



Development

Objective:

Protect and restore water quality, biodiversity, open space, and ecosystems

Strategy:

Focus development within the Urban Growth Area

Why is this strategy important?

Consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) and the King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), King County's Comprehensive Plan seeks to preserve the integrity of the Rural Area through appropriate maintenance of the Urban Growth Area (UGA). Planning for growth helps limit urban sprawl and more efficiently use transportation and utilities. This also enhances the open space system, protects environmentally sensitive areas, and protects rural areas for more land-based activities such as farming and forestry.

How is our performance?

Despite covering just one quarter of the land area of the county, the UGA has absorbed roughly 94 percent of the county's population growth since the year 2000. More specifically, from 2006 -- 2009, 23 percent of all new housing permitted in King County occurred within urban centers.

Moving forward

The King County Comprehensive Plan provides a legal framework for managing growth and making decisions about land use in unincorporated King County. Updated in 2012, the plan demonstrates King County's continued commitment to managing growth in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Related Links

[Washington State Growth Management Act](#)

[Vision 2040 Plan for Puget Sound](#)

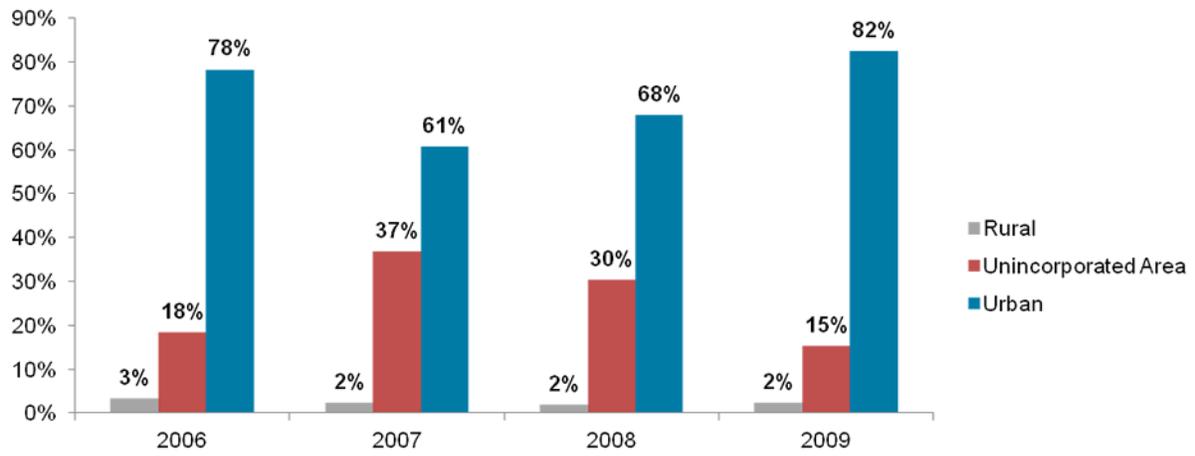
[King County Countywide Planning Policies and Plan](#)

Technical Notes

Percent of annual countywide housing development located in the Rural Area: as reported in the King County Benchmark Program. Data provided by the Puget Sound Regional Council.

Charts and Maps

Proportion of Annual Housing Development in King County by Geographic Area



Data provided by Puget Sound Regional Council, as reported in the King County Benchmark Program.