

July 11, 1977

Introduced by: Bernice Stern
77-138

ORDINANCE NO. 3345

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AN ORDINANCE relating to quality of life by adding a new chapter to the King County Comprehensive Plan entitled Quality of Life Goals and Objectives under the provisions of Ordinance 263; Article 2, Section 3 of King County Code 20.12.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 263 and King County Code 20.12 are hereby amended and augmented as follows:

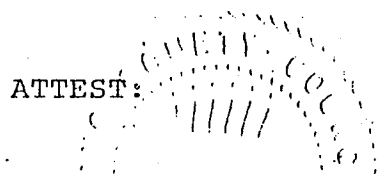
Foundation for Planning. The Quality of Life Chapter attached hereto is adopted as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan for King County. As a chapter of the Development Goals section of the Comprehensive Plan this Quality of Life chapter constitutes a philosophical foundation for the planning process of King County.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 22nd day of February, 1977.

PASSED this 15th day of August, 1977.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mike Lowery
Chairman



ATTEST:
Dorothy M. Quinn
Deputy Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 17th day of August, 1977.

[Signature]
King County Executive

QUALITY OF LIFE

Goals and Objectives

a proposed addendum to the Comprehensive Plan

June, 1977

ROLE OF THIS CHAPTER IN PLANNING

The King County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1964, containing standards and policies to guide development in the County. Although it includes five general goals, the Plan has lacked a clear statement of the objective or purpose of planning in King County. This Quality of Life chapter performs two functions: (1) it provides a foundation of goals and objectives to strengthen the Comprehensive Plan; (2) it recognizes that King County planning activity extends beyond the realm of physical development into social and economic areas, and begins to provide a foundation for those areas of planning.

The intent of the following goals, objectives, and text is to provide a clear, rational policy to guide the planning process in King County. It is not intended that these goals be implemented directly. Rather, they formalize and provide status to values which are already held by the County elected officials and planners. As a philosophical foundation, they can be used in the planning processes of community planners, functional planners, comprehensive planners and PDC committees. These people will propose specific policies and programs, based in part on the philosophy expressed in this report.

This chapter does not directly address the question of growth levels in King County, but its clear direction regarding quality of life has some strong implications for growth. More analysis of trends as well as wide discussion of these goals will be necessary before a County position in growth can be reached. Although the County government's powers in some of the areas are limited, coordinated action by the jurisdictions in King County can move the County as a whole in the direction of a higher quality of life for all its citizens.

ECONOMICSECONOMIC GOAL I

Seek continuing, adequate opportunities for employment and economic advancement for King County's labor force whose growth will be commensurate with natural increase and modest immigration.

Objective A:

Support economic development which is consistent with the County's objective of maintaining quality in social and physical environment.

Objective B:

Encourage the development of industries compatible with the County's particular natural and economic characteristics.

ECONOMIC GOAL II

Enhance economic security, endeavor to reduce economic instability and encourage efficient use of individual, industrial and public resources.

Objective A:

Promote the diversification of the economic base of the County in order to minimize business cycle disturbances.

Objective B:

Reduce the levels of unemployment by encouraging the development of varied and stable industries which are best suited to the needs and skills of the region's labor force and by supporting the training or retraining people so that their skills can be used by existing industry.

Objective C:

Actively seek support from and jointly plan with State and Federal governments and private industry to provide adequate assistance for County residents adversely affected by fluctuations in our specialized economy.

ECONOMIC GOAL III

Promote economic viability and equity for disadvantaged and economically deprived groups.

Economic Objective A:

Strive to eliminate discrimination both in employment and the opportunity to seek and secure employment. Develop programs to correct imbalances resulting from prior discrimination.

Economic Objective B:

Lend support to programs by all levels of government and private firms,

to provide financial assistance and services, such as educational and training programs and child care centers for those who face substantial barriers to employment.

Economic Objective C:

Promote access to employment opportunities by supporting adequate public transportation.

Economic Objective D:

Encourage and/or supplement as appropriate Federal and State programs for economically dependent citizens.

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL

Conserve energy and natural resources and preserve natural features and systems while recognizing the needs of people, now and in future generations, to use these resources.

Environmental Objective A:

Evaluate the effects of development on natural systems, including concerns related to climate, vegetation, water systems, air quality,

geology and soils, topography, and fauna, and the possible interaction among these when deciding whether or not to develop and the kind, type, pattern and intensity of development.

Environmental Objective B:

Minimize adverse environmental effects through the design and during the execution and maintenance of development.

Environmental Objective C:

Limit, terminate and/or reverse when possible practices which have an undesirable impact on the environmental quality of the County.

Environmental Objective D:

Meet or exceed Federal and State environmental standards such as, air quality, water quality and noise level standards in developed areas, and use EPA and State pollution guidelines as constraints to development in areas having problems in meeting these guidelines.

Environmental Objective E:

Minimize wastes which need to be disposed. Encourage the use of methods of waste treatment and disposal which minimize land, air and water pollution.

Environmental Objective F:

Support conservation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, including those found in the County and important to it, considering short and long term needs of local residents and national interest and priorities.

Environmental Objective G:

Support efforts to educate the public about environmental problems and solutions.

Environmental Objective H:

Try to protect the integrity and visually esthetic quality of the distinctive landscape of King County which combines the sound, lakes, islands, streams, floodplains, valleys, mountains, forests, wilderness, and hills.

Environmental Objective I:

Inventory and strive to preserve those natural, scenic, or otherwise environmentally unique areas within King County which contribute to the social well-being of County residents or are of significant ecological value. Identify historic places and preserve those worthy of preservation.

Environmental Objective J:

Inventory areas with wilderness qualities. Designate systems of wilderness areas in the County and preserve those worthy of preservation.

Environmental Objective K:

Maintain an inventory of wildlands devoted to forest products, recreation, and other land uses. Develop and implement policies for these areas which balance the interests of their owners or managers with the interests of the citizens of King County including the need to protect wildlife, plants, water and marine life. Develop and implement policies with respect to the marine environment of the county.

SOCIETY

SOCIAL GOAL I:

Lend support to the maintenance and expansion of opportunities for all citizens to pursue their own personal interests and ways of life free of unnecessary constraints.

SOCIAL GOAL II:

Encourage responsible citizenship in which each citizen recognizes and accepts responsibilities to other members of society.

SOCIAL GOAL III:

Aim to treat each human being justly and fairly, recognizing equal worth and fundamental rights.

Social Objective A:

Improve the governmental decision-making process by assessing probable major social consequences of decisions, both short and long range.

Social Objective B:

Encourage the provision of a decent home and suitable neighborhood for every household in King County with the opportunity to live in a neighborhood of one's own choice.

Social Objective C:

Provide or support a variety of cultural and recreational programs and facilities, including some at no charge, available to and accessible by all county residents. Provide or support facilities, space and structured and unstructured programs suitable for the general populace as well as specific user groups.

Social Objective D:

Edesavor to provide necessary access through a balanced transportation system to and from residential areas and all major activity centers,

such as economic centers, health care facilities, cultural events and governmental centers within the county.

Social Objective E:

Seek to meet the special needs of citizens for facilities and programs, by attempting to ensure their appropriate location, design and operation. Take steps to influence privately constructed facilities and buildings to the same end.

Social Objective F

Actively encourage governments and public and private institutions to provide opportunities for formal education as well as encourage continuing education and learning experiences for all citizens throughout life.

Social Objective G:

Encourage the provision of financial and physical access to high quality, cost-efficient primary care, acute and extended care facilities for both physical and mental health care. Encourage preventive medicine and health education.

Social Objective H:

Endeavor to reduce causes of anxiety and stress, including overcrowding, congestion, excessive noise, pollution, and loss of privacy.

Social Objective I:

Encourage the availability of adequate kinds and amounts of food for all citizens as well as increase the understanding of specific nutritional needs to encourage efficient use of food resources.

Social Objective J:

Work to assure equal treatment before the law.

Social Objective K:

Provide for continuous review of law enforcement and correction practices and the reasonableness of the restrictions imposed by law on the citizens of the County.

Social Objective L:

Try to protect the personal and property interests of residents from civil and criminal offenses by placing greater emphasis on preventing crimes of violence and crimes against property.

Social Objective M:

Attempt to provide humane and sensitive treatment of crime victims.

Social Objective N:

Seek to mitigate effects from and minimize causes of personal and property losses due to natural disasters and civil emergencies.

Social Objective O:

Foster consumer awareness of rights, and help protect the interests of consumers.

Social Objective P:

Endeavor to enhance geographical and social communities in part through the management of the impacts of County programs on the cultural and physical environment of these communities.

Social Objective Q:

Encourage a sense of belonging, self-worth and an environment which alleviates a sense of isolation.

Social Objective R:

Support equitable treatment of all citizens in economic activities within the County. Promote equal opportunity to obtain available jobs commensurate with abilities, equal pay for equal work, equal opportunities for training and advancement, equal access to membership and decision-making in professional associations and labor unions, non-discrimination

in financial transactions, such as insurance, real estate and credit transactions, and the redress of previous inequities.

Social Objective S

Strive to enhance opportunities for individuals to find satisfaction in employment within government and the private sector through actions such as job enrichment and improved job flexibility, mobility, access, and career information.

Social Objective T:

Foster more understanding among different segments of the population and awareness of the role of government in society through communications to the public.

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENTAL GOAL I:

Seek to develop understandable, responsive and accountable governmental institutions and processes which are efficient, effective, coordinated and equitable.

GOVERNMENTAL GOAL II:

Undertake to develop and use the County Comprehensive Plan to manage growth and enhance the quality of life.

Governmental Objective E:

Investigate the feasibility of a program to measure and recapture undue profits and compensate undue losses (windfalls and wipeouts) due to public actions or public programs.

Governmental Objective F:

Strive to devise effective ways to obtain effective citizen input into government's planning and review processes including policy and program planning, budgeting, community planning, capital improvement programming, project design, and regulatory functions.

Governmental Objective G:

Endorse planning processes which refine general goals and objectives so that specific programs or actions clearly evolve from the general planning frameworks. Facilitate citizen involvement and understanding in the processes.

EARTH RESOURCESLAND USE GOAL

Seek to develop land in ways that respond to natural conditions and in an ecologically sound manner for the support of human needs, values, activities, and settlements.

Land Use Objective A:

Try to achieve a variety and diversity of land uses in areas enhanced by these qualities.

Land Use Objective B:

Give priority to developing land in urban areas having existing utilities and services prior to developing new, unserved land areas. Simultaneously designate and assure permanent open space and parks.

Land Use Objective C:

Employ a variety of types of open spaces to define and shape the form of urban development. Encourage acquisition of planned open space.

Land Use Objective D:

Promote community focus through proper design and appropriate locations of businesses, facilities and services. Encourage the preservation of man-made or natural features that foster a sense of identity.

Land Use Objective E:

Encourage patterns of development consistent with the general plan which will locate employment centers, commercial centers and transportation systems so as to minimize the need for transportation.

Land Use Objective F:

Discourage or prohibit development jeopardized by natural forces such as flooding, land slides and avalanches.

Land Use Objective G:

Plan and facilitate the development of urban form to assure a balance of an aesthetically pleasing, humanly designed environment with efficient and effective use of land, energy, infra-structure, government services, utilities, public and private investments.

Land Use Objective H:

Strive to preserve and restore shorelines, small lakes and streams and other water related features including those in the urbanized areas of the county.

Land Use Objective I:

Assess alternative locations, spatial configurations, and indirect consequences of major developments, recognizing the long-term consequences of land development.

Land Use Objective J:

Promote the preservation of prime agricultural lands and farmlands whose qualities are important contributors to the county's land use goals.

GOVERNMENTAL GOAL III:

Endeavor to finance government equitably.

Governmental Objective A:

Lend support to the development of a single, accountable, County-wide general purpose government which can effectively guide development and public services of county-wide significance.

Governmental Objective B:

Facilitate the development of local government to meet local needs and regional governmental bodies to meet regional needs.

Governmental Objective C:

Work to develop relationships between governmental units which are characterized by cooperation and coordination on matters of mutual concern, without unnecessary duplication.

Governmental Objective D:

Support efforts to devise and implement an effective, equitable and inter-jurisdictional taxing system within the County which, would (1) collect adequate revenue; (2) remove existing incentives for fiscal zoning; and (3) encourage private investment to contribute to the accomplishment of the comprehensive plan.

Land Use Objective K:

Encourage development of higher residential densities in areas where the social and physical impacts are acceptable.

Land Use Objective L:

Work to revitalize declining areas where appropriate and selectively re-develop blighted areas.

Land Use Objective M:

Encourage responsible stewardship of the land.

Land Use Objective N:

Endeavor to devise and implement a managed growth policy in King County that will result in orderly staged land development. Aim to provide for an appropriate infra-structure of public and private services that is rationally planned, coordinated and financed.

AIR TEMPERATURE INVERSION - a situation in which warm air is above cold air, so that pollutants are trapped in cooler air near the ground and become heavily concentrated in a localized area.

ANNEXATION - incorporation of a piece of land into an already existing territorial entity.

BELONGING - individual feelings of self-acceptance and acceptance by others which contribute to a sense of community.

BUILDING CODES - standards of construction rules and regulations which must be conformed to in building new structures.

CHILD CARE HOME - a facility in which someone is paid to take care of children.

COMMERCIAL LAND USE - areas used by retail, wholesale and service establishments and offices.

CONSERVATION - responsible management of natural resources considering both short term and long term human and ecological needs.

CONSERVE - To avoid wasteful or destructive use of natural resources.

DISCRIMINATION - unless otherwise stated, the practice of differential treatment of individuals or groups to their likely detriment based upon race, color, national origin, ethnic background, age, sex, marital status, disability, life-style, or religious or political beliefs.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION - denial of employment on any basis other than one's ability to perform an available job.

EQUITY - just and fair treatment, recognizing the equal work of each human being and based on inalienable human rights.

EUTHROPHICATION - enrichment of a body of water with nutrients, such as nitrates and phosphates, which stimulate growth of algae; this naturally occurring process is accelerated by detergents and other water pollutants.

FACILITY - structure or land area that is built, developed, or dedicated to serve a particular purpose, e.g., school, sewage treatment plant, governmental office, cultural center, child care center, park.

FLOOD PLAINS - land areas adjoining a body of water, which are subject to a 1% probability of inundation in any year.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT - warming of the lower layers of the atmosphere, caused by transmission of solar radiation, its absorption by the earth's surface and re-radiation which is absorbed by particulate matter in the air.

HEALTH - the condition of physical, mental and emotional well-being, not merely the absence of infirmity or disease.

HISTORIC PLACE - a place which may include sites, structures or artifacts that are reminiscent of a past culture or significant event.

INDUSTRIAL LAND USE - areas used by manufacturing, commercial and other productive and profit-making establishments.

INFRASTRUCTURE - structures and systems which allow and/or support land development, e.g., roads, water, storm, and sanitary sewers, parks.

INTEGRITY - (of governmental institutions and processes) the condition of being unimpaired, incorruptible, sound, honest, and adhering to a code of ethical values.

JOB SATISFACTION - enjoyment of one's job as an activity in itself, with an accompanying feeling of using one's abilities, talents, and energies in a personally meaningful manner.

LIMITED DEVELOPMENT CAPACITIES - the condition of some land that enables it to be developed only up to a certain stage, generally involving inadequate protection against natural forces.

MANAGED GROWTH - the guidance of development in a manner consistent with the capacities of natural and man-made systems of the area to support demands of additional use.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT - the waters, bottomlands, intertidal zone and associated sea life of Puget Sound.

OPEN SPACE - any land area, the preservation of which in its present use, would conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources, protect streams or water supply, promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes, enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations, enhance recreational opportunities, preserve historical sites or retain in its natural state tracts of land of at least five acres situated in an urban area and open and suitable for public use.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CHOICE - ability to determine one's own destiny, based on individual talents, interests, energies, personalities and having adequate numbers and types of options available from which to choose.

PARTICULATE MATTER - suspended particles, in the air which are either solid (e.g., dust, smoke, fumes) or liquid (e.g., mists, sprays).

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT - an area subdivided or developed as a unit using performance standards for lot and structure setback dimensions. A residential planned unit development permits a variety of structure types and lot sizes, requires common open space but does not permit overall density change.

PLATTED LAND - territory that has been surveyed and charted into lots, blocks and subdivisions.

PRESERVATION - maintenance of an area in its natural state or the maintenance of a structure in a sound conditions.

QUALITY OF LIFE - all facets of life that affect the individual's sense of well-being, including opportunities for gainful employment.

REGRESSIVE TAX - a tax that impacts hardest on low income people because it takes away a larger percentage of a low than of a high income.

RESIDENTIAL LAND USE - areas predominantly limited to a single-family and multi-family housing units.

STEEP SLOPES - all lands with more than 25% slope and those lands with under a 25% slope which represent a potential hazard to development by reason of soil, erosion, landslide or sedimentation, including ravines and narrow benches located within or immediately adjacent to these slope areas.

SUBDIVISION - a parcel of land that has been divided into smaller lots for home sites or other use.

UNSUITABLE - (land for development) - land that is inappropriate for development and therefore should not be developed because of safety, ecological or productivity factors.

URBAN FORMS - the shape and structure of an urbanized area.

UTILITIES - lines and facilities related to the distribution, collection transmission or disposal of water, storm and sanitary sewage, gas, power solid wastes, and communication.

WATERSHED - a catchment area from which the waters of a stream system originate, and in some cases are drawn for municipal and industrial uses.

WETLANDS - tracts of low-lying land which are saturated with moisture much or all of the year and often overgrown with vegetation (e.g., bogs, marshes, swamps).

WINDFALLS - profits on the sale of land which accrue from increased value resulting from governmental actions such as rezoning or locations of a freeway interchange.

WILDERNESS - in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, wilderness is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean an area of public undeveloped land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has opportunity for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

WILDLANDS - lands and waters including the marine environment beyond the zone of urban development but not in a wilderness state. Devoted to timber production or as woodlots or as water bodies in a natural or semi-natural state, they form a transitional resource which can be developed or returned to a natural state depending on the wishes of man.

WIPEOUTS - losses on the sales of land which accrue from decreased value resulting from governmental actions such as rezoning or location of a freeway interchange.

ZONING - division of an area into separate sections reserved for different real property uses (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, recreational) as well as regulating the type of density of improvements on it.