

**Comprehensive Plan:
Elements and Goals, and example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries
related to Renton's Sustainability efforts**

Capital Facilities Element

Goal: Develop and implement the capital facilities plan for the City of Renton.

Community Design Element

Goals:

1. To raise the aesthetic quality of the City.
2. To strengthen the economy through high quality development.
3. To ensure that a high quality of life is maintained as Renton evolves.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

I. Natural Areas: Summary: Natural areas are an important component of the community. The purpose of including natural areas in the Community Design Element is not so that natural areas will be "designed," but rather so that the built environment can be shaped in a manner that takes into consideration the natural environment.

Policy CD-38. Developments should be designed so that public access to and use of parks, open space, or shorelines, is available where such access would not jeopardize environmental attributes of the area.

Policy CD-52. Off-site impacts from industrial development such as noise, odors, light and glare, surface and ground water pollution, and air quality should be controlled through setbacks, landscaping, screening and/or fencing, drainage controls, environmental mitigation, and other techniques.

Policy CD-90. Interpret development standards to support provision of landscape features as well as innovative site planning. Criteria should include:

1. Attractive residential streetscapes with landscaped front yards that are visible from the street;
2. Landscaping, preferably with drought- resistant evergreen plant materials;
3. Large caliper street trees;
4. Irrigated landscape planting strips;
5. Low-impact development using landscaped buffers, open spaces, and other pervious surfaces; &
6. Significant native tree and vegetation retention and/or replacement.

Objective CD-O: Promote development of attractive, walkable neighborhoods and shopping areas by ensuring that streets are safe, convenient, and pleasant for pedestrians.

Policy CD-102. Residential streets should be constructed to the narrowest widths (distance from curb to curb) feasible without impeding emergency vehicle access.

Economic Development Element

Goal: Create and maintain a broad and stable economic base to sustain a high quality of life for the Renton community.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

Summary: Renton's economic development is important because it has a role in the timing, emphasis and extent in which the long-range goals of the city will occur. The economic development policies encourage collaborations between the public and private sectors to ensure the long-term economic health of Renton and its citizens. A healthy economy provides jobs and opportunity and helps pay for vital public services such as education, parks, transportation, police and fire protection, and human services. The policies encourage a mix of industrial, retail, service, and office uses that will result in a diversified employment base. The policies encourage the quality development necessary to sustain a high standard of living in Renton.

Environmental Element

Goal: Protect and enhance Renton's natural ecosystems, natural beauty, and environmental quality.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

Objective EN-A: Protect and enhance water quality of surface water resources including the City's lakes, rivers, major and minor creeks, and intermittent stream courses.

Policy EN-2. Minimize erosion and sedimentation by requiring appropriate construction techniques and resource practices.

Policy EN-3. Limit discharges of pollutants such as chemicals, insecticides, pesticides, and other hazardous wastes to surface waters.

Policy EN-4. Degraded channels, streams, creeks, and banks should be naturalized by public programs and new development.

Policy EN-7. Protect buffers along wetlands to facilitate infiltration and maintain stable water temperatures, provide for biological diversity, reduce amount and velocity of run-off, and provide for wildlife habitat.

Objective EN-C: Ensure the long-term protection of the quality and quantity of the groundwater resources of the City in order to maintain a safe and adequate potable water supply for the City.

Objective EN-E: Protect the natural functions of 100 year floodplains and floodways to prevent threats to life, property, and public safety associated with flooding hazards.

Objective EN-H: Protect and promote clean air and minimize individual and cumulative noise impacts to ensure a healthful environment.

Objective EN-J: Create a sustainable urban forest that enhances the livability of the community.

Objective EN-K: Protect, restore and enhance environmental quality through land use plans and patterns, surface water management programs, park master programs, urban forestry programs, transportation planning, development reviews, incentive programs and work with citizens, land owners, and public and private agencies.

Policy EN-31. Reduce the impact of new development on the environment by encouraging the use of sustainable design techniques in public and private development, by encouraging low impact stormwater techniques, and through certification programs such as LEED and Built Green.

Policy EN-32. Build civic facilities and other City buildings to LEED silver standard or better.

Policy EN-33. Establish regulatory standards for sustainably developed public and private projects, to include standards for site design and layout, construction, and on-going maintenance and operation.

Policy EN-34. Promote elements of sustainability in development and redevelopment of Renton's transportation network by expanding non-motorized and alternative transportation modes.

Policy EN- 38. Develop the urban forestry program to maintain and expand vegetation on public and private property in order to minimize the impact of development on natural systems such as forests and individual trees and increase canopy cover to increase the ecosystem services that trees and other vegetation provide.

Objective EN-L: Support and sustain educational, informational, and public involvement programs in the City over the long term in order to encourage effective use, preservation, and protection of Renton's resources.

Policy EN-39. Provide information for and participate in informing and educating individuals, groups, businesses, industry, and government in the protection and enhancement of the quality and quantity of the City's natural resources and to promote conservation.

Policy EN-40. Increase the community's understanding of the City's ecosystem and the relationship between the overall health of the ecosystem and quality of life for Renton residents.

Objective EN-M: Increase the participation by the City of Renton in resolution of regional ecological issues that may impact Renton residents.

Policy EN-47. Actively participate in non-point source pollution watershed plans including those for the May Creek, Cedar River, and Green River Basins.

Policy EN-48. Actively participate in state and regional efforts to control the atmospheric pollutants responsible for global climate change.

Housing Element

Goals:

1. Ensure sufficient land capacity to accommodate the existing and future housing needs of the community, including Renton's share of forecasted regional growth.
2. Ensure that housing exists for all economic segments of Renton's population.
3. Ensure that there are housing opportunities for people with special needs, such as seniors, people with disabilities, and the homeless.
4. Maintain, protect, and enhance the quality of life of Renton's residents.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

Objective H-F: Increase the supply of special needs housing.

Objective H-G: Allow the construction of a variety of housing types affordable to low, moderate, and middle-income households when site plans and subdivisions address maintaining the quality of neighborhoods.

Human Services Element

Goal: To create a community in which all members have the opportunity to meet their basic physical, economic, and social needs, for the enhancement of their quality of life.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

Objective HS-A: Enable individuals to meet their basic physical, economic, and social needs by promoting an effective human services delivery system and enhancing their quality of life.

Objective HS-F: Encourage collaborative partnerships between the City and school districts to identify and meet the needs of children and families.

Objective HS-G: Participate in regional and local efforts that address human services needs in the region and in the City.

Land Use Element

Goals:

1. Plan for future growth of the Urban Area based on regionally developed growth forecasts, adopted growth targets, and land capacity as determined through implementation of the Growth Management Act.
2. Minimize risk associated with potential aviation incidents on the ground and for aircraft occupants.
3. Promote annexation where and when it is in the best interest of Renton.

4. Maintain the City's natural and cultural history by documenting and appropriately recognizing its historic and/or archaeological sites.
5. Pursue the transition of non-conforming uses and structures to encourage more conforming uses and development patterns.
6. Develop a system of facilities that meet the public and quasi-public service needs of present and future employees.
7. Promote new development and neighborhoods in the City that:
 - a. Contribute to a strong sense of community and neighborhood identity;
 - b. Are walkable places where people can live, shop, play, and get to work without always having to drive;
 - c. Are developed at densities sufficient to support public transportation and make efficient use of urban services and infrastructure;
 - d. Offer a variety of housing types for a population diverse in age, income, and lifestyle;
 - e. Are varied or unique in character;
 - f. Support "grid" and "flexible grid" street and pathway patterns where appropriate;
 - g. Are visually attractive, safe, and healthy environments in which to live;
 - h. Offer connection to the community instead of isolation; and
 - i. Provide a sense of home.
8. Develop well-balanced attractive, convenient, robust commercial office, office, and residential development within designated Centers serving the City and the region.
9. Support existing businesses and provide an energetic business environment for new commercial activity providing a range of service, office, commercial, and mixed use residential uses that enhance the City's employment and tax base along arterial boulevards and in designated development areas.
10. Achieve a mix of land uses including industrial, high technology, office, and commercial activities in Employment Areas that lead to economic growth and a strengthening of Renton's employment base.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

Objective LU-D: Maintain a high ratio of jobs to housing in Renton.

Objective LU-U: Preserve the cultural amenities and heritage of Renton.

Policy LU-107. Safe pedestrian access to schools should be promoted (e.g. through pedestrian linkages, safety features) through the design of new subdivisions and roadway improvements.

Objective LU-Z: Maintain existing commercial and hobby agricultural uses such as small farms, hobby farms, horticulture, beekeeping, kennels, and stables, that are compatible with urban development. Allow sale of products produced on site.

Policy LU-122. Recognize and allow community gardens on private property, vacant public property, and unused rights-of-ways.

Policy LU-149. Discourage creation of socio-economic enclaves, especially where lower income units would be segregated within a development.

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails

Goal: Provide a high quality comprehensive park, recreation, open space, and trails system to meet the short- and long-term needs of current and future Renton residents.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

Objective P-A: Provide park and recreational facilities throughout the City, maximizing public access to and involvement in a variety of leisure and cultural activities.

Policy P-4. Equitably distribute parks and recreation by type throughout the City.

Policy P-30. Construction of new building facilities and retrofitting of existing buildings should consider the following elements:

1. Sustainable sites
2. Water efficiency
3. Energy and atmosphere
4. Materials and resources
5. Environmental quality
6. Design excellence

Policy P-39. Conserve energy, water and other natural resources, and practice efficient and environmentally responsible maintenance and operation procedures.

Objective P-E: Conserve, enhance, and create a variety of open space, wildlife, & natural resource areas.

Policy P-53. The function of the open space network should:

1. Protect land resources
2. Provide relief from urban development (air pollution, heat islands, noise, erosion crowding, flooding, etc.)
3. Maintain a habitat for wildlife
4. Provide physical access and visual connection within the City
5. Define the form of the City
6. Provide for educational opportunities
7. Provide a diversity of natural resources
8. Protect and encourage threatened and endangered species of plants and animals
9. Provide public access to creeks, rivers, and lakes.

Objective P-F: Create a walkable community by developing and maintaining a comprehensive trails system that provides non-motorized access throughout the City, maximizes public access to parks,

schools, and open space areas, connects to regional trail systems, and provides increased recreational opportunities for the public.

Policy P-71. Trails should be developed in tandem with motorized transportation systems, recognizing issues such as safety, user diversity, and experiential diversity.

Objective P-G: Provide opportunities for public participation in recreational services and programs that are creative, stimulating, educational, proactive, and healthy and reflect the needs and interests of the community.

Transportation

Goals:

1. Contribute to a balanced multi-modal transportation system through reasonable, planned, economically feasible arterial improvements that enhance HOV and transit operations, support adopted land use plans, protect or improve business access, and protect Renton's neighborhoods.
2. Maximize the use of transit in Renton by providing step-by-step transit improvements to produce regionally linked and locally oriented transit services and facilities needed to serve travel demand generated by Renton residents and businesses.
3. Increase the person-carrying capacity of the Renton arterial system by the construction of improvements and the implementation of actions that facilitate the flow of HOVs into, out of, and through Renton.
4. Maintain, enhance, and increase pedestrian and bicycle travel by providing both safe and convenient routes and storage for the commuting and recreating public.
5. Encourage and facilitate the reduction of commute and other trips made via single occupant vehicles.
6. Create efficiently functioning air transportation facilities that are responsibly integrated with the City's transportation system and land use pattern.
7. Maintain and improve truck and freight rail access to Renton industrial areas, and integrate freight transportation needs into Renton's multi-modal transportation system.
8. Develop a funding and implementation program for needed transportation improvements supporting adopted land use policies, that distributes transportation costs equitably between public agencies and private development.
9. Develop a transportation system that contributes to the attainment and maintenance of regional air and water quality standards within the City of Renton, and complies with regional, state, and Federal air water quality standards, and preserves/protects natural resources.
10. Develop and maintain relationships between Renton and other agencies and local jurisdictions for cooperative planning of common transportation improvements, and discussion of transportation-related interests.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

Policy T-6. Land use patterns should support transit and non-motorized modes of travel.

Policy T-16. Street networks should connect through the development to existing streets, avoid “cul-de-sac” or dead end streets, and be arranged in a grid street pattern (or a flexible grid street system if there are environmental constraints).

Objective T-B: Encourage the development and use of alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.

Policy T-64. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be promoted not only as a viable means of transportation, but as an important method for maintaining overall health and fitness of Renton’s citizens.

Objective T-AA: Protect and promote clean air to ensure a healthful environment.

Objective T-BB: Reduce vehicular emissions by encouraging increases in carpooling, vanpooling, transit, and non-motorized transportation usage.

Objective T-DD: Reduce the impact on water quality from vehicular pollutants associated with run-off from impervious transportation facility surfaces.

Utilities

Goal: Facilitate the development and maintenance of all utilities at the appropriate levels of service to accommodate the growth that is anticipated in the City of Renton.

Example Policies, Objectives, and/or Summaries:

Summary: The Utilities Element guides future utility service within the greater Renton area. It helps ensure that adequate utilities will be available to both existing and new development. It also ensures that utility improvements will be used to help implement the Comprehensive Plan and will be phased according to community priorities. The Utilities Element indicates how utility improvements can be used to maintain equitable levels of service, guarantee public health and safety, and serve new development in a timely manner...

Objective U-A: Provide an adequate level of public utilities in response to and consistent with land use, protection of the environment, and annexation goals and policies.

Policy U-15. Preference should be given to capital facility improvements that will support the development and redevelopment of the Downtown, mixed-use centers, the Urban Center, and other high growth areas concurrent with anticipated growth.

Policy U-16. Encourage the use of water and energy conservation technologies throughout the City.

Water Supply

The Renton City Council has ranked aquifer protection as its number one priority, and it is the single most important issue in providing a reliable water supply to the service area.

In Renton, thousands of gallons a day of high quality drinking water are currently expended in applications for which reclaimed water is a possible substitute. The cost of treating effluent for reuse is generally less than acquiring and developing potable water supply for non-potable uses. Using reclaimed water also improves the quality of water bodies by reducing the amount of effluent discharged into them from wastewater treatment plants. Renton is integrating a reuse program into its water resource management program.

Policy U-54. Utilize water conservation and reuse programs to ensure adequate water supply to meet the essential needs of the community.

Surface Water

Existing and future surface water quality issues, loss of wetland habitat and fishery passage problems are additional concerns, with the continued development of the upstream portion of the watershed within Renton's Urban Growth Area and areas within the Cities of Kent and Tukwila.

Objective U-F: Provide and maintain surface water management systems to minimize impacts on natural systems and to protect the public, property, surface water bodies, fish habitat, and groundwater from changes in the quantity and quality of storm water runoff due to land use changes.

Policy U-77. Promote and support public education and involvement programs that address surface water quality and other surface water management issues.

Solid Waste

Objective: U-G: To provide a responsible, comprehensive waste management program that includes economic efficiency, environmental sensitivity, and responsiveness to the needs of the community. The City should pursue a reduction of the overall waste stream, recycling, and long-term waste handling and disposal solutions.

Policy U-86. Reduction of the waste stream should be supported and promoted for all residential, commercial, and industrial uses within the city (i.e. through programs and public education including recycling, composting, re-use, and energy recovery programs that meet environmental standards).

Policy U-89. Contamination of land, air, and water should be minimized or eliminated.

Policy U-91. Support products and practices that offer safe and effective alternatives to the use of potentially hazardous substances in order to reduce the total amount of hazardous waste.

Policy U-92. Actively support the creation of markets for products made with recycled materials.

Electrical System

Policy U-97. Support cost effective public programs aimed at energy conservation, efficiency, and supplementing of natural gas supplies through new technology.