



“Building Partnerships – Building Communities”

Kittitas County 2037 Comprehensive Plan

DRAFT – Table of Contents

1. Introduction and Vision	2
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Community Engagement	2
1.3 Vision Statement.....	2
1.4 Plan Organization.....	2
2. Goals and Policies	2
3.1 Land Use Element	2
3.2 Housing Element.....	3
3.3 Economic Development Element.....	3
3.4 Natural Environment Element	3
3.5 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element.....	4
3.6 Transportation Element.....	4
3.7 Capital Facilities Element	4
3.8 Utilities Element.....	5
3. Supporting Analysis.....	6
4.1 Land Use Element	6
4.2 Housing Element.....	6
4.3 Economic Development Element.....	6
4.4 Natural Environment Element	6
4.5 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element.....	6
4.6 Transportation Element.....	6
4.7 Capital Facilities Element	7
4.8 Utilities Element.....	7
Appendix A – Maps and Figures.....	A
Appendix B – Glossary and Acronyms	A
Appendix C – Suncadia Subarea Plan.....	A

DRAFT - Outline

1. Introduction and Vision

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Community Engagement

1.3 Vision Statement

Kittitas County is a region with a distinct sense of place based on the quality and diversity of our natural and built environment, valued recreational opportunities, and commitment to high quality of life.

Kittitas County addresses challenges of future growth in a direct manner. Coordinated planning and suitable density patterns ensure that rural areas, natural areas, and working lands are sustained for the benefit of current and future generations. An important factor in the County's growth fostering a diverse economy with a variety of employment opportunities achieved through a balance of commercial, industrial and manufacturing areas located and sized to ensure opportunities for rural-based employment. The diverse housing needs of current and future residents is met by providing a range of housing types to ensure adequate and affordable housing options.

Kittitas County enhances its regional character by preserving the diversity of existing resource tourism and promoting future opportunities. The County protects, conserves, and responsibly manages natural resources through education, coordination, facilitation, and long term planning.

The cornerstone of the County's approach to planning is conducting activities in a manner that encourages citizen involvement, enhances public trust, and promotes mutual understanding.

1.4 Plan Organization

2. Goals and Policies

3.1 Land Use Element

Land use describes the human use of land including the proposed distribution, general location, and extent of different types land uses. The combination and location of residential, commercial, public uses, natural areas, regional facilities, and other uses is important in determining the character of Kittitas County. The pattern of how land is designated in different parts of the County directly affects the quality of life in regard to recreation, employment opportunities, environmental health, physical health, property values, safety, and other important factors.

The Land Use policies contained in this element and the Comprehensive Plan Map (Figure X) identify the intensity of development and density recommended for all unincorporated areas in the County. The Land Use Element contains the basis for all growth-related planning functions in the comprehensive plan, including transportation, housing, capital facilities, and the rural element.

The Land Use Element Supporting Analysis section of this Plan contains the background data and analysis that describes the physical characteristics of the County, and provides the foundation for the following goals and policies.

3.1.1 Land Use Goals

3.1.2 Land Use Policies

3.2 Housing Element

Housing impacts the character of our region; defines quality of life; and plays an important role in both the state and local economies. The Housing Element includes goals and policies to preserve existing housing stock, promote a variety of residential densities, and encourage the availability of affordable housing for all economic segments of the community.

The Housing Element Supporting Analysis section of this Plan contains the background data and analysis that describes existing housing inventory, current and future housing needs for all groups including those with special needs, and housing affordability that provides the foundation for the following goals and policies.

3.2.1 Housing Goals

3.2.2 Housing Policies

3.3 Economic Development Element

Economic Development can create and maintain a strong, vibrant local economy by encouraging a greater number and variety of economic opportunities that provide services and create employment opportunities for Kittitas County residents.

The Economic Development Element Supporting Analysis section of this Plan contains the background data and analysis that describes the existing economic conditions of the County and strengths and weaknesses of the local economy which provides the foundation for the following goals and policies.

3.3.1 Economic Development Goals

3.3.2 Economic Development Policies

3.4 Natural Environment Element

The natural environment provides habitat function and values as well as human benefits that may affect natural resource industries, property values, and outdoor recreation and tourism. The natural environment includes critical areas (wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas) and shorelines of the state. The natural environment element includes goals and policies to conserve the natural environment, support appropriate growth and economic development, and encourage overall resiliency.

The Natural Environment Element Supporting Analysis includes the background data and analysis of the natural environment as well as the classification and designation of the County's critical areas and location of the shorelines of the state (Figure X). Classification and designation of critical areas establishes the general distribution, location, extent, and quality of the critical area.

3.4.1 Natural Environment Goals

3.4.2 Natural Environment Policies

3.5 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element

The parks, recreation opportunities, and open spaces of Kittitas County provide economic, health, environmental, and social benefits to the community. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space element describes the goals and policies that create a framework for future decisions in relation to parks, recreation, and open spaces in Kittitas County.

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element Supporting Analysis includes the background data and analysis of parks, recreation, and open space including an inventory existing facilities, projected demand, and needs of existing facilities.

3.5.1 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Goals

3.5.2 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Policies

3.6 Transportation Element

The transportation system influences traffic, congestion, character of communities, and accessibility of homes, schools, recreational opportunities, and businesses. The Transportation Element provides a policy framework that will provide direction for Kittitas County's transportation improvements.

The Transportation Supporting Analysis provides more detailed background information and analysis that includes an inventory of the County transportation network, estimated traffic impacts, level of service standards, projections of transportation demands, and a financing plan.

3.6.1 Transportation Goals

3.6.2 Transportation Policies

3.7 Capital Facilities Element

Capital facilities are the facilities needed to support growth including roads; bridges; sewer; parks and open spaces; and facilities for drinking water, stormwater, garbage disposal and recycling; and the government buildings which house the public services. The goals and policies of this element will help to determine capital facility needs, prioritize projects, coordinate related projects, and leverage loan and grant opportunities.

The Capital Facilities Element Supporting Analysis contains the background data that provides the foundation for the following goals and policies including an inventory of capital facilities showing location and capacity, projected demands, and a financing plan.

3.7.1 Capital Facilities Goals

3.7.1 Capital Facilities Policies

3.8 Utilities Element

Utilities consist of both the service activity along with the physical facilities necessary for the utilities to be supplied. Utilities are supplied by a combination of local governments and private and community based organizations. The Utilities Element provides a framework for the efficient and predictable provision and siting of utility facilities and services within the County and supports coordination with utility providers to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan is supported by utility infrastructure.

The Utilities Element Supporting Analysis section contains an inventory of utility services in the County including the general location, proposed location, and capacity of existing and proposed utilities which provides the foundation for the following goals and policies.

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3.8.1 Utilities Goals

3.8.1 Utilities Policies

3. Supporting Analysis

4.1 Land Use Element

- Distribution of current land uses
- Projected land use needs
- Future population growth

4.2 Housing Element

- Housing Conditions
- Housing Needs – existing and projected
- Value and Cost of Housing

4.3 Economic Development Element

- Local economy – population, employment, payroll, sectors, businesses, sales, etc.
- Strengths and weaknesses of local economy

4.4 Natural Environment Element

4.5 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element

- Existing facilities and services
- 10 year park and recreation demand estimates
- Evaluation of needs
- Intergovernmental coordination

4.6 Transportation Element

- Existing transportation facilities
- Alternative modes of transportation
- 10 year traffic forecasts

- Estimated traffic impacts
- Level of service standards
- Forecast of facility and service needs
- Financing plan
- Funding capability

4.7 Capital Facilities Element

- Existing capital facility locations and capacities
- Forecast of future needs
- Proposed locations and capacities for new facilities
- Financing Plan

4.8 Utilities Element

- Existing utility locations and capacities
- Proposed locations and capacity for new utilities

Appendix A – Maps and Figures

Appendix B – Glossary and Acronyms

Appendix C – Suncadia Subarea Plan

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