



## **GLOSSARY**

### **& FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS**

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#### **Active Recreation Site**

Active recreation sites recognize a higher level of public use and will require developed areas for organized or intense recreation. An active recreation site includes both the active recreation uses and all necessary support services and facilities.

#### **Adaptive management**

Adaptive management is a systematic approach for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs.

#### **Agricultural activities**

Agricultural activities means agricultural uses and practices including, but not limited to: producing, breeding, or increasing agricultural products; rotating and changing agricultural crops; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie fallow in which it is plowed and tilled but left unseeded; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant as a result of adverse agricultural market conditions; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant because the land is enrolled in a local, state, or federal conservation program, or the land is subject to a conservation easement; conducting agricultural operations; maintaining, repairing, and replacing

agricultural equipment; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural facilities, provided that the replacement facility is no closer to the shoreline than the original facility; and maintaining agricultural lands under production or cultivation.

**Agricultural Production Districts (APD)**

The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, agricultural lands that are not characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products. The comprehensive plan designates Agricultural Production Districts where the principal land use should be agriculture. Lands within Agricultural Production Districts should remain in parcels large enough for commercial agriculture. (See Chapter 3, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.)

**Agricultural products**

Agricultural products include, but are not limited to: horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, vegetable, fruit, berry, grain, hops, hay, straw, turf, sod, seed, and apiary products; feed or forage for livestock; Christmas trees; hybrid cottonwood and similar hardwood trees grown as crops and harvested within twenty years of planting; and livestock, including both the animals themselves and animal products including, but not limited to, meat, upland finfish, poultry and poultry products, and dairy products.

**Annexation**

Annexation is the process of adding or incorporating an area into a city's jurisdiction.

**Applicant**

An applicant is a property owner, a public agency or a public or private utility that owns a right-of-way or other easement or has been adjudicated the right to such an easement under RCW 8.08.040, or any person or entity designated or named in writing by the property or easement owner to be the applicant, in an application for a development proposal, permit or approval.

**Arterial Functional Classification**

Arterial functional classification is the division of a road system into a number of categories according to the function of each road. The degree to which the road serves movement of traffic or access to adjacent properties is the basis for its classification. Principal arterials provide for movement across large areas, serving predominantly “through traffic.” Minor arterials provide movement to abutting properties and to arterials within large areas bound by principal arterials. Collector arterials serve smaller areas by “collecting” traffic to or from abutting properties and funneling it to and from the transportation system.

**Biodiversity**

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the variety of living organisms considered at all levels, from genetic diversity through species, to higher taxonomic levels, and includes the variety of habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in which the species are found.

**Brownfields**

Brownfields are defined as vacant or underdeveloped industrial/commercial sites with real or perceived contamination.

**Buffer**

A buffer is a designated area contiguous to a steep slope or landslide hazard area intended to protect slope stability, attenuation of surface water flows and landslide hazards, or a designated area contiguous to and intended to protect and be an integral part of an aquatic area or wetland.

**Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

The Adopted Capital Improvement Program budget allocates funds from various revenue sources to improve cultural and recreational opportunities for King County citizens, build needed transportation facilities, protect ~~((our))~~ the County's investment in existing buildings, protect the health of ~~((our))~~ citizens, enhance the management of natural resources, and provide necessary capital resources for ~~((our))~~ the law, safety, and justice system.

**Channel migration hazard area, moderate**

A portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps, which lies between the severe channel migration hazard area and the outer boundaries of the channel migration zone.

**Channel migration hazard area, severe**

A portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps, which includes the present channel. The total width of the severe channel migration hazard area equals one hundred years times the average annual channel migration rate, plus the present channel width. The average annual channel migration rate as determined in the technical report is the basis for each Channel Migration Zone map.

**Channel Migration Zone**

Channel migration zones are those areas along a river channel within which the channel(s) can be reasonably predicted, based on best available science, to migrate over time as a result of natural and normally occurring hydrological and related processes when considered with the characteristics of the river and its surroundings.

**Clearing**

Clearing includes cutting, killing, grubbing or removing vegetation or other organic plant material by physical, mechanical, chemical or any other similar means. For the purpose of this definition of clearing, cutting means the severing of the main trunk or stem of woody vegetation at any point.

**Clustering**

Clustering means developing a subdivision that reduces the individual lot areas to create permanent open space or a reserve for future development while it maintains the zoned residential density.

**Community Business Centers**

These are primarily retail developments designed to serve a nearby market area of 15,000 to 40,000 people. (See Chapter 2, Urban Communities.)

**Community Service Areas (CSA)**

The CSA Program is housed in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks. This program promotes robust public engagement that informs, involves, and empowers people and communities in unincorporated urban and rural King County.

**Community Service Area Plan**

With King County's initiation of the subarea planning program, the new plans will be called Community Service Area Plan. These will be a long-range, multi-discipline, integrated tools that apply the countywide goals of the Comprehensive Plan to a smaller geographic area. Each one of King County's seven CSAs has or is scheduled to have its own CSA Plan. CSA Plans are comprised of two primary components: a CSA Plan Profile and a CSA Subarea Plan. A CSA Plan Profile applies to an entire CSA geography and includes broad goals and policies, CSA demographics, major land uses and trends, and socioeconomic indicators. A CSA Subarea Plan is typically prepared for a targeted area of a CSA such as a rural town center, urban neighborhood or corridor. They contain a more detailed plan or analysis than a CSA Plan Profile and often address the intersection of land use, transportation, housing, and/or the environment. These plans implement and are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's policies, development regulations, and Land Use Map.

**Comprehensive Plan**

The state of Washington's Growth Management Act requires certain cities and counties of the state to adopt comprehensive land use plans. A comprehensive plan is a generalized, coordinated land use policy statement of the governing body of a county or city that is adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act. A comprehensive plan consists of a map or maps; descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the comprehensive plan; and a plan, scheme or design for land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, rural areas, natural resource lands, and transportation. Optional components include elements relating to conservation, solar energy, recreation, and subarea plans.

### **Concurrency Management System**

The Growth Management Act requires jurisdictions to adopt and enforce ordinances that prohibit development approval if the development causes the level of service on a transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are made “concurrent” with the development. Concurrent with development means that transportation improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development or that financial commitment is made to complete the improvements or strategies within six years. The Concurrency Management System of King County establishes a process to manage new development based on transportation impacts on levels of service and the concurrency of needed improvements or actions. (See Chapter ((7)) 8, Transportation).

### **Coordinated Water System Plans**

Four Critical Water Supply Service Areas have been designated in King County in accordance with the Public Water System Coordinated Act of 1977 (chapter 70.116 RCW): East King County, Skyway, South King County, and Vashon Island. The Coordinated Water System Plan for each area provides an assessment of water supply and a program to meet future demand. Planning areas, within which a water purveyor is obligated to provide service consistent with county land use plans and regulations, were assigned for major purveyors.

### **Countywide Planning Policies (CPP)**

The Growth Management Act requires that counties, as regional governments within their boundaries, prepare countywide planning policies which establish a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are to be developed and adopted. This framework is to ensure that city and county comprehensive plans are consistent. The King County Countywide Planning Policies were developed and recommended by the Growth Management Planning Council and are to serve as a blueprint for how King County and its cities should grow over the next 20 years. The Metropolitan King County Council adopted these policies in 1992. Since this time, amendments called “Phase II Countywide Planning Policies” have been made to the sections pertaining to affordable housing, economic development and rural character. The County Council has adopted these Phase II amendments. (See Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning.)

### **Critical Areas**

The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, critical areas which include: 1) wetlands, 2) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, 3) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, 4) frequently flooded areas, and 5) geologically hazardous areas. (See Chapter ((4)) 5, Environment, for King County’s designation of critical areas.)

### **Critical Habitat**

Critical habitat includes specific areas that possess physical or biological features, which are essential to the conservation of a listed species.

**Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources include performing and visual arts events, programs and facilities; public art; heritage events, programs and facilities; and historic properties.

**Cumulative impacts**

Cumulative impacts are the sum total of the current, plus any reasonably foreseeable future disturbances to ecological functions, which can be impacted by both development subject to shoreline permits and by development that is not subject to permits.

**Deficiency**

Deficiency in a comprehensive plan or development regulation refers to the absence of required or potentially desirable contents of a comprehensive plan or development regulation.

**Density**

Density is the quantity of structures or buildings per unit area. Density is typically expressed as housing units per acre or square mile.

**Density Incentives/Bonuses**

Density incentives, or density bonuses, are programs that allow more dwelling units than the number permitted on a site by zoning (sometimes referred to as "base density") in exchange for public benefits provided by the developer. King County has incorporated use of density incentives with standard urban subdivision, mobile home park, and multifamily development projects. (King County Code, Title 21A)

**Development**

For purposes of the shoreline master program, development means a use consisting of the construction or exterior alteration of structures; dredging; drilling; dumping; filling; removing sand, gravel, or minerals; bulkheading; driving of piling; placing of obstructions; or any project of a permanent or temporary nature which interferes with the normal public use of the surface of the waters overlying lands subject to any state of water level.

**Development regulations**

Development regulations means the controls placed on development or land uses by a county or city, including, but not limited to: zoning ordinances, critical areas ordinances, all portions of a shoreline master program other than goals and policies approved or adopted under chapter 90.58 RCW, planned unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances together with any amendments thereto.

**Docket**

A list of suggested changes to a comprehensive plan or development regulations maintained by the department.

**Docket Process, The**

The docket process specifies that dockets are not just to note deficiencies, but also to suggest changes and make written comments. These suggested changes are reviewed by the county and made available for review by the public. Information provided to the public will include the county's response. An Internet docket process is available and can be found at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits/codes/growth/CompPlan/amend/docket.aspx>.

**Docketing**

Docketing means compiling and maintaining a list of suggested changes to the comprehensive plan or development regulations in a manner that will ensure such suggested changes will be considered by the county and will be available for review by the public.

**Drainage Basin**

A drainage basin, like a watershed, is an area that drains to a common outlet or an identifiable water body such as a river, stream, lake or wetland. In King County, 72 drainage basins are contained within six major watersheds. These drainage basins in turn contain numerous individual water bodies with small drainages.

**Dredging**

Dredging is the removal, displacement, or disposal of unconsolidated earth material such as sand, silt, gravel, or other submerged materials, from the bottom of water bodies, ditches, or natural wetlands. Maintenance dredging and/or support activities are included in this definition.

**Dwelling unit**

A dwelling unit consists of one or more rooms designed for occupancy by a person or household for living and sleeping purposes, containing kitchen facilities and rooms with internal accessibility, for use solely by the dwelling's occupants. Dwelling units include but are not limited to efficiency and studio apartments, factory-built housing and mobile homes.

**Ecological Function**

An ecological function refers to physical, chemical, and biological processes or attributes at some level of biological organization. For example, the ecological functions of wetlands include food chain support, water quality maintenance, flood storage, and wildlife habitat.

**Ecoregions**

Ecoregions are land areas that contain a geographically unique set of species, communities, and environmental conditions.

**Ecosystem**

Ecosystem means the complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit.

**Ecosystem-wide processes**

Ecosystem-wide processes means the suite of naturally occurring physical and geologic processes of erosion, transport, and deposition; and specific chemical processes that shape landforms within a specific shoreline ecosystem and determine both the types of habitat and the associated ecological functions.

**Emissions Trading**

Emissions trading means the transfer in ownership of emission reductions. Emission trading occurs when a source of air pollution reduces its emissions and then transfers ownership of the emission reduction to another party. Markets for emission reductions can be created by regulation (the market for sulfur dioxide allowances for example) or voluntarily (the current market for greenhouse gases).

**Endangered Species**

Endangered species means any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and which has been designated as such in regulations issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the state of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

The Endangered Species Act is an act that was adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1973 to provide a means to conserve ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend and to provide a program for the conservation for such endangered and threatened species.

**Endemic Species**

Endemic species (or habitats or ecosystems) are those that are native to, and occur only in, a particular area or locale. Endemic species generally have very specific adaptive requirements that are linked to particular habitat or ecosystems that are rare (e.g., Townsend's big-eared bats and caves). Even small changes in the ecosystem are likely to cause localized extinctions of these species.

**Enhance**

Enhance means to increase or improve one or more of the functions, attributes, or values that an ecosystem or environmental feature possesses. (See Chapter Four, Environment).

**Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

Environmentally sensitive areas include: coal mines; areas that are prone to erosion, floods, landslides, or seismic activity; steep slopes; volcanic hazard areas; and streams, wetlands and protection buffers.

**Fair Housing Ordinance**

King County's Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, parental status, use of Section 8 subsidy, sexual orientation, disability or the use of a trained guide dog.

**Family-Wage Jobs**

Family-wage jobs are jobs that pay more than the average annual wage for King County in a given year and therefore enable a worker to support a family.

**Feasible**

Feasible means, for the purpose of this program, that an action, such as a development project, mitigation, or preservation requirement, meets all of the following conditions:

- (a) The action can be accomplished with technologies and methods that have been used in the past in similar circumstances, or studies or tests have demonstrated in similar circumstances that such approaches are currently available and likely to achieve the intended results;
- (b) The action provides a reasonable likelihood of achieving its intended purpose; and
- (c) The action does not physically preclude achieving the project's primary intended legal use.

In cases where these guidelines require certain actions unless they are infeasible, the burden of proving infeasibility is on the applicant. In determining an action's infeasibility, the reviewing agency may weigh the action's relative public costs and public benefits, considered in the short- and long-term time frames.

**FEMA floodway**

A FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) floodway is the channel of the stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to contain and discharge the 100-year flood flow without increasing the base flood elevation more than one foot.

**Fill**

Fill means the addition of soil, sand, rock, gravel, sediment, earth retaining structure, or other material to an area waterward of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), in wetlands, or on shorelands in a manner that raises the elevation or creates dry land.

**Flood Hazard Management Plan**

The King County Flood Hazard Management Plan contains policies and program and project recommendations that guide floodplain use and development throughout King County.

**Floodplain**

Floodplain is the total area subject to inundation by the 100-year flood.

**Floodway, zero-rise**

Floodway zero-rise is the channel of a stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without any measurable increase in base flood elevation.

- A. For the purpose of this definition, measurable increase in base flood elevation means a calculated upward rise in the base flood elevation, equal to or greater than 0.01 foot, resulting from a comparison of existing conditions and changed conditions directly attributable to alterations of the topography or any other flow obstructions in the floodplain. Zero-rise floodway is broader than that of the FEMA floodway but always includes the FEMA floodway.
- B. Zero-rise floodway includes the entire floodplain unless a critical areas report demonstrates otherwise.

**Forest practice**

Forest practice is any forest practice as defined in RCW 76.09.020.

**Forest Production Districts (FPD)**

The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, forest lands that are not characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber. The Comprehensive Plan designates Forest Production Districts where the primary use should be commercial forestry. Lands within the Forest Production District shall remain in large parcels and in ownership conducive to forestry. (See Chapter 3, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands).

**Fully Contained Community (FCC)**

A fully contained community (~~((FCC))~~) is a site-specific development project consisting of conceptual site plan(s), development standards, processing and other elements. It is also consistent with the criteria provided in RCW 36.70A.350 which states that (~~((FCCs))~~) Fully Contained Communities should be located outside of the initially designated Urban Growth Area.

**Functional Classification**

See "Arterial Functional Classification"

**Functional Planning**

Functional plans are detailed plans for facilities and services and action plans and programs for other governmental activities. Some functional plans are operational or programmatic, which means they guide daily management decisions. Others include specific details of facility design and location and must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations. Functional plans are prepared by King County, independent special purpose districts or other public and private agencies. (See Chapter ~~((9))~~ 12, Implementation)

**Geotechnical report or geotechnical analysis**

Geotechnical report or geotechnical analysis means a scientific study or evaluation conducted by a qualified expert that includes: a description of the ground and surface hydrology and geology; the affected land form and its susceptibility to mass wasting, erosion, and other geologic hazards or processes; conclusions and recommendations regarding the effect of the proposed development on geologic conditions; the adequacy of the site to be developed; the impacts of the proposed development; alternative approaches to the proposed development; and measures to mitigate potential site-specific and cumulative geological and hydrological impacts of the proposed development, including the potential adverse impacts to adjacent and down-current properties. Geotechnical reports shall conform to accepted technical standards and must be prepared by qualified professional engineers or geologists who have professional expertise about the regional and local shoreline geology and processes.

**Global Warming**

Global warming is an increase in worldwide atmospheric temperature and resulting alterations in climate.

**Grading**

Grading is any excavation, filling, or removal of the duff layer or any combination thereof.

**Groundwater Management Plans**

King County has five Groundwater Management Areas (GWMA) for which citizens and technical experts are addressing groundwater issues. For each GWMA, a Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) has been developed per chapter 173-100 WAC (chapter 90.44 RCW). Each GWMP describes the area's groundwater resource, contains a detailed exploration of groundwater protection issues, and proposes solutions to perceived threats. These plans identify Sensitive Aquifer Areas to receive a special level of protection.

**Growth Management Act (GMA)**

In 1990 and 1991, the Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (~~((GMA)))~~ . The ~~((GMA))~~ Growth Management Act calls for urban counties and cities in the state to develop comprehensive plans to guide growth management decisions. Amendments to the Act in 1991 require that counties, working with the cities within their boundaries, develop Countywide Planning Policies to provide a common vision of the future to serve as the framework for all comprehensive plans throughout the county. (See Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning)

**Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)**

The Growth Management Planning Council (~~((GMPC)))~~ , which was established by an interlocal agreement, is a council of elected officials from Seattle, Bellevue, suburban cities, special purpose districts, the Port of Seattle, and King County. The ~~((GMPC))~~ Growth Management Planning Council is responsible for the preparation and recommendation of the Countywide Planning Policies to the Metropolitan King County Council, which then adopts the policies and sends them to the cities for ratification.

**Habitat**

Habitat is the area where wildlife normally lives and grows. Habitat components include food, water, cover (security, breeding, thermal) and space.

**Habitat Network**

Habitat network is a system of fish and wildlife habitat where connections between large habitat blocks and open spaces are necessary for the support of fish and wildlife through their life cycles.

**Healthy Community**

Healthy community (communities) means a community that makes it easier for people to live healthy lives by: encouraging mixed land use and greater land density to shorten distances between housing, workplaces, schools and recreation so people can walk or bike more easily to them; incorporating good pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, including sidewalks and bike paths that are safely removed from automobile traffic; providing opportunities for people to be physically active and socially engaged as part of their daily routine; including access to open space and parks; allowing people, if they choose, to age in place and remain in their community as their lifestyle changes or they face changing physical capabilities; and ensuring access to affordable and healthy food, especially fruits and vegetables.

**Healthy Housing**

Healthy housing means housing that protects all residents from exposure to harmful substances and environments, reduces the risk of injury, provides opportunities for safe and convenient daily physical activity, and assures access to healthy food and social connectivity.

**High Capacity Transit Facilities**

These include all of the elements of a system, including the rails, stations, vehicle infrastructure and associated supportive facilities.

**Historic Properties**

Historic properties include historic buildings, sites, objects, districts and landscapes, prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, and traditional cultural places.

**Historic Property, Significant**

Significant historic properties are those properties that meet the criteria for designation as County landmarks and/or listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Impervious surface**

An impervious surface is a surface that prevents, retards, or otherwise alters the entry of water into the soil mantle as compared to natural conditions prior to development; and/or a hard surface area that causes water to

run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from the flow present under natural conditions prior to development. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots and gravel roads.

**Incorporated Areas**

Incorporated areas are those areas within a city or a city's jurisdiction. King County contains the entirety of 39 incorporated cities and parts of two others.

**Infill**

Infill means development or redevelopment on small properties or groups of properties within existing built-up areas.

**Initial Project Needs**

Initial project needs are road improvement projects needed to address the impacts of a specific development. The projects must be concurrent with the development.

**Keystone Species**

Keystone species are those that exert a significant effect on the structure of the biological community of which they are a part. These species often prevent dominance by a single species and thereby maintain diversity in the community.

**Landfill**

Landfill is a disposal site or part of a site at which refuse is deposited.

**Land Use Map**

The land use map for the Comprehensive Plan designates the general location and extent of the uses of land for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, public utilities, public facilities, and other land uses as required by the Growth Management Act. The Land Use Map is not included in the Plan because it is very large; however a smaller representation of it is reproduced at the end of Chapter 1 of this Comprehensive Plan. The full size map is available for review at the (~~Department of Development and Environmental Services~~) Department of Permitting and Environmental Review and at the Clerk of the King County Council.

**Level of Service – Transportation (LOS)**

Transportation LOS is a qualitative measure describing the operational conditions of the transportation system as experienced by travelers.

**Locally Significant Resource Areas (LSRAs)**

LSRAs contribute to the aquatic resources within a specific basin, when compared to aquatic and terrestrial systems of similar size and structure elsewhere in the basin. They also provide wetland and stream habitat that is important for wildlife and salmonid diversity and abundance within the basin. (See Chapter ((4)) 5, Environment)

**Long term commercial ((~~significance~~)) significance**

Long-term commercial significance is defined in WAC 365-190-030(11) to include the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of land. Long-term commercial significance means the land is capable of producing the specified natural resources at commercially sustainable levels for at least a twenty-year planning period, if adequately conserved. Designated mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance may have alternative post-mining land uses, as provided by the Surface Mining Reclamation Act, comprehensive plan and development regulations, or other laws.

**Low Impact Development (LID)**

LID is an approach to land development that works to match a site's natural hydrologic function by protecting native vegetation and soils, reducing impervious surface and managing stormwater at the source.

**Master Planned Resorts**

RCW 36.70A.360 defines a Master Planned Resort as a self-contained and fully integrated planned unit development, in a setting of significant natural amenities, with primary focus on destination resort facilities consisting of short-term visitor accommodations associated with a range of developed on-site indoor or outdoor recreation facilities. A master planned resort may include other residential uses within its boundaries, but only if the residential uses are integrated into and support the on-site recreational nature of the resort.

**May**

See definition for “shall”

**Median Household Income**

The median household income is the income level at which half of all households has higher income and the other half has lower income.

**Mineral Resource Sites**

The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals. The comprehensive plan designates as Mineral Resource Sites existing, approved mining sites, and also designates as Potential Mineral Resource Sites properties on which King County expects some future mines may be located. (See Chapter 3, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands)

**Mitigation Bank**

A mitigation bank is a property approved by the appropriate county, state and federal agencies for restoration, creation, or enhancement to compensate for adverse impacts to wetlands caused by the development of public agency facilities and utility facilities.

**Mitigation Payment System**

This impact fee system establishes a requirement that new growth and development pay a proportionate share of the cost of needed transportation improvements. The mitigation payment system is authorized by state growth management legislation. (See Chapter ((7)) §, Transportation)

**Mixed Use**

Mixed use refers to a development with combined commercial and residential uses.

**Mode Split**

Mode split is the percentage of a specific mode's use from among all modes of travel. For example, if 25 trips out of 100 total trips are made by bus, the bus mode split is 25 percent. Modes of travel include single-occupant vehicles, transit, carpooling, bicycling, walking, and other modes.

**Multifamily Housing**

Multifamily housing structures are those with more than one unit. Multifamily housing includes duplexes, apartments and condominiums.

**Must**

See definition for "shall"

**Natural Area**

Natural areas are those properties in the county's natural lands inventory whose primary purpose is to conserve and restore ecological value. They may not be completely natural and undisturbed but may be important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological sites or features of scientific, traditional, cultural, or educational value. These sites may allow public use that does not harm the ecological resources of the site. Also referred to as Ecological Lands or Ecological sites.

**Neighborhood Business Centers**

Neighborhood Business Centers are shopping areas that offer convenience goods and services to local residents. They primarily contain retail stores and offices. (See Chapter 2, Urban Communities)

**New Growth**

New growth is growth that occurs subsequent to pipeline development for which no application is currently pending review/approval in the King County permitting process, but which is forecasted to occur over the next 20 years in this comprehensive plan.

**Nondegradation**

Nondegradation means to prevent the decline to a lower state, to keep from reducing the complexity, functions, or integrity of ecological processes or values.

**Nonmotorized Transportation**

Nonmotorized transportation refers to pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian travel, and the facilities needed to support such travel. For purposes of this ~~((Comprehensive))~~ Comprehensive Plan, wheelchairs, personal assistive mobility devices or scooters powered by electricity and used by physically impaired persons shall be considered nonmotorized transportation. Any motorized foot scooter, motor-driven cycle, moped, motor-powered bicycle, a motorcycle or, except as provided above, personal assistive mobility device shall be considered motorized transportation.

**Non-point Pollution**

Non-point pollution is pollution that enters any waters of the state from any dispersed land-based or water-based activities, including but not limited to atmosphere disposition, surface water runoff from agricultural lands, urban areas, or forest lands, subsurface or underground sources, or discharges from boats or marine vessels.

**Open Space System, King County**

King County's Open Space System is a regional system of *county-owned* parks, trails, natural areas, working agricultural and forest resource lands, and flood hazard management lands. This regional network of open spaces provides benefits to county residents including recreation, conservation of natural and working lands, flood hazard management, wildlife habitat, and connection of critical areas. (See Chapter ~~((6))~~ 7, Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources)

**Opportunity Mapping**

Opportunity mapping assesses the conditions present in neighborhoods across a region by examining indicators of opportunity in areas such as education, economy, transportation, housing, environment, and health. Opportunity mapping provides a comprehensive analytical framework to measure opportunity in the region and to determine who has access to opportunity-rich areas. Analysis of opportunity mapping can provide valuable information about where more affordable housing needs to be located, and what needs to be remedied in areas where these types of opportunities are currently very limited.

**Particulate Matter**

Particulate matter is solid or aerosol particles dispersed in the air including dust, soot, and oil. The major sources are industrial activities, fugitive road dust, motor vehicle emissions, and wood smoke.

**Passive Recreation Site**

Passive recreation sites require a lower level of development and provide areas for informal, self-directed activities for individuals and groups.

**Pervious surface**

A pervious surface is an area that allows the entry of water into the soil mantle, as under natural conditions prior to development.

**Pipeline Development**

Pipeline Development is comprised of land use development applications, whether vested or unvested, that were submitted prior to adoption of the King County Comprehensive Plan and are pending review/approval in the permitting process.

**Pipeline transportation needs**

Pipeline transportation needs are associated with growth that is pending through the county's development review process.

**Point Pollution**

Point pollution is pollution that enters any waters of the state from an identifiable source such as a pipe.

**Potential Annexation Area (PAA)**

A Potential Annexation Area is an area in unincorporated King County adjacent to a city that is expected to annex to the city and to which that city will be expected to provide services and utilities within the next two decades. (See Chapter 2, Urban Communities)

**Precautionary Action**

Precautionary action, also referred to as the "no risk approach," means in such instances where an absence of valid scientific information or incomplete scientific information relating to the county's critical areas, leading to uncertainty about whether development and land uses could lead to harm of critical areas or uncertainty about the risk to critical area function, such development and land use activities are strictly limited until the uncertainty is sufficiently resolved.

**Preserve/Preservation**

Preserve/preservation, as used in Chapter 2, Urban Communities, and Chapter ((§)) 9, Services, Facilities and Utilities, regarding affordable housing, means the process of protecting the availability of affordable housing,

especially publicly-assisted affordable housing, for low and moderate income households when transitions from current assistance programs or affordable housing uses are planned. Preservation may occur through acquisition of the housing by a non-profit or public agency or through funding mechanisms that include a covenant or similar legal agreement requiring that the units in the property remain affordable to a designated household income-level for an extended period of time, such as 15 years, 30 years or 50 years. (See “Rehabilitate”)

**Priority habitat**

Priority habitat means a habitat type with unique or significant value to one or more species. An area classified and mapped as priority habitat must have one or more of the following attributes:

- Comparatively high fish or wildlife density;
- Comparatively high fish or wildlife species diversity;
- Fish spawning habitat;
- Important wildlife habitat;
- Important fish or wildlife seasonal range;
- Important fish or wildlife movement corridor;
- Rearing and foraging habitat;
- Important marine mammal haul-out;
- Refugia habitat;
- Limited availability;
- High vulnerability to habitat alteration;
- Unique or dependent species; or
- Shellfish bed.

A priority habitat may be described by a unique vegetation type or by a dominant plant species that is of primary importance to fish and wildlife (such as oak woodlands or eelgrass meadows). A priority habitat may also be described by a successional stage (such as old growth and mature forests). Alternatively, a priority habitat may consist of a specific habitat element (such as a consolidated marine/estuarine shoreline, talus slopes, caves, snags) of key value to fish and wildlife. A priority habitat may contain priority and/or nonpriority fish and wildlife. [WAC 173-26-020 (24)]

**Priority Species**

Priority species means species requiring protective measures and/or management guidelines to ensure their persistence at genetically viable population levels. Priority species are those that meet any of the criteria listed below.

- (a) Criterion 1. State-listed or state proposed species. State-listed species are those native fish and wildlife species legally designated as endangered (WAC 232-12-014), threatened (WAC 232-12-011), or sensitive (WAC 232-12-011). State proposed species are those fish and wildlife species that will be reviewed by the department of fish and wildlife (POL-M-6001) for possible listing as endangered, threatened, or sensitive according to the process and criteria defined in WAC 232-12-297.

- (b) Criterion 2. Vulnerable aggregations. Vulnerable aggregations include those species or groups of animals susceptible to significant population declines, within a specific area or statewide, by virtue of their inclination to congregate. Examples include heron colonies, seabird concentrations, and marine mammal congregations.
- (c) Criterion 3. Species of recreational, commercial, and/or tribal importance. Native and nonnative fish, shellfish, and wildlife species of recreational or commercial importance and recognized species used for tribal ceremonial and subsistence purposes that are vulnerable to habitat loss or degradation.
- (d) Criterion 4. Species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as either proposed, threatened, or endangered.

**Protect**

Protect means to keep from harm, attack, injury, or destruction; to maintain the integrity of, especially through environmental care.

**Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs)**

The Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) is a current use taxation program whereby property taxes are reduced by an amount determined by a scoring system related to the numbers and quality of open space resources located on all or portions of the property.

**Puget Sound**

Puget Sound is an estuary—a semi-enclosed, glacial fjord where salt water from the ocean is mixed with fresh water. Puget Sound is bordered by about 1,300 miles of shoreline with a mix of beaches, bluffs, deltas, mudflats, kelp forests and eelgrass meadows. Approximately 100 miles of this saltwater shoreline lie within King County. King County's immediate responsibilities include those portions of Puget Sound which lie within the county, roughly between Point Wells to the north and Dumas Bay to the south. King County shares responsibility for the health of the main basin of Puget Sound with its neighbors—Pierce County, Kitsap County, and Snohomish County.

**Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)**

The PSRC is the designated metropolitan planning organization for the four-county region that includes King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, and is responsible for regional growth management and transportation planning. The PSRC's General Assembly includes mayors, county executives, and council commission members from the four counties, as well as representatives from local tribes, ports, transit agencies, the State Department of Transportation and Transportation Commission. The PSRC prepared Multi-county Planning Policies for the four-county region.

**Rare Species**

Rare species, habitats, and ecosystems are those that are few in number or are poorly represented in an area. Rare species often lack the capability to resist changes in environmental conditions or lack the resilience to

recover after a change. Species, habitats, and ecosystems may be rare because of the following reasons: changing natural conditions have reduced their range, abundance, or distribution; they depend on specific environmental conditions that are not commonly represented in this area (species or habitats at the edge of their range or occurring as relicts); and anthropogenic (human-related) actions have caused habitat loss or severe decreases in range or abundance.

**((Reclaimed)) Recycled Water (also, referred to as Reclaimed Water)**

((Reclaimed)) Recycled water means effluent from a wastewater treatment system that has been adequately and reliably treated, so that as a result of that treatment it is suitable for a beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur, and is no longer considered wastewater. ((Reclaimed)) Recycled is also referred to as Reclaimed Water under Washington State law. Recycled water may be used for beneficial purposes such as landscape and agricultural irrigation, heating and cooling, industrial processing, and environmental enhancement or restoration of streams, wetlands, and aquifers.

**Regionally Significant Resource Area (RSRA)**

RSRAs are those portions of watersheds that contribute to the resource base of the entire Puget Sound region by virtue of exceptional species and habitat diversity and abundance when compared to aquatic and terrestrial systems of similar size and structure elsewhere in the region. RSRAs may also support rare, threatened or endangered species or communities. (See Chapter ~~((4))~~ 5, Environment)

**Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP)**

King County adopted the Regional Wastewater Service Plan (RWSP) in 1999. The RWSP outlines a number of important projects, programs, and policies for King County to implement through 2030 to continue to protect public health and water quality and ensure sufficient wastewater capacity to meet future growth needs. RWSP policies guide the phasing and size of treatment facilities and improvements to the conveyance system, as well as improvements to control combined sewer overflows. The RWSP also includes policies that guide the production and use of biosolids and ~~((reclaimed water))~~ recycled water.

**Rehabilitate/Rehabilitation**

Rehabilitate or rehabilitation, as used in Chapter 2, Urban Communities, and Chapter ~~((8))~~ 9, Services, Facilities and Utilities, regarding affordable housing, means as repairs, improvements, replacements, alterations, and additions to existing properties that bring them into full compliance with existing building and health codes. Rehabilitation may be minor, moderate, or substantial; or it may involve adaptive reuse from nonresidential to residential uses. Rehabilitation of housing is undertaken to improve and revitalize housing stock that is aging or in poor condition. When public funding is used for rehabilitation it is usual to require a covenant or other legal mechanism to preserve the affordability of the rehabilitated property. (See “Preserve”)

**Resource Lands, designated**

The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate natural resource lands which include the following: 1) agricultural lands that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products; 2) forest lands that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber; and 3) mineral resource lands that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals. The Comprehensive Plan designates Agricultural Production Districts, Forest Production Districts, and Mineral Resource Sites. (See Chapter 3, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands)

**Restore**

Restore means to return land and water resources from a disturbed or altered condition to an approximation of their condition prior to disturbance or alteration. Restoration projects are conducted by public agencies through capital improvement projects and by developers as a means to mitigate adverse impacts of their proposals. (Restoration of land is not required of developers when they protect land and water resources according to King County regulation.) (See Chapter ((4)) 5, Environment)

**Rezones**

Rezoning is the term that refers to the process of individual requests and applications to change the zoning classification of land.

**Riparian**

Pertains to the banks of rivers and streams, and also sometimes wetlands, tidewater and lakes.

**Rural Area (See also Rural Zoning)**

The Growth Management Act requires that counties designate a ~~((rural area))~~ Rural Area in order to conserve the rural character and quality of the existing rural lands in Washington. King County's Rural Area refers collectively to ((all)) the geography that contains the following land use categories – Rural Towns, Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, Rural Area 2.5, Rural Area 5, Rural Area 10 and Rural Area 20 ~~((of rural))~~ in unincorporated King County. The Rural Area does not include Natural Resource Lands, although resource activities occur on them. The ~~((rural area))~~ Rural Area contains very low-density residential development, commercial and industrial development, farms, forests, watersheds crucial for both fisheries and flood hazard management, mining areas and towns, historic sites and buildings, archaeological sites and regionally important recreation areas. (See Chapter 3, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands)

**Rural Character**

Rural character refers to the pattern of land use and development established by a county in the rural element of its comprehensive plan:

- (a) In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment;
- (b) That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in ~~((rural areas))~~ Rural Areas;

- (c) That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in (~~rural areas~~) Rural Areas and communities;
- (d) That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat;
- (e) That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development;
- (f) That generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services; and
- (g) That are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and groundwater and surface water recharge and discharge areas

**(~~Rural Cities~~) Cities in the Rural Area**

King County's (~~rural cities~~) Cities in the Rural Area are incorporated areas within the (~~rural area~~) Rural Area whose local governments are involved in the region's planning processes on an equal legal basis with the suburban cities and Seattle. The incorporated (~~rural cities~~) Cities in the Rural Area are Black Diamond, Carnation, Duvall, Enumclaw, North Bend, Skykomish and Snoqualmie. (See Chapter 3, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands)

**Rural Growth**

Rural Growth refers to residential, commercial, and industrial growth that is scaled to be compatible with, and maintains the traditional character of the Rural Area. Rural growth typically does not require urban governmental services except in the case of some (~~rural towns~~) Rural Towns to protect the environment as provided in this Comprehensive Plan. The basic elements of "Rural Character," as defined by the King County Countywide Planning Policies, are natural features, resource-based industries, rural towns, rural neighborhoods, rural infrastructure and services, open space system, rural housing, rural economy, and (~~rural cities~~) Cities in the Rural Area.

**Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers**

Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers (a specific land use category within the larger geography of Rural Areas) are small commercial developments, or in some cases, historic towns or buildings, that are too small to provide more than convenience shopping and services to surrounding residents. They generally do not have services such as water supply or sewage disposal systems any different from those serving surrounding rural residential development. (See Chapter 3, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands)

**Rural Towns**

Rural towns (a specific land use category within the larger geography of Rural Areas) are unincorporated towns governed directly by King County. They provide a focal point for community groups such as chambers of commerce or community councils to participate in public affairs. The purposes of (~~rural town~~) Rural Town designations within the Comprehensive Plan are to recognize existing concentrations of higher density and economic activity in (~~rural areas~~) Rural Areas and to allow modest growth of residential and economic uses to keep them economically viable into the future. (See Chapter 3, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands)

**Rural Zoning**

The rural zone refers to the zoning categories allowed in the Rural Area geography, which include Rural Area 2.5, Rural Area 5, Rural Area 10 and Rural Area 20, Rural Towns and Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers. This zoning is meant to provide an area-wide, long-term, rural character and to minimize land use conflicts with nearby agricultural, forest or mineral extraction production districts. These purposes are accomplished by: 1) limiting residential densities and permitted uses to those that are compatible with rural character and nearby resource production districts and are able to be adequately supported by rural service levels; 2) allowing small scale farming and forestry activities and tourism and recreation uses which can be supported by rural service levels and which are compatible with rural character; and 3) increasing required setbacks to minimize conflicts with adjacent agriculture, forest or mineral zones. (~~"Rural Area" is a land use classification as designated on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map.~~)

**Salmonid**

A member of the fish family Salmonidae. In King County, salmonid species include Chinook, Coho, chum, sockeye, and pink salmon; cutthroat, rainbow, and brown trout and steelhead; Dolly Varden, brook trout, char, kokanee, and whitefish.

**Satellite System Management**

When large water utilities oversee the operations of smaller water systems, not connected to their own system, it is called satellite system management. The satellite system manager is hired by the smaller system to operate and maintain the system in accordance with local, state and federal health regulations.

**Sediment Transport**

Sediment transport is the process of taking soil from one place and depositing it in another via the flow of water. Deposition of the soil occurs when sediment in the water flow is more than the flow can transport.

**Sensitive Areas Map Folio**

The folio displays the location of environmentally sensitive areas in unincorporated King County. It identifies sensitive areas for wetlands, streams, flood hazards, erosion hazards, landslide hazards, seismic hazards, and coal mine hazards.

**Sensitive Species**

Sensitive species means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or significant portion of its range and which has been designated as such in regulations issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Sewer Availability**

Sewer availability means the presence of sewers now or within six years through extensions included in adopted sewer comprehensive plans. In the case of Urban Planned Development, 1) the capacity to intercept and treat waste water as evidenced by a King County approved sewer system plan or a Metro utility plans, 2) a firm commitment to serve an area with sewer as evidenced by either a sewer availability certificate, utility extension agreement, or an approved sewer system plan and 3) a firm financial commitment to provide sewer, as evidenced by either a capital improvement program or utility extension agreement.

**Sewer Tightline**

Tightlining of sewers means that a sewer line is designed and sized to only serve a particular structure.

**Shall**

To guide King County, the use of the terms “shall,” “will,” “should,” and “may” in policies determine the level of discretion the county can exercise in making future and specific land use, budget, development regulation and other decisions. “Shall” and “will” in a policy mean that it is mandatory for the county to carry out the policy, even if a timeframe is not included. “Shall” and “will” are imperative and nondiscretionary—the county must make decisions based on what the policy says to do. “May” in a policy means that it is in the county’s interest to carry out the policy, but the county has total discretion in making decisions. “Must” in a policy means a mandate; the action is required. “Should” in a policy means: noncompulsory guidance, in which cost, availability of funding, and public benefit associated with the policy’s purpose are considered as part of the implementation decision; establishes that the county has discretion in making decisions.

**Shoreline Environment**

Shoreline environment or master program environment means the categories of shorelines of the state established by the King County shoreline (~~management~~) management master program to differentiate between areas whose features imply differing objectives regarding their use and future development.

**Shoreline Master Program**

The Shoreline Master Program is the comprehensive use plan for a described area, and the use regulations together with maps, diagrams, charts, or other descriptive material and text, a statement of desired goals, and standards developed in accordance with the policies enunciated in RCW 90.58.020.

**Should**

See definition for “shall”.

**Significant Adverse Environmental Impact**

Significant as used in State Environmental Policy Act means a reasonable likelihood of more than a moderate adverse impact on the environment. Significance involves context and intensity and does not lend itself to a formula or quantifiable text. The context may vary with the physical setting. Intensity depends on the

magnitude and duration of an impact. The severity of an impact should be weighed along with the likelihood of its occurrence. An impact may be significant if its chance of occurrence is not great, but the resulting environmental impact would be severe if it occurred.

**Significant vegetation removal**

Significant vegetation removal means the removal or alteration of trees, shrubs, and/or ground cover by clearing, grading, cutting, burning, chemical means, or other activity that causes significant ecological impacts to functions provided by such vegetation. The removal of invasive or noxious weeds does not constitute significant vegetation removal. Tree pruning, not including tree topping, where it does not affect ecological functions, does not constitute significant vegetation removal.

**Single-Family Housing**

Single-family housing units are individual structures including conventional houses and mobile homes.

**Species of Local Importance**

Species of local importance include priority species as identified by the state of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; bird species whose populations in King County are known to have declined significantly over the past 150 years; anadromous salmonids; and aquatic species whose populations are particularly vulnerable to changes in water quality and water quantity.

**Subarea Planning**

This level of planning brings the policy direction of the comprehensive plan to a smaller geographic area. Subarea plans are meant to provide detailed land use plans for local geographic areas. These plans are meant to implement the King County Comprehensive Plan and be consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan's policies, development regulations, and Land Use Map.

**Subdivision**

A subdivision is land that has been divided into legal lots, or is the process of dividing land into lots.

**Sustainable economic development**

Sustainable economic development means economic development that does not exceed the ability of the natural or built environments to remain healthy while sustaining growth over the long term.

**Substantially degrade**

Substantially degrade means to cause significant ecological impact.

**Totalizing source meter**

A totalizing source meter is a device that will measure the volume of water withdrawn from a well over time and provide a sum total of the water extracted. This type of meter is different than a meter that would measure just the instantaneous volume of water being withdrawn.

**Traditional Rural Development**

In King County, traditional rural land uses could include, but are not limited to: low density residential uses; small scale farming, forestry and mineral extraction; small, neighborhood churches; feed and grain stores; the keeping of horses and livestock; cottage industries, crafts and trades that support the residents of the ~~((rural area))~~ Rural Area and/or the needs of the natural resource production areas; and public and private facilities necessary to serve rural homes such as utility installations or public schools. In general, the rural development pattern in King County has historically been comprised of houses, barns, fences and cultivated fields, but natural features and open spaces are the predominant visual image.

**Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)**

Transfer of development rights means the ability to transfer allowable density, in the form of permitted building lots or structures, from one property (the "sending site") to another (the "receiving site") in conjunction with conservation of all or part of the sending site as open space or working farm or forest. King County allows transfers of development rights as part of standard subdivision, mobile home park and multifamily project review processes through its TDR Program. (King County Code, Title 21A)

**Transit Oriented Development (TOD)**

A private or public/private real estate development project that creates, expands, maintains or preserves a mixed-use community or neighborhood within walking distance of a transit center, or stop, that is designed to encourage transit use and pedestrian activity. ~~((TOD))~~ Transit Oriented Development projects support transit by increasing the density of residents, shoppers, visitors or employees per acre. New ~~((TOD))~~ Transit Oriented Development projects are often coupled with an increase in transit service to the area.

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM)**

~~((TDM))~~ Transportation Demand Management is a strategy to reduce the number of automobile trips, particularly trips taken in single-occupant vehicles. ~~((TDM))~~ Transportation Demand Management encourages public transportation over automobile use and specifically refers to policies, programs and actions implemented to increase the use of high-occupancy vehicles (public transit, car-pooling and van-pooling) and spread travel to less congested time periods through alternative work hour programs (See Chapter ~~((7))~~ 8, Transportation).

**Transportation Facilities and Services**

Transportation facilities and services are the physical assets of the transportation system that are used to provide mobility. They include roads, sidewalks, bike lanes and other facilities supporting nonmotorized travel, transit, bridges, traffic signals, ramps, buses, bus garages, park and ride lots and passenger shelters.

**Transportation needs for new growth**

Transportation needs for new growth are associated with growth that has been planned for 2012 in this comprehensive plan.

**Transportation Needs Report (TNR)**

The TNR is a comprehensive list of recommended county transportation needs through the year 2022 needed to implement the land use element. It includes transportation needs for unincorporated King County, and some city, state, and adjacent county projects. It does not include transit service or capital needs. (See Chapter ((7)) §, Transportation)

**Unemployment Rate**

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the civilian labor force that is unemployed and actively seeking work.

**Unincorporated Activity Centers**

Unincorporated Activity Centers are the primary locations for commercial and industrial development in urban unincorporated King County. Currently, White Center is the only designated Unincorporated Activity Center, as other such centers are now parts of cities. (See Chapter 2, Urban Communities)

**Unincorporated Areas**

Unincorporated areas are those areas outside any city and under King County's jurisdiction.

**Unique Wetland**

The term unique wetland refers to bogs and fens, which have unusual and sensitive water chemistries.

**Universal Design**

Universal design as used in Chapter 2, Urban Communities, means the design of products, buildings, and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, and which allows people to age in place in their home without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

**Urban Centers**

Urban Centers are centers of concentrated employment and housing located within the Urban Growth Area designated by the Phase II Countywide Planning Policies. Urban Centers are to be serviced directly by high-capacity transit and are to contain a wide variety of land uses, including retail, recreational, cultural and public facilities, parks and open spaces. Unincorporated Urban Centers are represented on Urban Centers Map included at the end of Chapter 2, Urban Communities.

**Urban Growth**

Urban growth refers to residential, commercial and industrial growth that makes intensive use of land for the location of buildings, structures and impermeable surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the primary use of such land for the production of food, other agricultural products, or fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources. Urban growth typically requires urban governmental services. "Characterized by urban growth" refers to land having urban growth located on it, or to land located in relationship to an area with urban growth.

**Urban Growth Area ((~~UGA~~))**

The Growth Management Act requires King County's Comprehensive Plan to designate an Urban Growth Area, where most future urban growth and development is to occur to limit urban sprawl, enhance open space, protect ((~~rural areas~~)) Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, and more efficiently use human services, transportation and utilities. The Comprehensive Plan designates an ((~~UGA~~)) Urban Growth Area which includes areas and densities sufficient to permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the county for the succeeding 20-year period. (See Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning, and Chapter 2, Urban Communities)

**Urban Growth Target**

The Growth Management Act and the Countywide Planning Policies require King County and its cities to plan for a 20-year population and employment growth target for each jurisdiction, based on designation of the Urban Growth Area, Urban Centers and the criteria of the Countywide Planning Policies. (See Chapter 2, Urban Communities)

**Urban Planned Developments (UPD)**

Urban Plan Developments are site specific projects consisting of conceptual site plans, development stands, processing and other elements.

**Urban Separator**

Urban separators are areas planned for permanent low-residential density within the Urban Growth Area. Urban separators protect adjacent resource land, environmentally sensitive areas, or ((~~rural areas~~)) Rural Areas and create open space corridors within and between urban areas which provide environmental, visual, recreations and wildlife benefits.

**Utilities Technical Review Committee (UTRC)**

The Utilities Technical Review Committee (UTRC) is an interdepartmental committee with responsibility for ensuring that water and sewer plans comply with county and state health requirements and county land use policies. The committee reviews the plans of all water and sewer utilities that operate in unincorporated King County and then recommends the plans to King County Executive and the Metropolitan King County Council for approval.

**Variable Tolling**

Variable tolling or pricing is any form of collecting a direct user fee on a roadway.

**Water Availability**

Water availability means the presence of a water source with applicable water rights that can serve the projected demand for the planning horizon, as shown in water comprehensive plans approved by King County. In the case of Urban Planned Developments, water availability is defined as: 1) presence of a water source with water rights that can serve the projected average daily demand; 2) a firm commitment to serve an area with water, as evidenced by either a water availability certificate, utility extension agreement or a King County approved water system plan; and 3) a firm financial commitment to provide water, as evidenced by either a capital improvement plan or utility extension agreement.

**Water Quality**

Water quality means the physical characteristics of water within shoreline jurisdiction, including water quantity, hydrological, physical, chemical, aesthetic, recreation-related and biological characteristics. Where used in this chapter, the term water quantity refers only to development and uses regulated under this chapter and affecting water quantity, such as pollution generating surfaces and storm water handling practices. Water quantity, for purposes of this comprehensive plan, does not mean the withdrawal of ground water or diversion of surface water pursuant to RCW 90.03.250 through 90.03.340.

**Water Reuse**

Water reuse refers to the use of ~~((reclaimed water))~~ recycled water or the reuse of other ~~((waste))~~ non-potable water, such as greywater, stormwater, or collected rainwater, as allowed under relevant state or local standards.

**Water Supply Availability**

Water supply availability is the presence of a water source with applicable water rights that can serve the projected demand through the planning horizon shown in adopted water comprehensive plans.

**Water System Classifications**

Water System Classifications define the level of service for different water systems. A public water system is defined as any system that has more than one connection. A well serving one house is a private system. Group A water systems have fifteen or more service connections. Group B water systems have two through fourteen service connections.

**Water System Plan**

Water system plans are planning documents that include water system plans as referred to in Chapter 43.20 RCW, comprehensive plans of water supply systems (including combined water and sewer plans) as referred to in RCW 57.16.010, water system plans and coordinated water system plans as referred to in RCW 70.116.050, and all other water system plans, comprehensive plans and plan elements that may be required under KCC 13.24

and this King County Comprehensive Plan for any special district or any other public or private entities that distribute or obtain water in unincorporated King County.

**Watershed**

A watershed, like a drainage basin, is an area that drains to a common outlet or an identifiable water body such as a river, stream, lake or wetland. The six major watersheds in King County are Cedar River, Green River, Skykomish River, Snoqualmie River and White River and the Puget Sound. These watersheds contain a total of 72 individual drainage basins. (See Chapter ((4)) 5, Environment)

**Well Head Protection**

Well head protection is another way that King County can protect its groundwater resource. This program directs purveyors to identify 1, 5, and 10-year time of travel to their well(s) to identify contamination sources, and to propose methods to reduce or eliminate contamination sources.

**Wetland**

The term wetland means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990 that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street or highway. Wetlands shall include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas to mitigate conversion of wetlands.

**Wetland Banking**

Wetland banking is a process that allows certain wetlands to be developed if the development is accompanied by the restoration or creation of wetlands in other areas. (See Chapter ((4)) 5, Environment)

**Wetland Functions**

Functions refer to the ecological (physical, chemical and biological) workings or attributes of a wetland regardless of their importance to society. Food chain support or the transport and transformation of chemicals in ecosystems are examples of wetland functions. Water quality maintenance, flood storage, and wildlife habitat are examples of ecological functions to which society attributes a value. (See Chapter ((4)) 5, Environment)

**Wetland Values**

Values are estimates, usually subjective, of the worth, merit, quality, or importance of wetland attributes that are valuable and beneficial to society. Values vary by watershed or human community. Education, research, aesthetics, and recreation are examples of other wetland attributes that may be considered values in that they are beneficial to society.

**Will**

See definition for “shall”.

## **Frequently Used Acronyms**

APD	Agricultural Production District
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CPP	Countywide Planning Policy
<u>CSA</u>	<u>Community Service Area</u>
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCC	Fully Contained Community
FPD	Forest Production District
GMA	Growth Management Act
GMPC	Growth Management Planning Council
HOT	High Occupancy Toll
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
KCCP	King County Comprehensive Plan
KCSP	King County Strategic Plan
LID	Low Impact Development
LOS	Level of Service
LSRA	Locally Significant Resource Area
MPP	Multi-county Planning Policies
MPS	Mitigation Payment System
PAA	Potential Annexation Area
PBRS	Public Benefit Rating System
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RSRA	Regionally Significant Resource Area
RWSP	Regional Wastewater Services Plan
SCAP	Strategic Climate Action Plan
SPPT	Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
SPRS	Strategic Plan for Road Services
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
TAM	Transportation Adequacy Measure
TDR	Transfer of Development Rights
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TNR	Transportation Needs Report

TOD	Transit Oriented Development
UGA	Urban Growth Area
UGB	Urban Growth Boundary
UPD	Urban Planned Development
UTRC	Utilities Technical Review Committee

**Legend for Revision Marks**

XYZ	Text or policy unchanged
<del>((XYZ))</del>	Text or policy deleted
<u>XYZ</u>	Text or policy added



**King County**

Office of Performance  
Strategy and Budget