

Comprehensive Plan

Glossary

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100-year flood plain: The land adjoining a river, stream, watercourse, ocean, bay, or lake having a one percent chance of being inundated in any given year with flood waters resulting from the overflow of inland or tidal waters and/or the unusual and rapid accumulation of surface runoff from any source.

Act: The Growth Management Act as enacted in Chapter 17, Laws of 1990, 1st Ex. Sess., and Chapter 32, Laws of 1991, 1st Special Session, State of Washington.

Adequate capital facilities: The facilities that have the capacity to serve development without decreasing the levels of service below locally established minimums.

Aquifer: A body of rock sediment, sand, or gravel that is able to store and conduct significant quantities of groundwater.

Aquifer recharge areas: The areas where surface water is able to permeate the soil and is conducted to aquifers for storage.

Arterials: The function to carry through-traffic within the region or between communities. Arterials include three classes of streets, Principal Arterials, Minor Arterials, and Collector Arterials.

Available capital facilities: The facilities or services in place, or that a financial commitment in place to provide the facilities or services within a specified time. In the case of transportation, the specified time is six years from the time of development.

Capital facility: The physical structure owned or operated by a government entity, which provides or supports a public service. For the purposes of this Plan, capital facilities include municipal facilities, parks, transportation and stormwater facilities.

Centers: The compact, well-defined areas to which a mix of higher density growth or intensive land uses will be directed, connected by an efficient, transit-oriented, multi-modal transportation system.

City: Any city or town, including a code city.

Clean Air Act (CAA): The federal Clean Air Act identifies "mobile sources" (vehicles) as primary sources of pollution and calls for stringent new requirements in metropolitan areas and states where attainment of federal air quality standards

is or could be a problem. A complementary law exists at the state level in Washington State, entitled the Clean Washington Act.

Collector arterials: Collect traffic from local streets in residential areas and convey it to minor and/or principal arterials. While more local access may be allowed on collector arterials than on minor and principal arterials, they provide an important arterial function. Lower traffic speed limits are usually posted and lower traffic volumes are observed than on minor and principal arterials.

Community: The area in which there is an identity among the residents as being a part of "Newcastle." Generally associated geographically with the Newcastle School District and the Newcastle postal address.

Compatibility: Uses or activities, which do not conflict when sited next to each other.

Comprehensive land use plan, comprehensive plan, or plan: Generalized, coordinated land use policy statement of the governing body of a county or city that is adopted pursuant to this chapter.

Concurrency: Adequate capital facilities are available when the impacts of development occur. This definition includes the two concepts--"adequate capital facilities" and of "available capital facilities" as defined above.

Conditional Use: Uses that may be permitted in an area if certain conditions are present, or if certain conditions are met.

Congestion: A condition that does not permit movement on a transportation facility at optimal legal speeds. Characterized by unstable traffic flows. Recurrent congestion is caused by excess volume capacity. Non-reoccurring congestion is caused by actions such as special events and traffic accidents.

Consistency: No feature of a plan or regulation is incompatible with any other feature of a plan or regulation. Consistency is indicative of a capacity for orderly integration or operation with other elements in a system.

Contiguous development: The development of areas immediately adjacent to one another.

Corridor: A broad geographical area that defines general directional flow of traffic. It may encompass a mix of streets, highways, and transit alignments.

Critical areas: Include the following areas and ecosystems:

- a. Wetlands
- b. Areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water
- c. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas
- d. Frequently flooded areas
- e. Geologically hazardous areas.

Delay: The time lost by a person or vehicle during travel due to circumstances that impede the desirable movement of traffic. It is the travel time between congested and free-flow travel times.

Density: The amount of activity for a given area. For residential development, density means the number of housing units per acre. For population, density means the number of people per acre or square mile.

Design review: A process that requires a review of the design or siting of structures prior to their approval by the City. This process can range from administrative review under prescribed standards to a more formalized hearing process involving approval by an appointed board.

Development regulations: Any controls placed on development of land use activities by a county or city, including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances, official controls, planned unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances and binding site plans.

Domestic water system: Any system providing a supply of potable water for the intended use of a development which is deemed adequate pursuant to RCW 19.27.097.

Down-zone: A rezone decreasing the intensity of use (as opposed to an up-zone which increases the intensity).

Element: The term that technically refers to a part of the Comprehensive Plan which deals with a functional planning concern such as a traffic circulation plan. More commonly it refers to separately published planning documents which are related to the Comprehensive Plan. In this report it refers to parts of the comprehensive planning framework which addresses functional systems of the city; and is distinguished from the term Comprehensive Plan which herein refers to this document even though both the Comprehensive Plan and the planning elements are part of the same comprehensive planning system. The terms "element" and "plan" will be used interchangeably when referring to functional plans.

Erosion hazard areas: The areas underlain by soils which are subject to severe erosion when disturbed. Such soils include but are not limited to those classified as having a severe to very severe erosion hazard according to the USDA Soil Conservation Service, the 1973 King County Soils Survey or any subsequent revisions or addition by or to these sources.

Facilities: The structural improvements which support the physical development of the City; as used here, it generally refers to municipal facilities which provides City services and/or supports the development of the City.

Feasible: The ability to carry out and accomplish successfully.

Financial funding: Sources of public or private funds or combinations thereof that have been identified which will be sufficient to finance capital facilities necessary to support development and that there is an assurance that such funds will be timely put to that end.

Fish and wildlife habitat: Areas identified as being important to the maintenance of fish, wildlife, and plant species.

Floodway: The area that must be reserved in order to safely discharge the "one hundred year" flood. This area is specifically set forth by maps prepared under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Focal point: The center of community attention; the area which establishes the identity of the community.

Forest land: Useful for growing trees, including Christmas trees subject to the excise tax imposed under RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140 for commercial purposes, and that has long term commercial significance for growing trees commercially.

Framework: A plan which provides a framework of policy to which additions and deletions can be made to adjust to changing circumstances or additional information and policy development. The term connotes flexibility and is used to distinguish from an older style of planning which sought to establish a more rigid policy system directed at achieving a prescribed end state of development.

Freeways: The limited access roadways with barrier-separated medians, designed to serve intercity traffic. Although the portion I-405 that abuts the City is relative short, Interstate 405 is an important freeway.

Frequently flooded areas: Lands which have one percent or greater chance of flooding (being covered by water) in a given year. These areas include all areas designated as regulatory floodway and one hundred year floodplain by Federal Emergency Management Agency. In addition, those areas determined by Public Works to experience flooding, and areas classified as wetlands should be considered to be frequently flooded areas.

Geologically hazardous areas: Areas that because of their susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events, are not suited to the siting of commercial, residential, or industrial development consistent with public health or safety concerns.

Goal: A general condition, ideal situation, or achievement that reflects societal values or broad public purposes.

Growth Management Act (GMA) - The Growth Management Act as enacted in Chapter 17, Laws of 1990, 1st Ex. Sess., and Chapter 32, Laws of 1991, 1st Special Session, State of Washington.

Growth management: The use by a community of a wide range of techniques in combination to determine the amount, type, and rate of development desired by the community and to channel that growth into designated areas.

High-density single family residential: A land use designation that includes R-6 thru R-8 zoning (6-8 dwelling units per acre).

Highway Capacity Manual (HCM 2000): The resource document for the transportation profession to calculate level of service standards on streets, highways and at intersections.

Impact fee: A fee levied on the developer of a project by a city, county or special district as compensation for the expected effects of new development.

Implementation measure: An action, procedure, program or techniques that carries out comprehensive plan policy.

Infrastructure: The physical systems and services which support development and people, such as streets and highways, transit service, water and sewer systems, storm drainage systems, airports, and the like.

Intensity of use: The manner in which land is used, zoned, or planned. The more a site or area is developed and the more busy are activities associated with that development, the more intense the use is considered to be. The most intense use of land is heavy industrial uses, with the least intensive use being open space. Generally refers to a hypothetical scale which places rural uses as least intense, proceeding through residential densities, commercial uses to industrial uses.

Jurisdictions: Include counties and cities. The term "jurisdiction" also can include federal and state agencies and federally recognized tribes.

Known fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas: The areas which have been identified or mapped by the Department of Fish and Wildlife as being priority habitat. In addition, Waters of the State and habitat for threatened and endangered, and sensitive species that have not been mapped by the Department of Wildlife will also be included.

Landslide Hazard Areas: Areas potentially subject to landslides based on a combination of geologic, topographic, and hydrologic factors. They include any areas susceptible because of any combination of bedrock, soil, slope (gradient), slope aspect, structure, hydrology, or other factors. Examples of these areas in the City may include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Any area with the combination of: slopes steeper than 15%, impermeable soils, such as silt and clay, frequently interbedded with granular soils, such as sand and gravel, and springs or ground water seepage
- b. Areas that have shown movement during the Holocene Epoch (from 10,000 years ago to present), or which is underlain by mass wastage debris from that epoch
- c. Any area potentially unstable as a result of rapid stream incision, stream bank erosion or undercutting by wave action
- d. Any area which shows evidence of or is at risk from snow avalanches
- e. Any area located on an alluvial fan, presently subject to or potentially subject to inundation by debris flows or deposition of stream-transported materials.

Level of Service (LOS): An establishment minimum capacity of capital facilities that must be provided per unit of demand or other appropriate measure of need.

Local access streets: Are local streets in neighborhoods and commercial areas that provide direct access to abutting properties. Through-traffic is generally discouraged on local access streets.

Local streets: Are streets having the primary function to provide access within neighborhoods. Local Streets are categorized into two levels: Neighborhood Collector Streets and Local Access Streets.

Low-density single family residential: A land use designation that includes R-1 (1-dwelling units per acre). It is generally used in areas that require some environmental protection.

May: Expresses an option. The desired course of action would depend on the circumstances with no particular burden of proof.

Medium density single family residential: A land use designation that includes R-4 (4-dwelling units per acre).

Minerals: Include gravel, sand, and valuable metallic substances.

Minor arterials: Are streets of citywide significance connecting community centers and facilities with other arterials and collectors roads. Their traffic volumes are generally lower than principal arterials. Their main function is to provide through-traffic between communities or major community-based activity areas. Although they facilitate through- traffic, minor arterials provide some degree of local access function.

Mixed-use developments: Are developments designed to be pedestrian friendly that combine housing, commercial and/or offices in the same structures or on the same site. Often these developments are characterized by retail or offices on the first floor and housing on the second or third floors above storefronts, in an attempt to create more street life and the sense of community.

Multifamily residential: A land use designation that includes R-12 and R-48 zoning (12-48 dwelling units per acre).

Multimodal: Concerning or involving more than one transportation mode.

Neighborhood collector streets: Are local streets that collect traffic from neighborhoods and channel it to arterials. Neighborhood Collectors receive a higher priority than other local streets for application of traffic calming measures, street sweeping, and snow removal.

Non-motorized: The references to bicycle, pedestrian and other modes of transportation not involving motor vehicles.

Open space: Land intended for recreation or environmental protection purposes or as a scenic or aesthetic amenity. Open space may include, but is not limited, lawns, decorative planting, buffers, walkways, active and passive recreation areas, playgrounds, fountains, swimming pools, wooded areas and watercourses. Open space shall not be deemed to include driveways, parking lots, or other surfaces designed or intended for vehicular traffic.

Park-and-Ride lot: A parking facility where individuals access public transportation as a transfer of mode, usually with their private automobiles.

Pathway: A path that is neither a sidewalk nor a named trail. This definition includes short paths within parks and pedestrian links between cul-de-sacs. Some pathways provide access to trails.

Peak hour: The hour during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. It may be specified as the morning peak hour or afternoon or evening peak hour.

Peak period: The period during which traffic levels rise from their normal background levels to maximum levels. These periods are for morning, evening, and mid-day peaks and include the appropriate peak hours.

Pedestrian friendly: Developments that are designed first for pedestrians then for the movement of vehicles. These developments are often mixed use in nature with wide sidewalks, landscaping and buildings that are in scale with pedestrians.

Performance standards: A regulatory approach which accents the manner in which a proposed use affects adjacent uses and property, and the manner in which a use is conducted. It is usually distinguished from more traditional zoning which separates use by type, rather than how a particular zone is carried out.

Planning period: The 20-year period following the adoption of a comprehensive plan or such longer period as may have been selected as the initial planning horizon by the planning jurisdiction.

Policy: An action-oriented procedure, activity, or decision- making that defined the process by which an objective is achieved.

Potable water: Water suitable for drinking.

Potential Annexation Areas (PAA): The currently unincorporated areas surrounding the City of Newcastle which Newcastle intends to annex within the 20-year time frame of this Comprehensive Plan. The term "potential annexation area" is interchangeable with the term "Newcastle's urban growth area."

Principal arterials: Are streets of regional significance connecting larger communities and carry the greatest portion of through-traffic or long distance travel. Land access from a principal arterial to adjacent properties is minimized. A principal arterial is generally connected to a freeway and/or other arterials and carries high volumes of traffic.

Public transit: Passenger transportation service to the public on a regular basis using vehicles that transport more than one person for compensation, usually but not exclusively over a set route or routes from one fixed point to another.

Public services: Service provided to the public such as fire protection and suppression, law enforcement, public health, education, recreation, environmental protection and other governmental services.

Public facilities: Include streets, roads, highways, sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and recreational facilities, and schools.

Public uses : Uses or land owned or operated by governmental agencies.

Quasi-public uses: The uses that serve public or general community needs of a non-business or non-profit character, but are not conducted by governmental entities. Includes religious uses.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): The 3-year, specific multi-modal program of regional transportation improvements of highways, transit and other modes. The TIP consists of projects drawn from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan as well as local plans and programs. The projects are directed at improving overall efficiency and people-moving capabilities of the existing transportation system.

Ridesharing: The function of sharing a ride with other passengers in a common vehicle. The term is usually applied to carpools and vanpools.

Rural lands: All of the lands which are not within an urban growth area and are not designated as natural resource lands having long term commercial significance for production of agricultural products, timber, or the extraction of minerals.

Sanitary sewer systems: All facilities, including approved on-site disposal facilities, used in the collection, transmission, storage, treatment or discharge of any waterborne waste, whether domestic in origin or a combination of domestic, commercial, or industrial waste.

SEPA: State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21C).

Shall: Mandatory and not discretionary. It is used to express a policy mandate to be followed. The policy should be followed unless the most compelling of circumstances warrant otherwise.

Should: Expresses a desired direction to be followed. It can be over-riden, but the burden of proof is on the factors indicating against the stated policy.

Sidewalk: A hard-surface path beside a street or roadway.

Single-Occupant Vehicle (SOV): Any vehicle carrying only the driver.

Street Inventory: Includes information on: right-of-way width, sidewalks, pavement conditions, width and type.

Solid waste handling facility: Any facility for the transfer or ultimate disposal of solid waste, including landfills and municipal incinerators.

Telecommunications: The conveyance of information by electronic means. Examples include the telephone, interactive cable facilities, computer networks and videoconference centers. Its importance to transportation is that it may eliminate or shorten vehicle trips.

Townhomes: One-family dwellings in a row of at least three such units in which each unit has its own front and rear access to the outside, no unit is located over another unit, and each unit is separated from any other unit by one or more vertical common fire-resistant walls.

Traffic control devices: Traffic signals, stop and yield signs, lane markings and traffic calming devices placed throughout the City.

Traffic volumes: Measurement based on the Average daily, AM peak hour and PM peak hour traffic volumes on arterials

Trail: A path through a natural setting, generally buffered from streets and buildings.

Trailhead: A trail access point with signage, public parking, and good vehicular access. A trailhead may include a bench or shelter, a trail map, toilet facilities, or other amenities. It may be located at the beginning or end of a trail, or at the junction of one or more trails.

Transportation System Management (TSM): Low capital expenditures to increase the capacity of the transportation network. TSM strategies include, but are not limited to signalization, channelization, and bus turn-ons.

Transportation level of service: A quality measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream, generally in terms of such measures as speed and travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, and comfort and convenience.

Transportation facilities: Capital facilities related to air, water, or land transportation.

Transportation Facility Plan for 2002 – 2022: The City's plan development based on the 2022 traffic forecasts and the level of service analysis and standards.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM): The concept of managing or reducing travel demand rather than increasing the supply of transportation facilities. It may include programs to shift demand from single-occupant vehicles to other modes such as transit and/ ridesharing, to shift demand to off-peak periods, or to eliminate demand for some trips.

Transportation System Management (TSM): Actions that improve the operation and coordination of transportation services and facilities to effect the most efficient use of the existing transportation system. Actions include operational improvements to the existing transportation system, new facilities, and demand management strategies.

Trip generation: The volume of traffic generated by a given land use type and density. Trip generation factors are typically based on gross square feet (gsf) of buildings, number of employees, and number of dwelling units.

Urban growth: The growth that make 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, or other agricultural products, fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources. When allowed

to spread over wide areas, 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 on it as to be appropriate for urban growth.

Urban Growth Areas (UGAs): Areas designated by a county pursuant to RCW 36.70A.110.

Urban governmental services: Governmental services historically and typically delivered by cities, and include storm and sanitary sewer systems, domestic water systems, street cleaning services, fire and police protection services, public transit services, and other public utilities associated with urban areas and normally not associated with non--urban areas.

Utilities: Facilities serving the public by means of a network of wires or pipes, and structures ancillary thereto. Included are systems for the delivery of natural gas, electricity, telecommunications services, and water for the disposal of sewage.

Visioning: A process of citizen involvement to determine values and ideals for the future of a community and to transform those values and ideals into manageable and feasible community goals.

Wetland: are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adopted 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, and landscape amenities. However, wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands, when such conversion was permitted by a regulatory agency such as the Corps of Engineers, King County, and the City of Newcastle.

Wetland function: The biological, chemical and physical process that wetlands perform, such as storing floodwaters, removing nutrients or providing fowl habitat.

Wetland value: How much a society, or specific community, decides a wetland or a particular function is "worth". For example, two different wetlands located in tow different areas of the state may provide the same level of floodwater storage. In on case, the local community may decide that this function is very important to them and decide to stringently protect that wetland. In another community, floodwater storage may not be as important and the wetland may receive less protection. In each case the wetlands are performing the same function, but the wetlands are being valued differently. The method being developed under this project will only tell how well a wetland is performing a given function. It is then up to a community or agency to decide how much to "value" the function.

Zoning: A map and ordinance text which divides a city or county into land use "zone" and specifies the types of land uses, setbacks, lot size, and size restrictions for buildings within that zone.