economy.

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Open space, clean air, water, and natural areas.
- Access and proximity to walkable communities, recreation, and other natural resources.
- Sustainable communities with strong and healthy economies and environments where our grandchildren can grow-up, live for the long-term, and prosper.
- Desirable choices for land uses, food, transportation, and housing.
- Strategic and thoughtful planning, policies, taxes, and laws.
- A shared vision for our region promoted by citizen involvement, stewardship and education.

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Create a healthy economy and community where generations of people want to live and invest by conserving our natural resources.
- Increase land and property values, enhance tourism and our outdoor recreation economy, and support working lands by conserving natural resources.
- Invest in programs that support working lands and balance multiple uses in our landscape.
- Anticipate changes in the economy, environment, and government policies and regulations.
- Reduce our use of chemicals.
- Provide funding for natural resources protection, management, and stewardship.

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- **Pay for the true costs of our impacts to the environment and value for the services that natural resources provide.**

What are some important principles to this community?

- **Value for land, water, air, open spaces and natural resources.**
- **Value for working landscapes, livable communities, and good economics.**