

## Attachment A: GMPC Recommended Amendments to Countywide Planning Policies Related to Urban Growth Area Amendments

*King County Countywide Planning Policies, as adopted (Ordinance 19553) on 12/6/2022, and ratified by 03/31/2023*

***In the Development Patterns chapter, beginning on page 25, amend as follows:***

1 **DP-17** Allow expansion of the Urban Growth Area only if at least one of the following criteria is  
2 met:

3 a) A countywide analysis determines that the current Urban Growth Area is insufficient in  
4 size and additional land is needed to accommodate the housing and employment  
5 growth targets, including institutional and other non-residential uses, and there are  
6 no other reasonable measures, such as increasing density or rezoning existing urban  
7 land, that would avoid the need to expand the Urban Growth Area; or

8 b) A proposed expansion of the Urban Growth Area is accompanied by dedication of  
9 permanent open space to the King County Open Space System, where the acreage  
10 of the proposed open space:

11 1) Is at least four times the acreage of the land added to the Urban Growth Area;

12 2) Is ~~((contiguous with))~~ adjacent to the original Urban Growth Area line adopted  
13 in the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan, as amended by Joint Planning  
14 Area Agreements for the City of North Bend in Ordinance 12535 and the City  
15 of Snoqualmie in Ordinance 14117, with at least ~~((a portion))~~ half of the  
16 dedicated open space ~~((surrounding))~~ to be located on the site and fully buffer  
17 the proposed Urban Growth Area expansion from surrounding Rural Area and  
18 Natural Resource Lands; and

19 3) Preserves high quality habitat, critical areas, or unique features that contribute  
20 to the band of permanent open space along the edge of the Urban Growth  
21 Area; or

22 c) The area is currently a King County park being transferred to a city to be maintained  
23 as a park in perpetuity~~((or is park land that has been owned by a city since 1994 and~~  
24 ~~is less than thirty acres in size)).~~

25

26 **DP-18** Add land to the Urban Growth Area only if expansion of the Urban Growth Area is  
27 warranted based on the criteria in DP-17(a) or DP-17(b), and it meets all of the following criteria:

28 a) For expansions based on DP-17(a) only:

29 1. Is adjacent to the existing Urban Growth Area((

- 30                    ~~b) For expansions based on DP-17(a) only, is));~~
- 31                    2. Is no larger than necessary to promote compact development that
- 32                    accommodates anticipated growth needs;
- 33                    ((e))b) Can be efficiently provided with urban services and does not require supportive
- 34                    facilities or services to cross or be located in the Rural Area;
- 35                    ((e))c) Follows topographical features that form natural boundaries, such as rivers and
- 36                    ridge lines and does not extend beyond natural boundaries, such as watersheds, that
- 37                    impede the provision of urban services;
- 38                    ((e))d) Is not currently designated as Natural Resource Land;
- 39                    ((f))e) Is sufficiently free of environmental constraints to be able to support urban
- 40                    development without significant adverse environmental impacts, unless the area is
- 41                    designated as an Urban Separator by interlocal agreement between King County
- 42                    and the annexing city; ((and))
- 43                    f) Is not expanding the Urban Growth Area from a location that was previously expanded
- 44                    through the Four-to-One program;
- 45                    g) Is subject to an agreement between King County and the city or town adjacent to the
- 46                    area that the area will be added to the city’s Potential Annexation Area. Upon
- 47                    ratification of the amendment, the Countywide Planning Policies will reflect both the
- 48                    Urban Growth Area change and Potential Annexation Area change; and
- 49                    h) For expansions of the Urban Growth Area based on the criteria in DP-17 (b) where
- 50                    the area is adjacent to an incorporated area, no development proposal or activity
- 51                    shall be allowed until the land added to the Urban Growth Area is annexed into a city
- 52                    or town.

53

54 **DP-19** Allow redesignation of Urban land currently within the Urban Growth Area to Rural land  
 55 outside of the Urban Growth Area if the land is not needed to accommodate projected urban  
 56 growth, is not served by public sewers, is ~~((contiguous with))~~ adjacent to the Rural Area, and:

- 57                    a) Is not characterized by urban development;
- 58                    b) Is currently developed with a low-density lot pattern that cannot be realistically
- 59                    redeveloped at an urban density; or
- 60                    c) Is characterized by environmentally sensitive areas making it inappropriate for higher
- 61                    density development.