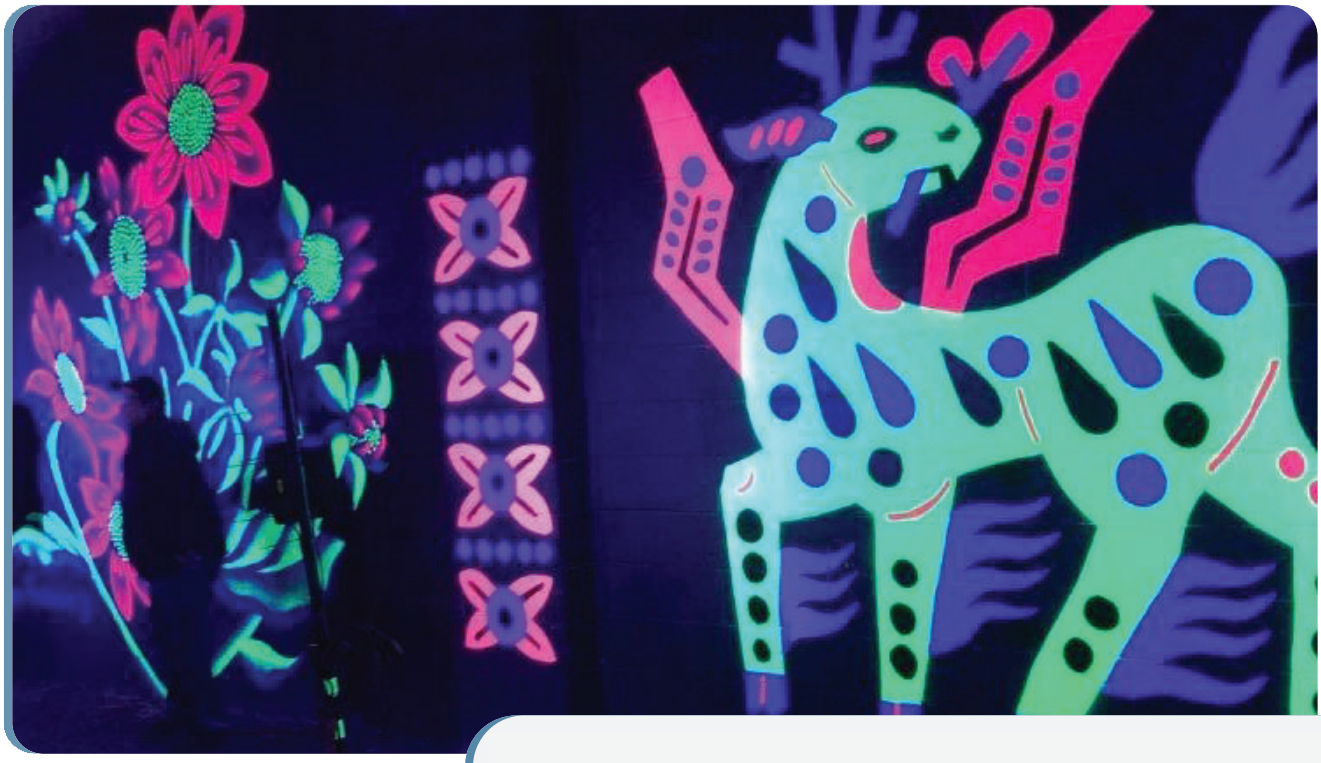
# 7 Community Health and Well-being



### What You Will Find in this Chapter

- Information about characteristics that foster health and well-being.
- A description of the City's plan to support Burien residents' health and social well-being.
- Goals and policies that encourage active living, movement and play, healthy food access, limited air/noise impacts, and a safe and connected community for personal and community resilience.

# Our Community Health and Well-being Vision

*Burien's physical environment and social programs allow community members to weather challenges, live healthy and hopeful lives, and develop and maintain positive human interactions. Homes, businesses, recreation, cultural arts, and schools offer culturally relevant ways to access healthy food options, interact spontaneously, build trust amongst neighbors, and gather together.*

## Introduction

The Community Health and Well-being Element provides a framework for Burien to positively influence a built environment that supports physical health and social connections—two factors noted on the City of Burien's Framework for Strengthening Families in **Exhibit 5-5**—and several factors noted in the wellbeing sidebar to right. Though many factors contribute to wellbeing (and are addressed throughout this plan), this chapter focuses on the following built environment characteristics:

- Opportunities for an active lifestyle
- Access to parks and play
- Healthy food access
- Limited air and noise impacts
- Places that feel safe and promote social connections.

### Well-being Definitions

- **Wellbeing:** "The set of needs and experiences universally required in combination and balance to weather challenges and have health and hope" (Full Frame Initiative).
- **Community wellbeing:** "the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions identified by individuals and their communities as essential for them to flourish and fulfil their potential" (Wiseman and Brasher, 2008).
- **Social wellbeing:** "developing and maintaining positive interactions with other people and with local and global communities" (Positive Psychology)




Source: Full Frame Initiative

These built environment qualities are illustrated on **Exhibit 7-2** and are important for health and wellbeing in the following ways.

**Active living.** Compact and complete neighborhoods, where people can meet their needs safely and comfortably in a close distance, can improve quality of life by allowing more physical activity incorporated into residents' routines (i.e., active transportation), increasing opportunities for social

interaction during commutes and trips, and providing convenient access to cultural, social, and leisure activities. Co-benefits include reducing air and water pollution and supporting the local economy.

**Parks, play, and gathering.** Access to nearby community facilities, parks, and open space provide opportunities for physical activity, social contact, and proximity to nature, all of which bolster mental and physical health. Parks also play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, providing carbon-reducing landscapes that cleanse air and water and mitigate urban heat island effects.

**Healthy and culturally relevant food access.** Proximity to affordable grocery stores, culturally relevant food, corner stores, farmers markets, food pantries and banks, restaurants, community gardens, foraging opportunities, and other food sources is a determinant of health. These places also serve as social gathering places.

**Limited air and noise impacts.** Burien's proximity to the Sea-Tac International Airport presents unique air and noise pollution challenges. Both airport and roadway (vehicular) traffic pollute the air and cause negative health impacts, listed in **Exhibit 7-1**, and including:

- Organ system problems, especially cardiovascular and respiratory systems (PHSKC, Community Health and Airport Operations Related Noise and Air Pollution: Report to the Legislature, 2020),
- Elevated risk of mortality and adverse birth outcomes such as low birth weight and increased hospitalizations, especially with children (Washington Tracking Network),
- Asthma, immune system suppression, lung growth problems, preterm birth, premature death, dementia, and more (EPA 2018, American Lung Association, Jansen, et al at National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Bureau of Economic Research),
- Respiratory issues especially acute amongst children (American Lung Association)
- Aircraft-related ultrafine particles may be associated with elevated systemic inflammation, while roadway traffic may impact respiratory health and inflammation (UW Mov-Up Report, 2019, p 11)

Noise causes a "highly activated stress response, inflammation, hypertension and plaque buildup in arteries, increasing the risk of heart disease, heart attacks and stroke" (NYT, Noise Exposure Health Impacts, 2023). Specifically, "according to the World Health Organization, average road traffic noise above 53 dB or average aircraft noise exposure above about 45 dB are associated with adverse health effects" especially nighttime and intermittent (rather than a constant hum from a highway) noise (NYT, 2023). Indirect health effects include:

- Speech interference
- Sleep disturbance
- Task interference
- Impairment of classroom learning
- Non-auditory health effects

- Aversive effects on emotion and tranquility (Wyle 2011, p 4; PHSKC, Community Health and Airport Operations Related Noise and Air Pollution: Report to the Legislature, 2020)
- Vibrations that impact hospitals and health care facilities (PSRC Airport Compatible Land Use Plan, 2011, p 29)

**Exhibit 7-1. Airport-related pollutants and health outcomes**

| Health outcomes likely caused or caused by airport operations–related pollutants based on evidence to date | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Organ System** | **Noise Pollution** | **Air Pollutants** |
| Cardiovascular | Causal | Causal |
| Respiratory | Not examined | Causal |
| Reproductive & fertility | Not examined | Causal |
| Birth outcomes | No causal evidence | Likely causal |
| Cancer | Not examined | Causal |
| Central nervous system | No causal evidence | Causal |
| Metabolic system | No causal evidence | No causal evidence |

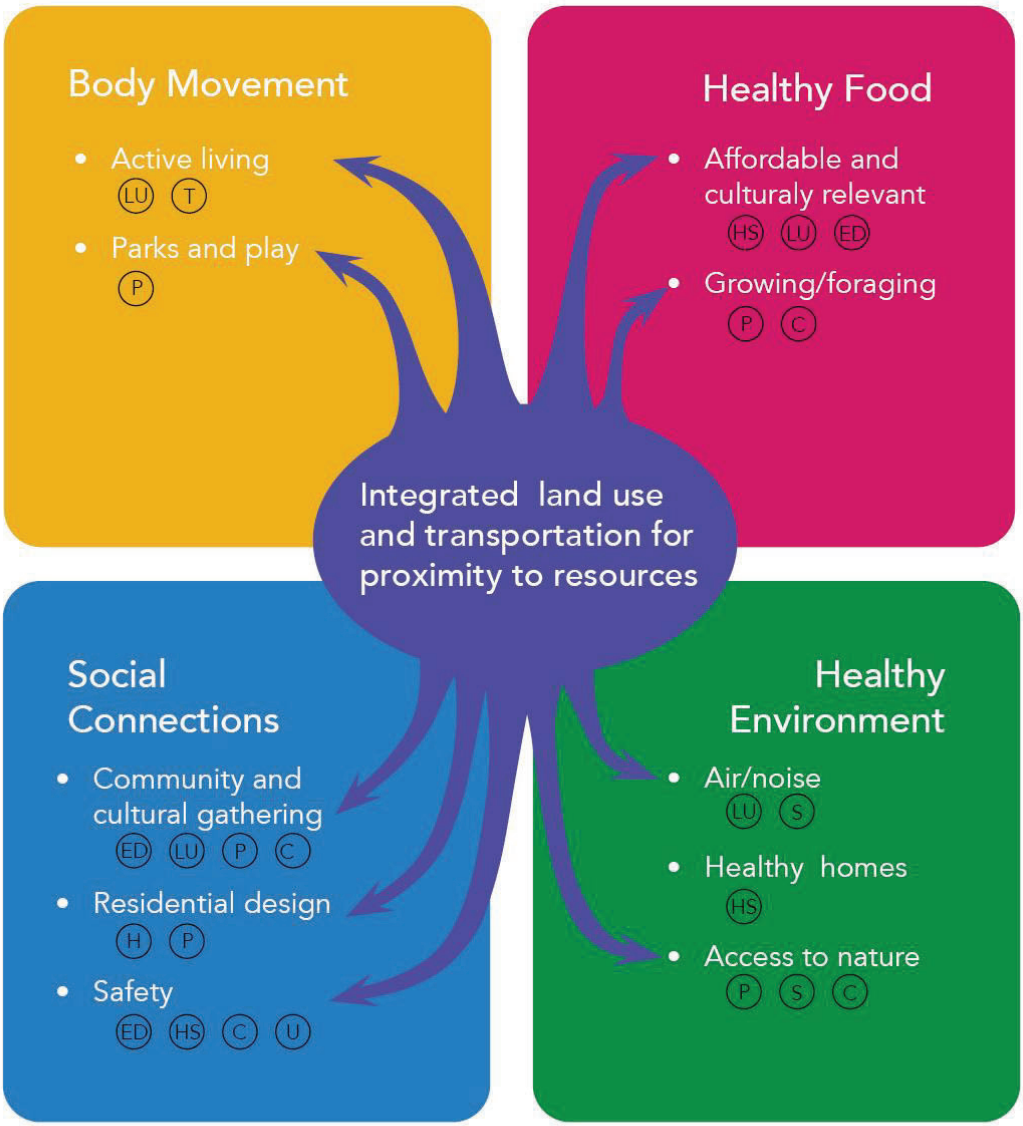
Source: Public Health Seattle and King County, 2020.

**Strong and safe community.** Psychology and health research shows that lack of social connections increases the risk of many health issues and chronic stress (Health Affairs, CDC). Loneliness is most prevalent in low density areas where commuting by car reduces opportunities for social interactions and high density areas if residential design does not promote community and relationship building.

Community design that mixes housing and jobs, reduces commutes, increases housing supply and variety, and has sociability design characteristics can improve social connectedness (Health Affairs, Social Isolation and Health). Happy Cities' Designed to Engage report and Happy Homes Interactive Toolkit offer design actions to increase residents' sense of control over their space, opportunities for social interaction with neighbors, ability to build trust amongst neighbors, and chances at staying in the same neighborhood over time as household needs change. Careful design and management of shared spaces also supports youth and people of all ages. In addition to housing and shared space design, local businesses, and institutions (e.g., mosques, churches) act as places for gathering, social interactions, and sense of belonging.

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) is another built environment design theory—that overlaps with the residential design techniques above—that can help improve sense of safety. It promotes clear sense of ownership over semi-public space; good visibility in public places; warm, consistent lighting; positive mixing of uses for healthy human activity throughout the day; and programs to connect community members (International CPTED Association).

**Exhibit 7-2. Community health and wellbeing drivers and interrelationships with other elements**




Most influenced by:

- (LU) Land Use
- (T) Transportation
- (H) Housing
- (HS) Human Services
- (ED) Economic Development
- (S) Sustainability & Natural Environment
- (C) Climate Change
- (P) Parks, Recreation, & Open Space
- (U) Utilities

Source: MAKERS, 2023.

# Conditions & Trends

## Today's Conditions

### Active Living

Several neighborhood centers already serve local residents with transit and amenities, making it easier in those places to go places without a car. Conditions across Burien vary from thriving, transit-friendly retail clusters to car-dependent residential and commercial areas. Some areas have community assets or resources such as libraries, parks, and schools, serving as social and cultural anchors of the neighborhood. Seahurst and the area surrounding Ambaum Boulevard SW and SW 136th Street are examples of neighborhood centers where commercial and other resources are integrated in the neighborhood fabric, supporting community interactions and a resilient neighborhood. See Exhibit 7-3.

**Vision Survey, Fall 2022**

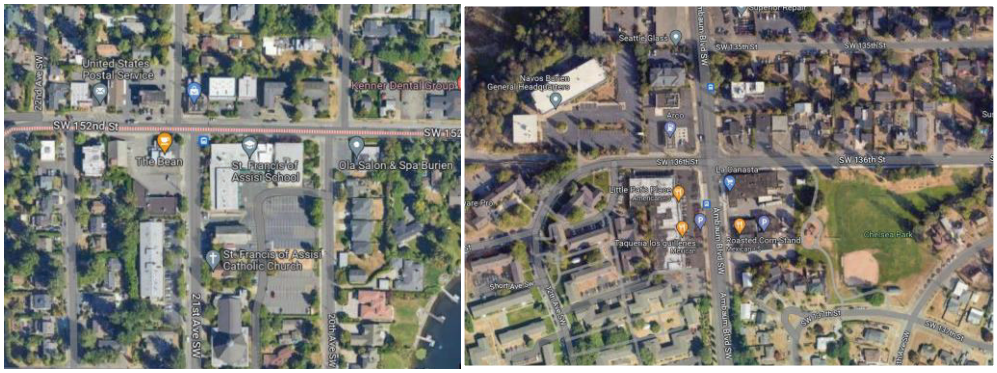
*What do you like about transportation in Burien Today?*

- Bike lanes and sidewalks where we have them, amount of parking at transit center, EV charging stations at transit center and city hall.
- Hệ thống Giao thông thuận tiện (convenient transportation system)
- Son accessible en mi area (They are accessible in my area)

*What are your barriers to moving to, from, and around Burien today?*

- Cần cải tạo lại cơ sở hạ tầng (Infrastructure needs to be rehabilitated)
- Unsafe road conditions in residential streets including potholes and no sidewalks.

Exhibit 7-3. Neighborhood Centers: Seahurst and Ambaum




Source: Google Maps

Inadequate pedestrian and bicycle networks, uncomfortable or unsafe sidewalk conditions (e.g., inconsistent street lighting, narrow sidewalks, ADA inaccessibility), auto-oriented design, and lack of active destinations present challenges to neighborhood livability in some Burien areas.

## Parks and Play

**Parks and community facilities.** Burien has more than 365 acres of parks and open space and multiple community centers (See Chapter 10 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space). Parks, like Chelsea Park and Seahurst Park, feature options for active recreation, including playgrounds and walking trails, and promote safe, affordable, and healthy ways to connect with humans and nature. Community centers, like Burien Community Center and Moshier Community Art Center, provide multipurpose space for activities, programs, and events, offering opportunities to strengthen sense of community and belonging. Many parks and community facilities' programs support wellness in additional ways, such as after school programs for youth and fitness programs for seniors.

## Healthy Food Access

**Grocery stores.** In addition to conventional groceries, culturally relevant grocery stores or food markets, such as La Canasta and Guadalupe Market, are prevalent in Burien and play a vital role in providing access to nutritious foods, sustaining cultural identities, and promoting connectedness and sense of belonging.

**Farmers Market.** Farmers markets contribute to health by expanding access to fresh, nutritious, and potentially affordable food within the community. The Burien Farmers Market is open year-round and centrally located at Burien Town Square Park. It accepts electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards and participates in Washington State Department of Health's SNAP Market Match incentive program that doubles SNAP users' benefit dollars when fruits and vegetables are purchased.

**Community organizations.** Culturally responsive food initiatives and programs promote food sovereignty and reduce barriers to food access experienced by underserved communities, including immigrants and refugees. Local farmers, food markets, and non-profit community organizations, including food banks and food pantries, have jointly developed approaches to support families with culturally relevant foods. One example is Alimentando al Pueblo, a community pantry that partnered with local organizations to distribute culturally relevant food boxes that include tortillas, rice and beans, fresh yuca and plantains, to Latinx communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. White Center Food Bank and Highline Area Food Bank play a critical role in supporting families in Burien.

**Community gardens.** Burien has several community gardens, including the City's Community Garden adjacent to the Annex Park, Hazel Valley Community Garden at Highline United Methodist Church, and New Start Community Garden at New Start High School. (Note that gardening can be impacted by air pollution particles that settle on plants and soil.)

## Limited Air and Noise Impacts

### Air Quality

Air quality is affected by pollutants from both natural and manmade sources. Vehicles and equipment that burn fossil fuels are typically among the largest contributors to transportation-

related emissions and can contribute to regional and localized concentrations of carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$), and ozone ($O_3$). State and federal standards regulate these pollutants along with the two other criteria pollutants ($SO_2$ and lead). The Puget Sound region is currently in attainment for all six criteria pollutants (Ecology, 2022a).

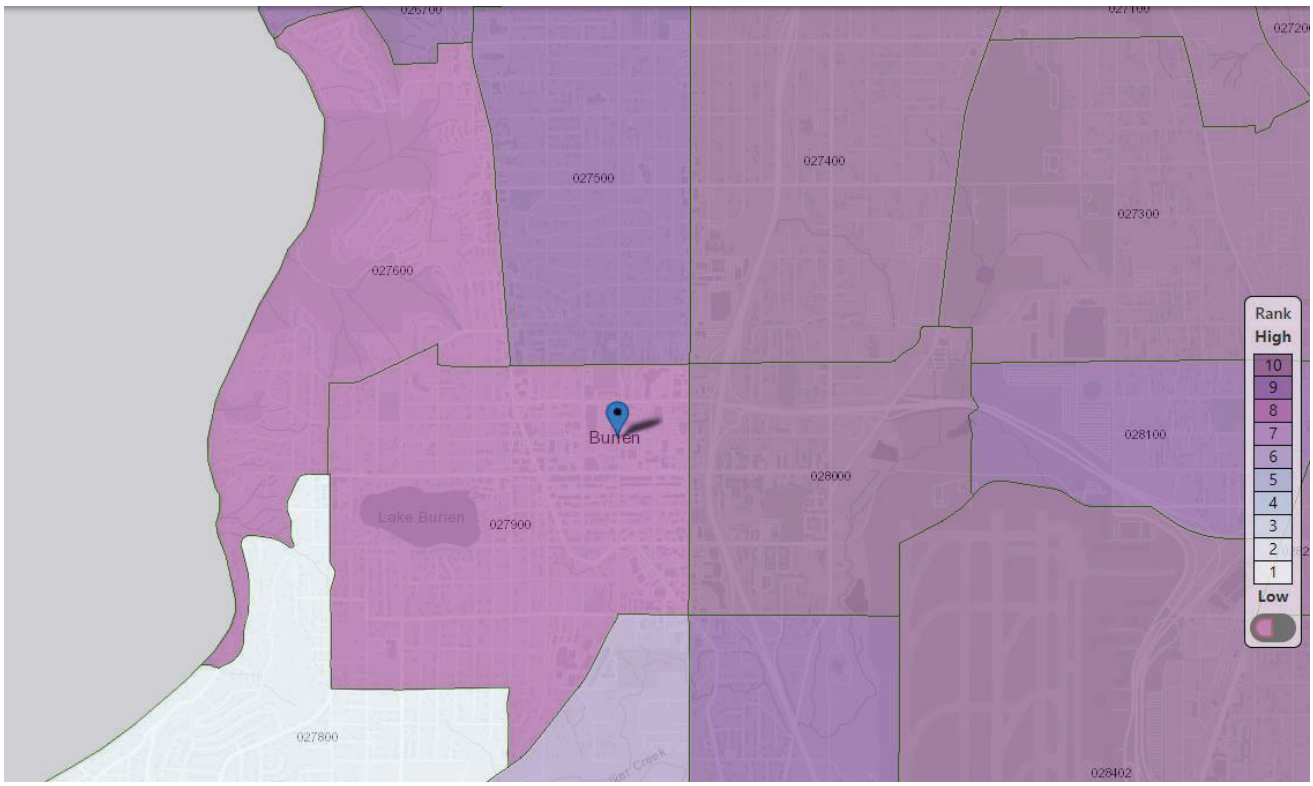
The City of Burien is on the water's edge six miles of Puget Sound shoreline. Buffered by the Olympic and Cascade Mountain ranges and the Puget Sound. Burien has a Mediterranean climate with dry warm summers and wild winters. There is sufficient wind most of the year to disperse air pollutants released into the atmosphere. Apart from wildfire events, air pollution is usually most noticeable in the late fall and winter, under conditions of clear skies, light wind, and a sharp temperature inversion.

**Greenhouse Gas:** Greenhouse gases have a long atmospheric lifespan (1 year to several thousand years), and their potential to trap heat varies widely. The City of Burien conducted a 2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory using the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) – Local Governments for Sustainability Software Cleanpath along with technical support from ICLEI technical staff. The largest amount of core emissions in Burien was contributed by the transportation sector at 48%, followed by the energy sector at 31%, commercial energy at 15%, solid waste at 4%, and industrial energy at 1%.

**Air Toxics:** Air toxic pollutant emissions or hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) are of concern in Burien because of projected growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The Puget Sound Regional Council estimates that by 2050, the population of the Puget Sound region will grow by 38 percent (1.6 million people) to reach a population of 5.8 million people (PSRC 2021), with the highest population increase estimated to be in King County, resulting in increased VMT.

**Sensitive Populations:** Sensitive populations are those who are the most at-risk of adverse effects from elevated levels of air pollutants, whether due to age, previous or ongoing illnesses, socioeconomic status (SES), or other conditions such as pregnancy. Land uses with populations sensitive to air quality include residential areas, schools, daycare facilities, hospitals, and nursing and convalescent homes. The Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map is used to locate areas with high environmental health risks posed to sensitive populations across the state. According to the Washington Department of Health, living in areas with more environmental hazards and population vulnerabilities is associated with a shorter lifespan, where population in census tracts of rank 1 on average lived 5.3 years longer than those in census tracts with the highest environmental health disparities (rank 10) (Washington Department of Health, n.d.). Exhibit 7-4 indicates that Burien ranks the highest (in the 8-10 range) compared to the other subareas.

**Exhibit 7-4. Health Disparities Map**




Source: Washington State Department of Health, 2022

## Noise

Noise is defined as loud, unexpected, or unwanted sound. A typical noise environment consists of a base of steady background noise that is the sum of many distant and indistinguishable noise sources. The sound from individual local sources is superimposed on this background noise. These sources can vary from an occasional aircraft or train passing by to continuous noise from traffic on a major highway.

Noise-sensitive land uses typically include residences, hospitals, schools, transient lodging, libraries, and certain types of recreational uses. Noise-sensitive residential receivers are found throughout the city. Major sources of noise are described below.

**Traffic Noise:** According to the U.S. Department of Transportation National Transportation Noise Map, traffic noise levels along major highways and freeways in the City (e.g., I-509 and I-518, and Highway 99) range from approximately 50 dBA $L_{eq}$ to 80 dBA $L_{eq}$ (U.S. Department of Transportation 2022).

**Airport Noise:** The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is located less than two miles of the City and generates approximately 1,220 aircraft operations a day. Aircraft originating from other airports such as King-County International Airport frequently fly over Burien. Noise levels (approximately 65-

70 DNL) extend further to the northwest and southeast of the airport and follow the general flight path for airplanes departing/arriving at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

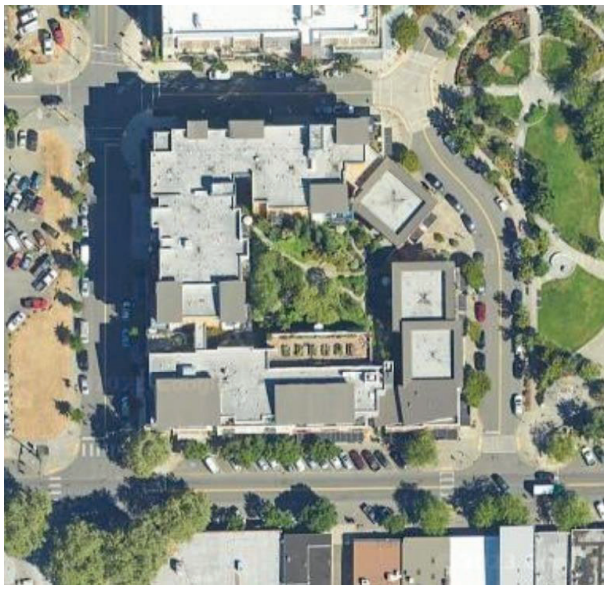
Construction Noise: Noise generated by construction equipment varies greatly depending on factors such as the operation performed, equipment type, model, age, and condition.

## Strong and Safe Community

**Local Businesses and Institutions.** Some communities have a deeper relationship to their surrounding neighborhood due to well-established public or private facilities that function as a gathering place and center of activity. Burien is rich with grocery stores, hair salons, restaurants, cafes, convenience stores, and religious and cultural institutions that are shared spaces central to communities. For example, Three Tree Point Store was revitalized with community support, and it now provides staple goods for the surrounding neighborhoods. Businesses along Ambaum Boulevard act as cultural anchors. Downtown's main street, SW 152nd St, offers a host of community gathering spaces.

**Residential design for sociability.** Burien's neighborhoods have a range of housing design, some promoting more relationship-building than others. The new Burien Town Square development Downtown offers a courtyard shared amongst residents that can act as a community builder. See Exhibit 7-5. Burien's older neighborhoods with homes built close to each other and near the sidewalk promote sociability. Some developments built under outdated development regulations may contain shared space like small playgrounds, but they are located and oriented in ways that discourage their use. Some residential buildings may also do little to relate to and show sense of ownership over the sidewalk area, making some areas feel less safe.

**Exhibit 7-5. Residential development downtown for sociability**



Source: Google Maps

### Shape Your City Vision Comments 2044 (Fall 2022)

Imagine your ideal Burien in 2044. What …words would you use to describe Burien in 2044?

- SAFE to walk downtown all hours and grocery stores
- Igualdad [equality]

# Tomorrow's Projections

Burien continues to grow in population and racial and cultural diversity. Growing demographic groups include elderly, immigrants, and people living in poverty. At the same time, airplane traffic, as well as vehicular traffic, is increasing, further impacting air and noise quality throughout much of Burien (though fuel types and noise levels may change over time). Climate change is increasing risks of floods, extreme heat, wildfire smoke exposure, landslides, and sea level rise. For more information, refer to:

- Human Service Element for population and demographic (e.g., race, age) data and city partnerships with local agencies.
- Land Use Element for population and job growth information and envisioned development pattern
- Housing Element for housing needs by income level
- Economic Element for airport and industry trends
- Transportation Element for transit and bike mobility patterns and traffic trends
- Equity and Climate Change Element for climate trends and impacts
- Parks Element for parks needs and trends.

# Challenges & Opportunities

Based on community values as articulated through the Vision statement, community health and well-being challenges and opportunities include the following. Note that these are interconnected with other chapters of this plan.

- **Meet needs in neighborhoods.** Foster sense of belonging and social connectedness by bolstering neighborhood centers or amenities as places for community members to gather and access services.
- **Strengthen community connections**. Increase opportunities to strengthen community ties through design standards for sociability with any redevelopment, art and place-enhancing design interventions, local business/cultural anchor support, and parks programming.
- **Avoid increasing negative health impacts.** Encourage development patterns and mitigation measures that limit negative impacts on community health due to air and noise pollution, climate change, and natural hazards.
- **Walkability/rollability.** Encourage transit-oriented development, Complete Streets, and walkable neighborhood design principles to enable safe and comfortable mobility for all ages and abilities. Implement safety strategies to provide street outreach and business support.
- **Expand access to healthy food.** Proactively prevent loss of access to healthy and culturally relevant foods, especially ethnic specialty grocery stores and food marts. Support opportunities for farmers markets, food pantries, and food banks.

# Goals & Policies

## Active Living

See Chapter 2 Land Use Element, Active Living, page 2-22.

## Parks and Recreation

**Goal 7.1** **Build opportunities for physical activity, play, access to nature, and social gathering through an integrated system of parks, open spaces, recreation, cultural arts, and human services.**

**Policy 7.1-1** Equitably distribute parks, open space, community centers, and other indoor and outdoor recreation facilities throughout the city to provide easy access to places to move, play, and maintain healthy physical habits. (See the Parks Element.)

> See Parks, Recreation, and Open Space for additional policies to support healthy activities and programming in parks.

**Policy 7.1-2** Provide access to nature for mental and physical health—for today's and future generations—by maintaining, protecting, and enhancing parks, greenbelts, riparian corridors, and wildlife habitat corridors.

*Discussion: See also the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element and supporting system plan.*

**Policy 7.1-3** Where feasible, require and/or partner with developers to provide public open space as part of development, especially in Downtown and neighborhood centers. Such open space may include street furniture, public art, pocket parks, gardens, water features, or pathways that connect other open spaces.

**Policy 7.1-4** To provide access to greenery, cooling benefits, and enhanced community identity and natural beauty, promote the retention and maintenance of exceptional and/or significant trees and ensure that removed trees are appropriately replaced. Encourage the use of native, hardy, and climate-ready vegetation in streets, landscaping, and buffer areas with development. Ground landscape standards and requirements in best available science and best management practices.

**Policy 7.1-5** Implement the Green Burien Partnership Urban Forest Stewardship Plan.

**Policy 7.1-6** Provide a variety of recreational programs to encourage physical health and social connections that are accessible throughout the city with emphasis on serving those with limited opportunities, including children, youth, people with disabilities, elders, and populations most impacted by physical and mental health challenges. Include programs that encourage intercultural and intergenerational interactions.

## Healthy Food Access and Security

### Goal 7.2 Ensure that Burien residents have convenient and equitable access to fresh, affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food.

**Policy 7.2-1** Develop public, private, and non-profit partnerships to improve access to healthy, nutritious food through education, awareness, food security programs, and development partnerships. Support grassroots organizations that encourage food sovereignty and culturally relevant food production and distribution.

**Policy 7.2-2** Minimize displacement of local grocery stores and other food vendors, especially ethnic, specialty, or culturally relevant grocery stores that provide varied product choices and serve as cultural pillars for immigrant communities.

**Policy 7.2-3** Collaborate with other agencies and non-profit organizations to promote farmers markets and provide assistance to increase participation of farmers and food vendors.

**Policy 7.2-4** Support opportunities for community gardens and food foraging (e.g., fruit and nut trees).

**Policy 7.2-5** Require new sensitive land uses to include feasible measures such as setbacks, landscaping, ventilation systems, and other effective measures to minimize potential impacts from air pollution.

## Limited Air and Noise Impacts

### Goal 7.3 Improve air quality conditions and minimize air quality impacts on sensitive population groups by reducing point source emissions (ozone, small particulate matter, diesel particulates), particularly in sensitive communities.

**Policy 7.3-1** Continue to support and comply with the various state, federal, regional, and local programs to protect and enhance air quality.

**Policy 7.3-2** Maintain designated truck routes per the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) to avoid residential areas and other sensitive areas, especially in sensitive communities.

**Policy 7.3-3** Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies to minimize air pollution impacts and heat exposure. Promote the use of drought tolerant and native species in landscaped areas.

**Policy 7.3-4** Encourage the retention of native vegetation and topsoil and require landscaping in new developments in order to provide filtering of suspended particulates.

**Policy 7.3-5** Promote the installation of electric vehicle charging stations within public parking lots and continue to explore removing barriers for private entity installations. Implement the Climate Action Plan strategy to develop an electric vehicle plan.

**Policy 7.3-6** Prohibit the siting and construction of new large-scale hazardous waste producers and facilities on or near sensitive land uses in and around the sensitive communities.

**Policy 7.3-7** Protect Burien's park, recreation and open space areas of local or regional significance from exterior noise exposure levels unless prohibited by federal or state law.

## Goal 7.4 Protect sensitive land uses (e.g., schools, housing, health facilities, childcare facilities, community centers, parks, etc.) from increased pollution exposure, particularly in sensitive communities.

**Policy 7.4-1** Ensure codes and development standards address compatibility between sensitive land uses and heavy industrial uses and other potentially harmful facilities.

**Policy 7.4-2** Require that upgraded air filtration systems are installed for all new sensitive uses within the impact zone of the airport (Mov-Up Report).

## Goal 7.5 Reduce traffic congestion and single-occupancy vehicle use and enhance vehicle management to improve air quality.

**Policy 7.5-1** Install traffic circles or roundabouts or retime traffic signals to reduce vehicle fuel consumption through improving the flow of traffic.

**Policy 7.5-2** Focus new development in areas that will allow residents, employees, and visitors to safely, conveniently, and enjoyably travel as a pedestrian, or by biking, or transit, such as in bus rapid transit (RapidRide) routes and areas of the city with the lowest amount of vehicular travel.

**Policy 7.5-3** Support mode shift and increase accessibility, walkability, and activate public spaces.

**Policy 7.5-4** Amend the land development code to eliminate parking minimum requirements.

**Policy 7.5-5** Optimize use of curb space including management of on-street parking in transit priority areas.

## Goal 7.6 Minimize excessive noise exposure of vehicles and aircraft to noise-sensitive land uses through application of site compatibility measures and attenuation in new or retrofitted buildings.

**Policy 7.6-1** Exterior Noise Analysis. Require noise studies/mitigation for all development where the projected exterior noise levels exceed the City's allowable noise standards, to the extent feasible.

**Policy 7.6-2** Interior Noise Standards. Include municipal code provisions to ensure interior noise levels are within acceptable standards by land use type.

**Policy 7.6-3** Incremental Noise Standards. Establish maximum incremental noise increase standards for new developments.

**Policy 7.6-4** Land Use Compatibility Standards. Establish more detailed land use noise standards for each land use type in the City. This could include a range of noise levels for Clearly Acceptable, Normally Acceptable, Conditionally Acceptable, Normally Unacceptable, and Clearly Unacceptable standards by land use.

**Policy 7.6-5** Land Use Compatibility Analysis. Require noise studies for new developments in areas subject to frequent, high-noise events (e.g., airplane flyovers, train or truck pass-bys, heavy industrial operations, etc.). The noise study would evaluate the compatibility of new development within the context of its surroundings and include the consideration of impacts to sleep disturbance, annoyance, and interruption.

**Policy 7.6-6** Citywide Noise Survey. Consider collecting noise measurements at various locations throughout the City to establish baseline ambient levels for different areas and land uses.

**Policy 7.6-7** Site Planning Techniques. Include potential site planning techniques to help guide land use planning decisions and encourage proper design for future developments. Such techniques may include, but are not limited to, the following (note that these techniques address roadway noise and have limited to no effect on noise originating from aircraft overhead):

- Increase the distance from the road.
- Place noise compatible land uses such as parking lots, maintenance facilities, and utility areas between the road and the residences.
- Use buildings or berms as noise shields by locating them parallel to the road. (Note, this is an effective strategy for roads, but is ineffective from aircraft noise.) Soundproof the building if it contains residences.
- Locate residences in topographically low points that are naturally low noise pockets if they exist.
- Orient the residences—and spaces within the building that benefit from quieter volumes (bedrooms and living rooms)—away from the noise.
- Use cluster and planned unit development techniques to accomplish combinations of the above.

**Policy 7.6-8** Review and Update Existing Noise Standards. Reevaluate the City's current noise standards to establish new noise standards that align with the City's vision and goals for the community.

**Exhibit 7-6. Burien Noise Standard Compared to California Office of Planning and Research Standards**

| Land Use | CA OPR Noise Standard | Burien Comp Plan Noise Standard |
|---|---|---|
| Single-Family Residential | 60 dBA $L_{dn}$ | 55 dBA $L_{dn}$ |
| Multi-Family Residential | 65 dBA $L_{dn}$ | |
| Parks and Amphitheaters | 70 dBA $L_{dn}$ | 55 dBA $L_{dn}$ |
| Golf courses, ball fields, outdoor spectator sports, nature trails, auditoriums, concert halls | 70-75 dBA $L_{dn}$ | 60 dBA $L_{dn}$ |

Source: Kimley Horn, 2023.

## Strong and Safe Communities

### Goal 7.7 Design the city for people. Encourage positive social interactions, a safe environment, and social capital building.

Design for Social Connections

**Policy 7.7-1** Link increased intensity of development with increased people-oriented design, such as ground floor building design for human interest, through-block connections at a human scale, public spaces, view creation, street trees, rooftop gardens, and sunlight and shade considerations with a changing climate.

> See the Land Use Element for policies about supporting existing businesses, services, and institutions acting as gathering spaces, as well as providing usable public spaces with redevelopment. See the Housing Element for ways to increase housing variety and opportunities for intergenerational living, and aging in place, which support long-term community connections through all life stages.

**Policy 7.7-2** Maintain and consider integrating further residential design standards to prevent isolation and support social interactions. These include concepts like social corridors and private shared common space with development, limiting social sizes in shared spaces for trust-building amongst neighbors, and sensitive transitions between public and private space for clarity of space ownership.

Civic Engagement

*Place Identity, Art, and Cultural Activities*

**Policy 7.7-3** Celebrate that Burien is a multicultural community through a city landscape that reflects Burien's culturally diverse identities. Recognize that Burien's communities vary in their preferences and needs and that sense of belonging is a driver of well-being.

**Policy 7.7-4** Incorporate creative and unique landscape and art features at key entry points and intersections acting as gateways into the city and into smaller districts. Use features such as street trees, median plantings, decorative paving, crosswalks, seating, special lighting, separated and wider sidewalks, landscaping, and public art.

**Policy 7.7-5** Work with communities to identify opportunities to build on assets and enhance place identity in neighborhoods and business districts to help reflect, define, and celebrate distinct areas.

**Policy 7.7-6** Support and leverage the use of vacant and/or underutilized buildings and façades for creative expression and activities that re-engage community.

**Policy 7.7-7** Develop and maintain public signage and wayfinding systems throughout the city that reinforce the identity of Burien and its distinct neighborhoods. Through an interdepartmental city approach develop a comprehensive and cohesive system.

**Policy 7.7-8** Encourage public art in development projects.

**Policy 7.7-9** Support and encourage cultural and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding, and respect among the city's diverse population.

**Policy 7.7-10** Support and encourage development of a wide array of cultural facilities throughout the city through local and regional strategies. Foster multipurpose spaces where diverse groups can gather, teach, and perform their art and culture.

**Policy 7.7-11** Identify and celebrate public views of water, mountains, skylines, or other unique landmarks as valuable civic assets and place identity builders.

*Safety*

**Policy 7.7-12** Maintain and update as needed design standards that require crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles with development to encourage positive public and semi-public spaces that feel safe and comfortable to Burien's communities.

> See Human Services for policies to meet basic needs and foster full human potential which can be critical in preventing crime.

**Policy 7.7-13** Continue fostering positive police/community relationships through social capital-building programs like Neighborhood Block Watch, community-based treatment, and support services like Burien's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, and other community policing and relationship-building programs.

**Policy 7.7-14** Encourage active ground floor uses and residences to orient toward parks to increase human activity and sense of community ownership over parks.

**Policy 7.7-15** Ensure new industrial or commercial development is designed for compatibility with abutting residential neighborhoods. Mitigate potential impacts to

surrounding neighborhoods using thoughtful multimodal planning, landscaping, greenspace, and other urban design elements.

# Implementation

The following plans implement the Community Health and Well-being Element.

- **Urban Center Plan and Urban Center Streetscape Design Plan.**
- **Salmon Creek Neighborhood Plan.**
- **Ambaum and Boulevard Park Community Plan.** Ongoing community planning process to envision and plan for thriving transit-friendly neighborhoods and business districts along the Ambaum Boulevard corridor and in the Boulevard Park neighborhoods.

Below are measurable outcomes (Exhibit 7-7) to support implementation and ongoing monitoring of this element.

**Exhibit 7-7. Outcomes and Metrics: Community Health and Well-being Element[8]**

| Outcomes | Metrics |
|---|---|
| ▶ Increase vibrancy, livability, and social wellbeing.<br>▶ Increase walkability and pedestrian infrastructure, improve transit corridors and access to services.<br>▶ Increase food resilience.<br>▶ Reduce impact of noise and air pollution. | ▶ Adopted residential design standards for sociability.<br>▶ Number and diversity of businesses, cultural spaces, and parks/gathering places in neighborhood centers.<br>▶ Number of homes impacted by air/noise without mitigation. |

[8] Other possible metrics – some may be addressed in other elements.
- Increase spaces that support community and relationship building.
- Affordable housing in areas where people can get around.
- More sidewalks in areas lacking.
- Separation from roads/widening of sidewalks.
- Safe routes to schools.
- Delineating driveways for enhanced safety.
- Safety in terms of sidewalks and streetlights.
- Community garden space or edible tree fruit/nuts in rights of way.