From: McCall, Marilee
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Cc: O'Donnell, Mary Beth; Euler, Gordon; Orl ako, Oliver; Keltz, Mary

CLARK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – 2016

Our new web pages are up and running to keep you informed of our process and to allow you to be involved in upcoming public events.

There are document links and pages to review our land use history, as well as a new email address to send your comments to us for the record:

Thank you for your interest in Clark County!

You are receiving this email because at one time you had signed up for updates on our Comprehensive Plan process. If you no longer wish to receive these updates, please respond to this message with a new subject line of “Unsubscribe”.

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2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update

Clark County is updating its Comprehensive Plan. The current plan, adopted in 2007, covers 2007 to 2024. The update will extend the current plan's growth outlook from 2015 to 2035. We expect to complete the update project in June 2016.

Updates will refresh policies and elements of the plan with an eye toward population and employment growth over the next 20 years. With this growth comes potential for increased demand for residential, commercial and industrial land, parks, schools, services, utility facilities and roads. The 2016 update focuses on future land use needs in unincorporated urban areas, but has links to planning in cities, rural areas and the Town of Yacolt.

Public input is a major part of the 2016 update. This website is designed to encourage and facilitate public involvement. We will keep the information on this site current, and hope you will use it to comment on parts of the plan that might change.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Last updated: 03/04/2014 13:50:50
2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update

Background

Growth Management Act (GMA)

In 1990, Washington adopted the Growth Management Act, RCW 36.70A (GMA). The GMA requires certain counties and cities to develop and adopt comprehensive land use plans that anticipate the needs of population and employment growth. Plans must look forward at least 20 years.

The GMA requires that comprehensive plans consist of these elements: land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, rural (for counties), transportation, economic development and parks and recreation (36.70A.070 RCW).

A comprehensive plan also may include additional optional elements that relate to the physical development within its respective jurisdiction. Examples of optional elements include: schools, historic preservation and community design (36.70A.080 RCW).

The GMA also requires jurisdictions to periodically review their comprehensive plans and implementing development regulations in their entirety and, if needed, revise them. Clark County is required to have this review and revision completed by June 30, 2016, and every eight years thereafter (36.70A.130(5)(b) RCW). Opportunities for public participation in this process will be provided (36.70A.035 RCW).

Planning in Clark County

Clark County has a long planning history. The Board of County Commissioners created and established a County Planning Department and Planning Commission for Clark County as early as 1935. In 1959, the state legislature approved a new statute (RCW 36.70), which applied specifically to county, regional and joint planning programs. This 1959 statute led to the adoption of the county's first Comprehensive Plan in 1960.

Here's our land use planning history:

- 1935: Clark County established first county planning department and advisory planning commission
- 1960: First Clark County Comprehensive Plan
- 1979: Second Clark County comprehensive plan which initiated Urban Services Boundaries, a predecessor of the 1994 state mandated Urban Growth Boundaries required by GMA.
- 1994: Comprehensive plan resulted in a total of 41,229 acres, or 64.42 square miles, of urban growth areas. The 1994 Comprehensive Plan planned for growth between 1994 and 2014.
- 1995: Plan was remanded by the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board for inconsistency between population projections and capital facilities planning.
1997: Revision of 1994 plan to comply with the hearings board findings

2004: Clark County adopts 2004 Comprehensive Plan update. 6,124 acres, or 9.57 square miles of growth areas added.
- Fourteen appeals challenged the 2004 plan focused, in part, on a last-minute reduction in the assumed growth rate, moving it from 1.83 percent to 1.69 percent.

2007: Revision of 2004 plan. 12,023 acres added to urban growth areas.
- Appeals challenged the 2007 plan, arguing the county had erroneously moved 4,351 acres from agricultural designation to a non-resource designation, and included those lands within urban growth areas.
- As a result of the appeals process, 1,500 acres of rezoned land was ruled invalid, and those lands were removed from urban growth areas and again designated as agricultural lands.

Between Clark County Comprehensive Plan updates, annual adjustments (i.e. Annual Reviews) to the Comprehensive Plan are made in response to city annexations and citizen requests for specific sites. Meanwhile, there were numerous changes in regulations to help implement the plan.
What is a comprehensive plan update?
Comprehensive plans are long-range in nature and
serve as policy guides for how a jurisdiction plans
to manage growth and development with respect to the natural environment
and available resources. Washington State law (36.70A.040 RCW) requires that jurisdictions
operating under the Growth Management Act (GMA) develop comprehensive plans and
development regulations that are consistent with and implement their respective
comprehensive plans (36.70A.040 RCW).

Clark County’s comprehensive plan consists of a set of policies and maps meant to
accommodate and guide population and employment growth in the unincorporated
portion of the county over the next 20 years. The cities and Town of Yacolt each
developed and update their own plans separately from, but in coordination with, the
county’s plan.

State law also requires these plans be updated according to a set schedule. The 2016
update is Clark County’s implementation of this state requirement to “review and revise, if
needed” the county’s plan for growth. For Clark County and the cities and town within
it, this update is to be adopted by June, 30 2016 and focus on population and
employment growth projected between 2015 and 2035. The last major update was in
2007.

Less extensive revisions to the comprehensive plan are allowed on an annual basis
through the annual review process (when requested by the public or non-county
jurisdictions) and through a simultaneous county-initiated docket process.

Where will growth occur?
Projections from the Washington State Office of Financial Management suggest the
county’s future growth rate over the next 20 years (2015-2035) will be slower than the
rate seen and planned for in recent decades. The population forecast for 2035 is slightly
less than the forecast for 2024, which was the basis for the last major comprehensive
plan update adopted in 2007. Because of slower growth and similar growth forecasts for
2024 and 2035, the new plan will have a similar big-picture strategy to the existing
plan, and thus extensive changes are not needed.

Most growth is planned to occur in urban areas already characterized by urban
development. Despite the slower rate of growth, some important details in the plan will
likely change. Which is still unknown, but we are gathering information and will be
evaluate options. However, depending on where you live, own property, work or simply
enjoy visiting, things that might change could be important to you.

What plans are involved?
The 2016 update focuses on where population and employment growth should be
focused and options for mitigating the impacts of that growth. The update will look at
current and future land uses and development density, Urban Growth Area boundaries,
capital facility needs, transportation infrastructure and traffic. The update will result in
changes to the Clark County 20-year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, the
Comprehensive Plan Land Use map, and Capital Facilities Plan. The 2016 update does
not address individual development proposals. See the library for reports and plans that inform or are part of the Comprehensive Plan.

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**How can I get involved?**

Your input will help the Board of County Commissioners reach its final decision about how best to update the plan. This web site and many steps along the way, are designed to help you understand the options called 'alternatives' that will be under consideration.

This web site will help you to voice your opinions about the alternatives and how they could be shaped into a preferred plan for the Board of County Commissioners consideration in 2016. We hope to hear from you soon, but please feel free to use the information on these pages to familiarize yourself with the project. See the 'get involved' page on how to become part of the process. Also watch the comprehensive plan update 'meetings' page for meeting information.

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Alternatives

Later this year, alternatives will be developed that represent the range of options being considered for distribution of population, employment and development in the county from 2015 to 2035.

Impacts of these alternatives will be studied and compared during the environmental review process required under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Clark County will seek public input on the alternatives during the environmental review and subsequent Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioner (BOCC) phases of the project. Following public input, the Board of County Commissioners could adopt one of the alternatives.

This page will be updated once the environmental review process begins.

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2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update

Timeline

The timeline indicates and describes each phase of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update project. Information related to each phase will be posted here. Please keep checking back because we will add more information as it becomes available.

Pre-planning

Planning staff will brief the Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission and public on the Growth Management Act and Vacant Buildable Lands Model and how they inform the Clark County Comprehensive Plan.

The public participation plan also is developed during this phase. The plan clearly identifies the scope of the comprehensive plan update, when legislative action is expected, and how the public can participate or comment.

Pre-planning documents and presentations:
- Issue paper #1 Growth Management Act (PDF)
- Presentation to BOCC on Growth Management Act (Slides-PDF)
- Presentation to BOCC on Vacant Buildable Lands Model (Slides-PDF)
- Public Participation Plan (PDF)

Data Analysis

This phase of the project lays the foundation for the updated plan. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) choose a 20-year population projection that will inform the employment and household projections, which then will lead to working with the cities and town in determining where those projected people and jobs will be.

Also during this phase, proposed changes to the comprehensive plan text will be reviewed by the public and Planning Commission for comment and recommendation to the BOCC. Technical reports that support the policies in the updated comprehensive plan are developed.

Data analysis documents and presentations:
- Issue paper #2 Population Projection (PDF)
- Presentation to BOCC on population projection (slides-PDF)
- Issue paper #3 Employment Projection (PDF)
This phase will result in a report documenting changes in Clark County since adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, areas of the plan or development regulations that must be updated or amended, and amendments or changes the board and Planning Commission have chosen to consider even though they are not mandatory.

This phase is where issues identified in the Data Analysis phase are addressed through plan or code revisions.

Plan development documents and presentations

Information will be posted when available.

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Adoption

The final phase of the project is when the public and state and local officials review and comment on the overall plan.

The Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the proposed plan. The BOCC then will hold hearings when the plan will be considered and then officially adopted.

Adoption documents and presentations

Information will be posted when available.

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Get involved - 2016 Comprehensive Growth management Plan update - Community Plan...

Get involved

Your input will help us decide what changes to make or not to make during the 2016 update project. To be effective, how you say something is as important as what you say, to whom you address your comments and when. Timely delivery of a clear message to the intended audience is the best way to influence the new plan. This page will help you be involved and have your voice heard.

Here are some options to get involved in the project:

- **Receive e-mail notifications.** Sign up to receive automatic e-mail notifications on any upcoming meetings and information related to the project.

- **Attend meetings.** Throughout the update process, meetings - such as workshops, open houses and Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioner hearings - will be opportunities for public comment and participation. The meetings will provide information about the project status and in what direction it is headed. Your attendance can directly impact the decision-making process. Meetings involving the 2016 update are kept up-to-date in the 'Meetings' page and will also be posted on the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update home page.

- **Written testimony.** Letters and e-mails are always welcome.
  - **Mail:** Clark County Community Planning
    P.O. Box 9810, Vancouver, WA 98666-9810
  - **e-mail:** comp.plan@clark.wa.gov

Last updated: 03/05/2014 10:04:30
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Meeting information

The 2016 comprehensive plan update project will include many public meetings before the Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission and the public. The information on this page will include dates and the topics of those meetings. To see specific information and documents presented at a that meeting, click on the date which will take you to the appropriate commission’s meeting page.

### 2014

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>PC work session: Community Development policies</td>
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<td>BOCC work session: Employment projections</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Countywide planning policies</td>
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<td>- Rural lands policies</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>BOCC Hearing</td>
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<td>- Presentation to Board of County Commissioners</td>
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### 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>- BOCC work session: Population Projection</td>
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<td>October 9</td>
<td>- BOCC work session: Vacant Buildable Lands Model</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>BOCC work session: Comprehensive Plan background and update process overview</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>- Slide presentation</td>
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Library

The Library contains elements of the current update and background information that will inform the development of the 2016 update.

New reports and plans developed since last update

- **Growing Healthier Report** - The Growing Healthier Report identifies opportunities to improve community health through changes to the built environment.
- **Aging Readiness Plan** - The Aging Readiness Plan assesses the county’s readiness to serve as a home for a growing number of older residents.
- **Clark County Economic Development Plan** - Prepared for the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDCC) on behalf of Clark County's economic development partners, this strategic plan provides recommendations on how to position Clark County for long-term economic vitality.

Elements of current comprehensive plan

- **2007 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan** - with annual amendments (PDF)
  - 2007 County-wide Comprehensive Land Use Map (PDF)
  - Figures and maps (i.e., critical areas, soils, wetlands, urban growth areas, etc.)
- **County-wide zoning map** (PDF)
- **Clark County’s Shoreline Master Program** (SMP)
- **Coordinated Water Plan** (PDF)
- **Buildable Lands Program and reports (Plan monitoring)** - The Buildable Lands Program offers the opportunity for local governments to coordinate and analyze land supply to make sure they have enough lands for development and that their Comprehensive Growth Management Plans are doing what they are expected to do.
  - Vacant Buildable Lands Model Maps and Data
- **Transportation documents** - Clark County Public Works is responsible for preparing planning documents, such as the Annual Construction Program and Transportation Improvement Program, as well as a Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Capital Facilities Plan** (PDF) - The Capital Facilities Financial Plan presents a plan for financing capital facilities identified in the Clark County 20-Year Growth Management Comprehensive Plan. Other supporting documentation associated with the plan include the capital facilities plans for school districts, Clark County Parks and Transportation, and a summary of the vacant lands analysis for each urban growth area.
- **Parks Plan** - The Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan (Parks Plan for short) is a required component of the Clark County Comprehensive Plan. The Parks Plan works with the county’s Comprehensive Plan and Capital Facilities Plan to provide goals, objectives and strategies for park services. The Parks Plan is currently in the update process. A link will be provided once a draft is available.
News releases - 2016 Comprehensive Growth management Plan update - Community Pla...

2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update

News releases

- Commissioners to choose population forecast to update growth plan - January 9, 2014
- County kicks off growth plan update due to state by mid-2016 - November 11, 2013

Related information

- Clark County Code
- Maps Online (property information)
- Planning Commission
- 2007 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan

Find it

Having trouble finding what you are looking for?

- A-Z index - All services and programs are listed.
- Contact us on the phone during business hours or by email any time.

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3/5/2014