Burien Shape Your City Visioning Engagement

Results | January 2023

Burien Shape Your City Visioning Engagement 1

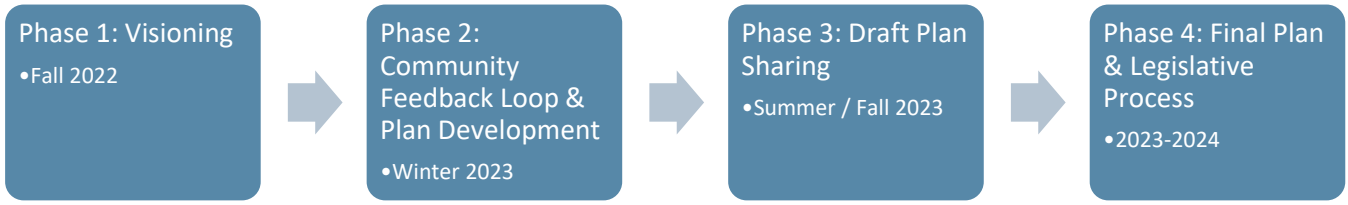
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Introduction

The City of Burien is updating its Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan to guide the city over the coming decades. To facilitate community input the City created the Shape Your City initiative with coordinated events and communication materials and a central online hub: burienwa.gov/SYC.

The Shape Your City initiative is occuring over four phases. This document shares the results of Phase 1 Visioning.

Exhibit 1. Shape Your City Engagement and Planning Phases



Objectives of the Shape Your City Communications and Engagement Plan include:

- Raise awareness of planning process among community and key stakeholders.
- Inspire community and key stakeholders to get involved with planning.

- Create feeling among community and stakeholders that their voices were heard and they influenced the planning efforts.
- Ensure plans are responsive to community priorities and needs.

To meet these objectives, Visioning communication and engagement activities included:

- Shape Your City digital engagement platform.
- Advertising of opportunities to participate in planning
- Pop up events and tabling throughout the community.
- Online and in-person workshops.
- Online comment opportunities through an interactive map (powered by Social Pinpoint software (and an online survey (powered by SurveyMonkey).

At the same time as these activities, the City launched the Burien Community Connectors program that works with trusted leaders from Burien's diverse communities to connect more people to civic planning processes. Community Connectors are compensated and are fluent in Spanish, Vietnamese, or Amharic. The objective of the new program is to help ensure voices of those most impacted are centered and given an opportunity to meaningfully engage.

The Community Connectors were recruited and selected fall 2022, receiving training in early winter. They contributed to the Vision results by interviewing community members and encouraging multilingual survey participation. They will participate in future phases of the planning process to help produce additional responses and engagement from diverse community members with a variety backgrounds.

This document provides a summary of community engagement activities, themes from the feedback received, and next steps.

Vision Events and Questions

A wide variety of events and channels for input were developed over the period August – November 2022. See Exhibit 2.

Activities were held in person and online at standing community events and at Shape Your City events created for the Visioning process. People could participate online by engaging with an interactive map to share location-specific feedback, or completing a survey, or attending a virtual workshop on Zoom.

Exhibit 2. Events: August to November 2022

Event Description	Month/Date - 2022	Comments	Description	Audience
Arts Commission	October 25	10	Presentation to advisory board	Advisory board
Boulevard Park Block Party	August 13	64	Community event focused on Boulevard Park community members	Neighborhood

Event Description	Month/Date - 2022	Comments	Description	Audience
B-Town Fiesta	September 24	23	Community event focused on Latino culture	Community-wide
Cedarhurst Elementary Open House	August 30	52	Family back-to-school open house	Neighborhood
Community Connector Interviews with Feedback Forms	November 4	11		Multi-cultural
Día de los Muertos	November 4	57	Community event focused on Latino culture	Multi-cultural, multilingual
Emailed comments	Multiple	8		Community-wide
Farmers Market	October 27	59	Event open to the entire community	Community-wide
Glacier Middle School Grand Opening Celebration	October 24	98	Open house for families and students	Neighborhood
Glacier Middle School Open House	August 30	46	Family back-to-school open house	Neighborhood
Green Burien Day	October 22	92	Event celebrating environmental restoration of park	Community-wide
Hazel Valley Elementary Open House	August 25	16	Family back-to-school open house	Neighborhood
Online Survey (3 Questions)	October17-November 30	312	Survey offered in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Amharic	Online, multilingual
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	September 21	20	Presentation to advisory board	Advisory board
Seahurst Elementary Open House	August 30	27	Family back-to-school open house	Neighborhood
Interactive Online Map (Social Pinpoint) Data	July 20-November 30	246	Gathered from community members throughout Burien	Online
Shape Your City Mini-workshop	October 27	196	Event open to the entire community	Community-wide
Shape Your City Workshop, Burien Community Center	November 10	190	Event open to the entire community	Community-wide
Sylvester Middle School	Fall 2022	121	Meeting at school	Neighborhood
Welcoming Burien	September 17	36	Event celebrating immigrants and refugees	Community-wide
Workshop Poll (1 Question)	November 3	16	Online event offered in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Amharic	Online, multilingual
Grand Total		**1,700**		

Sources: City of Burien, BERK 2023.



SYC Mini-Workshop Activities



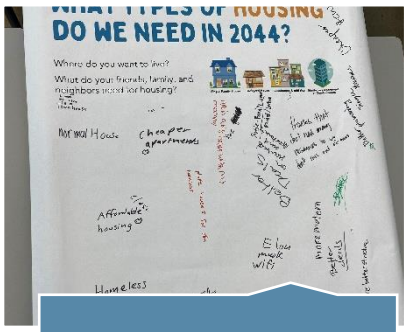
SYC Mini-Workshop Activities



SYC Mini-Workshop Activities



Connector



School Poster



Workshop Graphic Facilitation Results

Sources: City of Burien, Makers, Dupile, 2022.

Visioning Questions and Results

Visioning questions asked community members about their wishes for living, working, and playing in Burien now and in 2044. See Attachment A. Example questions include:

- What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
- How will we improve roads, public buildings, streetlights, water and sewer service, stormwater?
- How will we play and stay healthy?
- What type of businesses and jobs do you want in Burien?
- What types of housing do we need in 2044?
- What will the character of Burien be?

Comment Themes

Each response was coded with both broad and detailed categories, summarized at a broad level below in Exhibit 3 and listed in detail in Attachment A. Most comments addressed parks and

recreation, transportation (including transit, traffic, sidewalks, and crosswalks), land use and economic development, and housing issues.

Exhibit 3. Feedback – Broad Comment Categories

Broad Coding Categories	Coded Records	Number of Comments
Parks & Recreation & Arts	321	419
Transportation	325	377
Land Use/Economic Development	114	180
Housing	89	163
Trees	65	105
Public Safety	73	92
Environmental Sustainability/Quality	44	69
Maintenance	56	68
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	62	67
Community Character	48	63
Social/Human Services	41	52
Trails	28	28
Schools/Child Care/Education	8	10
Other	7	7
Grand Total	**1,281**	**1,700**

Sources: City of Burien, BERK 2023.

Reviewing the top detailed categories, housing, economic development, community character, park amenities (features in parks), and safety rise to the top. See Exhibit 3.

Exhibit 4. Top 20 Categories – Detailed Coding

Number	Detailed Categories	Number of Comments
1.	Housing	156
2.	Economic Development	138
3.	Community Character	111
4.	Park Amenities	101
5.	Public Safety	92
6.	Transit	91
7.	Transportation	76
8.	Environmental Sustainability	64
9.	15-minute Walk	64

Number	Detailed Categories	Number of Comments
10.	Sidewalks	63
11.	Equity	57
12.	Trees	54
13.	New Parks	45
14.	Traffic Control	45
15.	Aquatics	37
16.	Arts & Culture	36
17.	Services	34
18.	Trails	29
19.	Crosswalks	27
20.	Sports Courts*	26
	Sum of Top 20	**1,346**

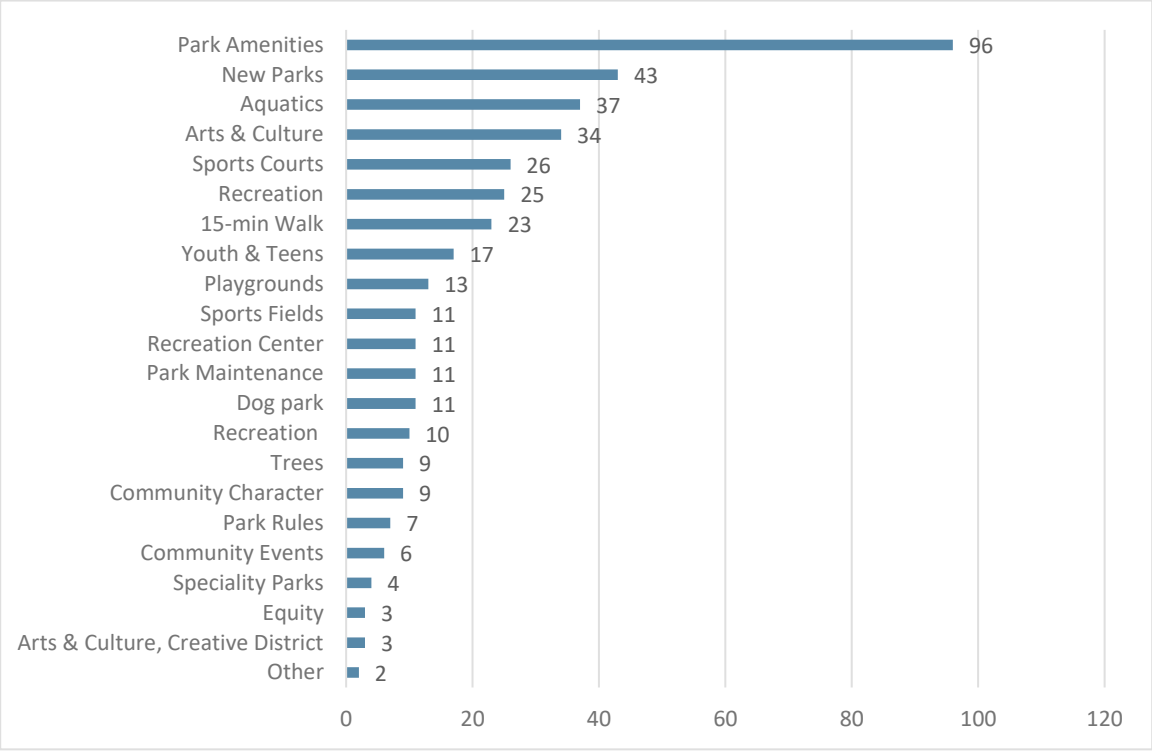
*Includes hard surface courts like basketball, volleyball, and tennis.
Sources: City of Burien, BERK 2023.

Based on the results of this visioning efforts plus recent engagement efforts shared later in this document, the following topics were chosen for additional analysis: Parks, Recreation, & Arts; Transportation; Land Use and Economic Development; Public Safety and Social/Human Services; and Housing.

The broad category *Parks, Recreation, and Arts* had 419 comments. The top sub themes within the broad category include park amenities (features in parks), new parks, aquatics, arts and culture, and sports courts. See Exhibit 5. The comments within these subcategories communicate:

- A desire for **park amenities** including bathrooms, trails, playgrounds, performance stages, public access to beaches, and drinking fountains.
- **New parks** that vary in size, location, and accommodate a range of programmed and unprogrammed activities.
- **Aquatics** including swimming pools and splash parks.
- **Arts and culture** events like Shakespeare in the Park, all ages live music events, cinema, and cultural events.
- **Sports courts** that are accessible to each neighborhood for basketball, tennis, and outdoor exercise.

Exhibit 5. Detailed Coding - Parks, Recreation, and Arts

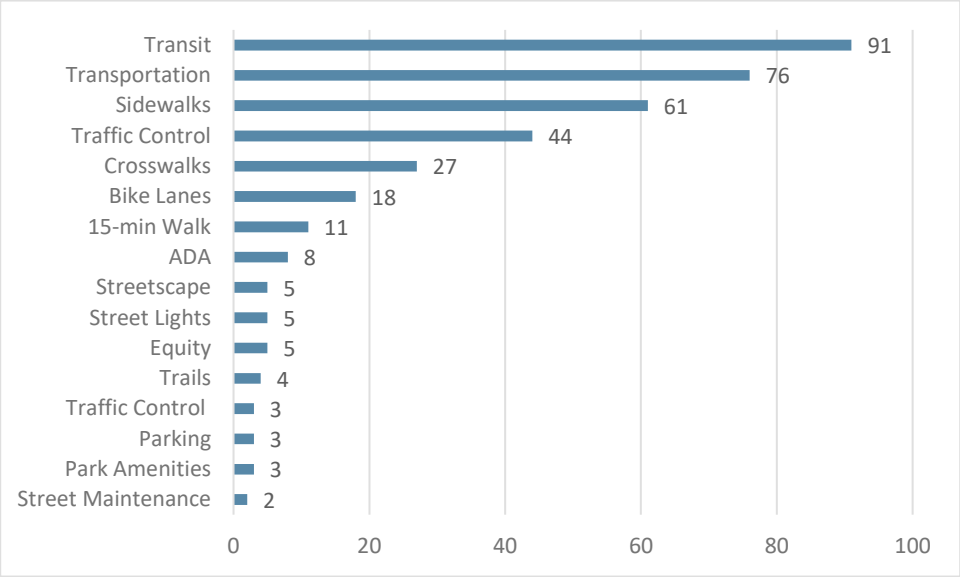


*Themes with less than two comments were omitted.
Sources: City of Burien, BERK 2023.

The broad category *Transportation* had 377 comments. The top sub themes within the broad category include transit, transportation, sidewalks, traffic control, and crosswalks. See Exhibit 6. The comments within these subcategories communicate:

- A desire for more accessible, reliable, and timely **transit** service. A multi-modal **transportation** system that is safe, walkable, and interconnected.
- **Sidewalk** infrastructure that separates pedestrians from cars and cyclists, completes neighborhood sidewalk networks, and is buffered by planting strips and street trees.
- **Traffic control** plans that slow traffic, makes intersections safe for pedestrians, and utilize roundabouts when appropriate.
- **Crosswalks** that prioritize pedestrian safety, visibility, and all way crossings at high volume intersections.

Exhibit 6. Detailed Coding - Transportation



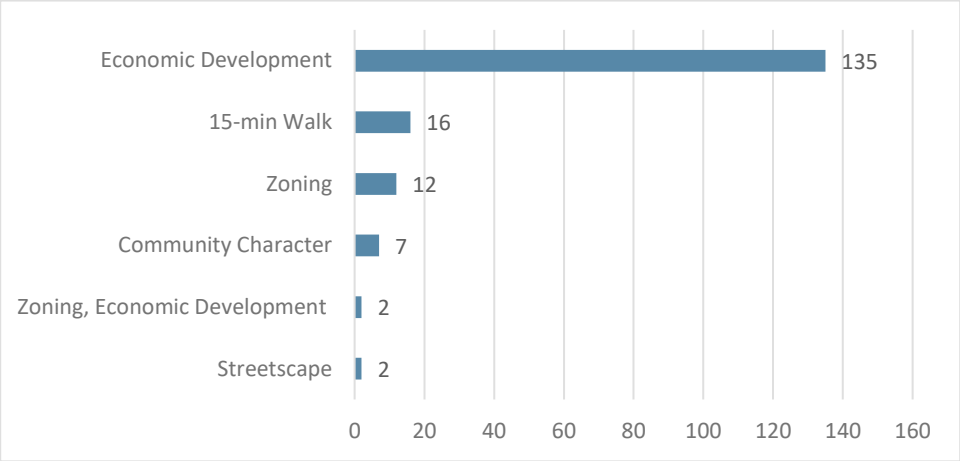
*Themes with less than two comments were omitted.
Sources: City of Burien, BERK 2023.

The broad category *Land Use and Economic Development* had 180 comments. The top sub-themes within the broad category include economic development, 15-minute walk, zoning, community character, and zoning. See Exhibit 7.

The comments within these subcategories communicate a desire for:

- An **economic development** strategy focused on small, locally owned businesses that created more places to gather.
- Communities that are within a **15-minute walk** of key amenities like grocery stores, corner stores, banks, and shops.
- **Zoning** that accommodates a mix of retail and commercial uses, creates an allowance for taller buildings around an urban center.
- Urban design components that support **community character** including sidewalk cafes, street level park activation, first floor retail and commercial spaces, and a dedicated pedestrian plaza.

Exhibit 7. Detailed Coding - Land Use / Economic Development

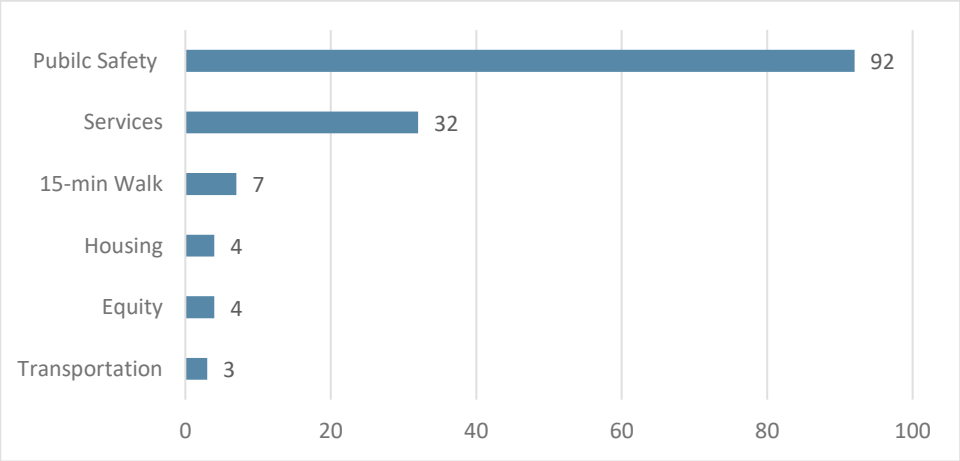


*Themes with less than two comments were omitted.
Sources: City of Burien, BERK 2023.

The combined broad categories of *Public Safety and Social / Human Services* had 144 comments. The top sub-themes within these broad categories include public safety, services, 15-minute walk, housing, and equity. See Exhibit 8. The comments within these subcategories communicate:

- A desire for a larger police presence in parks, on residential streets, and in the business district to enhance the perception of **public safety**.
- **Services** that are accessible by a **15-minute walk** that support women activities and activism, individuals learning English as a second language, and individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Housing** that is **equitable** and fair for the Burien community. See more on Housing below.

Exhibit 8. Detailed Coding - Public Safety & Social / Human Services



*Themes with less than two comments were omitted.
Sources: City of Burien, BERK 2023.

Around 160 comments were housing related. Comments addressed **affordable housing**, a desire for a **range of housing types** (townhouses, multiplexes, accessory dwelling units, apartments, and

single-family), desire for **senior housing and multigenerational housing**, and locations for **greater density** or housing types.

An example of the comments in response to the questions is shown in Exhibit 9.

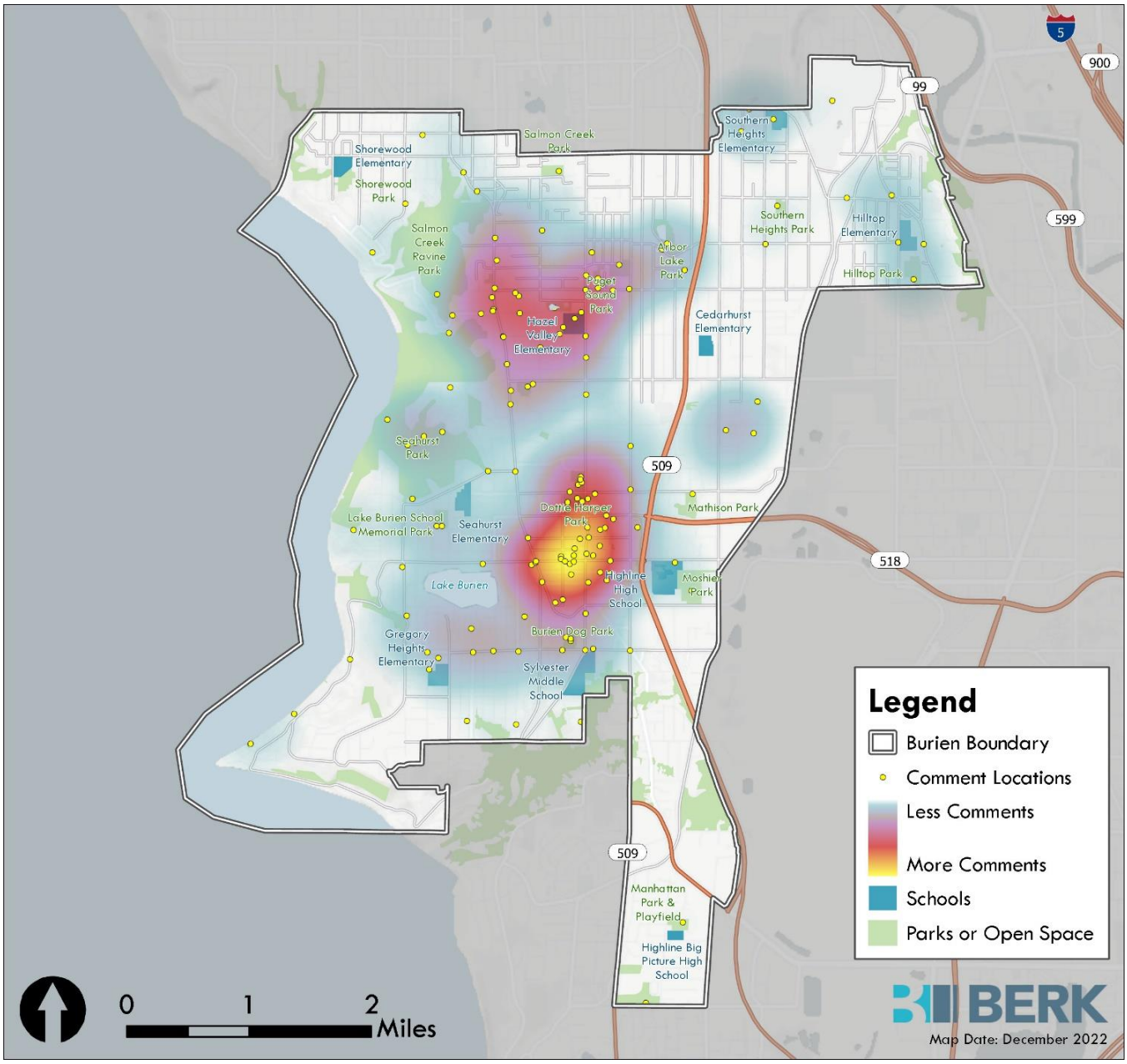
Exhibit 9. Example Quotes – Shape Your City Vision Comments

What are your dreams for Burien's future?	*neighborhoods that have 'centers' of community (shops, parks, art)*
What will the character of Burien be?	*welcoming for all* *Keep the small town atmosphere* *Greenspaces, pocket parks in all neighborhoods*
Create or improve something in Burien	*… Burien does not have enough leisure spots for people to gather. There are plenty of "activity" fields, but not much for public gathering spaces. …* *If you upzone 128th and 1st to mixed commercial/residential, then this intersection at 4th SW and 128th could be townhomes and duplexes. Nearby to grocery, parks and elementary school. And wide sidewalk/bike path down 4th to downtown and community center. Buses available on 1st and 128th.*
How will we improve roads, public buildings, street lights, water and sewer service, stormwater?	*We need more sidewalks for pedestrians, particularly on collector arterials like 21st and 152nd etc*
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]
What do you wish for your City?	*more parks, trails, trees* *less pollution* *more safety* *an urbanized area*
What types of housing do we need in 2044?	*more missing middle housing, especially around schools and arterials like 160th* *Preserve single-family housing, less density* *More housing density - no more single family zoning/ low density, min should be 3 plex +* *Target corner lots in Single-family home zones for walk-up, midrise and missing middle* *More affordable housing*
What do you appreciate about our existing park system and recreation programs?	*Ayuda en las actividades físicas para la familia [Help in physical activities for the family]*

Location-based Comments

Downtown was a focal point for map-based comments, as well as Hazel Valley Elementary and vicinity. See Exhibit 10.

Exhibit 10. Social Pinpoint Map



Sources: City of Burien, BERK 2023.

In the online survey and online Vision Workshop, several common locations for centers or needed/desired improvements for transportation and parks were focused on other locations beyond Downtown. See Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11. Top 5 Locations for Centers, Transportation & Parks: Online Survey and Vision Workshop Group Discussions

15-Minute Centers	Transportation Improvements	New or Improved Parks
▶ Ambaum (Survey 34; Workshop 1) ▶ 1st Avenue / 5 Corners (Survey 26; Workshop 5) ▶ 128th (21) ▶ Boulevard Park (22) ▶ Downtown/ Urban Center (14)	▶ Ambaum (28) ▶ 1st Ave/5 Corners (24) ▶ 152nd (11) ▶ 153rd (7) ▶ 160th (Survey 6; Workshop 2)	▶ Lake Burien (13) ▶ Boulevard Park (9) ▶ 1st Avenue (8) ▶ Ambaum (8) ▶ Gregory Heights (7)

Sources: BERK 2022.

Comparison to Other City-sponsored Community Engagement Results

Community Survey July 2022

A statistically valid community survey was conducted in May-June 2022[1] to assess residents' perceptions about their quality of life in Burien and their satisfaction with City government services. The survey has been conducted every two years since 2007. Results showed that residents:

- Residents largely enjoy Burien's quality of life and are optimistic about the direction of the city.
- Most generally consider Burien a welcoming and inclusive community.
- Burien's quality of life was rated positively. However, reducing homelessness, improving public safety, and affordability are widely seen as high priorities to address.

These results are similar to collective comments in the Shape Your City Visioning results on equity, housing, and public safety. See Exhibit 3 and Exhibit 4.

Strategic Plan Outreach Data

The City's strategic planning process showed a range of priorities after an engagement process including feedback gathered at community events, community conversations hosted by both City staff and local community-based organizations (Para los Niños and Southwest Youth and Family Services). Feedback was gathered from City staff during a separate session.

Questions included

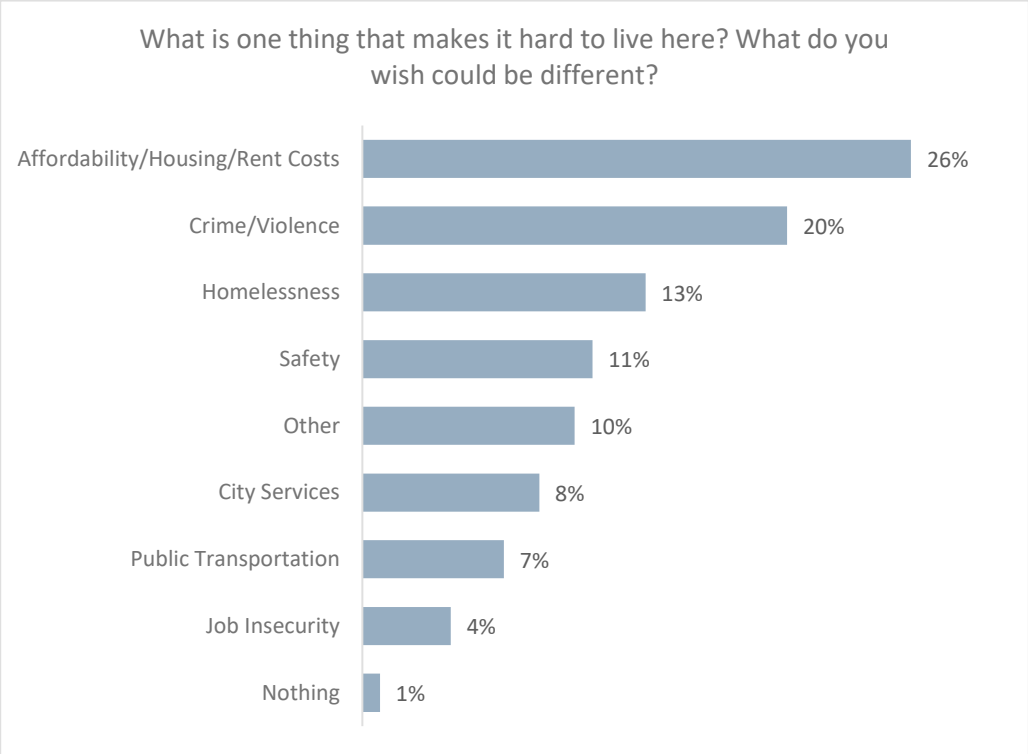
- What do you treasure about Burien and want to preserve and protect? (n=141)
- What is one thing that makes it hard to live here? What do you wish could be different? (n=120)

[1] See: https://connect.burienwa.gov/community-survey/.

- If you could create any change you imagine for Burien, what would you do? What would you like to see created or changed? (n=107)

Respondents treasure Burien's quality of life, public amenities and services, and parks. They said housing affordability and cost of rent, crime and violence, and homelessness make it hard to live in Burien. (See Exhibit 12.) Reduction of crime and improved safety, public amenities and services, more activities and community events are things that respondents would like to see created or changed.

Exhibit 12. Strategic Plan Outreach Wish to be Different in Burien (n=120)



Source: https://connect.burienwa.gov/projects/strategic-plan/.

The themes of housing affordability and safety that were heard in community engagement related to the Strategic Plan were similar to themes heard during the Shape Your City Visioning phase.

Burien's Recovery Roadmap: Plan for Use of Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act

The City conducted extensive community engagement to help prioritize the use of how Burien's share of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars[2] should be spent. Based on input results, top areas for investment included:

[2] See: Burien's Recovery Roadmap (Burien Community Hub): https://burienwa.gov/recoveryroadmap

1. Staff capacity
2. Mental health counseling
3. Neighborhood cleanliness and public safety
4. Grants/loans to businesses
5. City maintenance facility

The themes of public safety and maintenance were also notable in the Shape Your City Visioning phase; see online comment log themes and categories in Exhibit 3 and Exhibit 4.

Themes in Tension

The City is planning for more than 36% growth in population and jobs through 2044 to address its regionally determined growth targets. Plans will consider creating economic development and housing opportunities, a vibrant urban center, neighborhood nodes with services and amenities, and providing a more equitable, sustainable, and connected community. To meet state requirements and local needs, the City will need to demonstrate it is planning for its fair share of affordable and special needs housing, and addressing racially disparate impacts to attaining housing.

Some of the comments identified Burien as a welcoming small town and others look forward to growth and prosperity. Similarly, many comments were supportive of a wide variety of housing types in neighborhoods and higher densities along corridors and nodes and others less so.

Investments in parks and transportation will be explored including the comments about locations and types of improvements, and engagement will need to address balancing needs and funding as well as equity.

These topics and tensions can be explored in the next phases of plan development and sharing, including the Environmental Impact Statement where alternatives are evaluated.

Next Steps

The City is planning to share results of the Visioning phase with the community in the first quarter of 2023, and identify updates to the Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement and key TMP and PROS objectives and goals. Expanded multicultural engagement will occur with the support of the Burien Community Connectors and partnerships with local community-based organizations. When draft plans are ready during summer and fall 2023, they will be shared with additional opportunities for public input. After that engagement process, the plans will undergo a formal legislative process with public hearings in late 2023 through 2024. See Exhibit 1.

Attachments

A. Questions

Location and Questions
Arts Commission
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
BLVD Block Party
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
B-Town Fiesta
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
Cedarhurst Elementary Open House
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
Community Connector Feedback Form
▶ Key Issues/Topics
Dia de los Muertos - Diana and Sofia (community connectors)
▶ What do you wish for your city?
Emailed comment
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
Farmers Market
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
Glacier Middle School ASP
▶ Businesses/Jobs ▶ Character of community ▶ Economy ▶ Environmental Sustainability ▶ Equity ▶ Housing ▶ Improve Infrastructure ▶ Parks ▶ Safety ▶ Transit ▶ Transportation
Glacier Middle School Open House
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
Green Burien Day
▶ What do you wish for your city?
Hazel Valley Elementary Open House
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?

Location and Questions
Online Survey
▶ Imagine your ideal Burien in 2044. What three words would you use to describe Burien in 2044? (FIRST WORD)
▶ Imagine your ideal transportation system in Burien. What three words would you to use to describe transportation in Burien in 2044? (FIRST WORD)
▶ What do you appreciate about our existing park system and recreation programs?
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
▶ What do you wish for your City, street, neighborhood?
Seahurst Elementary Open House
▶ What do you wish for your City, street, neighborhood?
Social Pinpoint Data
▶ Create or improve something in Burien
SYC Mini-workshop/ SYC Workshop at BCC
▶ Environmental sustainability
▶ How do you want to travel
▶ How should our city add Homes?
▶ How should our city add Jobs?
▶ How should the city consider equity?
▶ How should we enhance our neighborhoods?
▶ How will we improve roads, public buildings, street lights, water and sewer service, stormwater?
▶ How Will we play and stay healthy?
▶ What type of businesses and jobs do you want in Burien?
▶ What types of housing do we need in 2044?
▶ What will the character of Burien be?
Sylvester Middle School
▶ Environmental Sustainability
▶ How do you want to travel around and through the city?
▶ How will we improve roads, public buildings, street lights, water and sewer service, stormwater?
▶ How Will we play and stay healthy?
▶ What will the character of Burien be?
Welcoming Burien
▶ What do you wish for your city, street, neighborhood?
Workshop Poll
▶ What are your dreams for Burien's future?

B. Broad and Detailed Comment Coding Categories

Categories: Broad and Detailed	Coded Records	# of Comments
Community Character	**48**	**63**
Arts & Culture, Creative District	1	1
Community Character	45	55
Volunteering	1	1
Zoning	1	6
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	**62**	**67**
Arts & Culture	2	2
Communications	4	4
Community Character	2	2
Community Engagement	9	9
Equity	41	45
Other	3	4
Zoning	1	1
Environmental Sustainability/ Quality	**44**	**69**
Airport	4	4
Environmental Sustainability	32	53
Garden/Edibles	1	1
New Parks	1	1
Permitting	1	1
Stormwater	1	1
Stormwater	3	3
Transportation	1	5
Greenery/Trees	**65**	**105**
Community Character	4	17
Dog park	1	1
Economic Development	1	1
Environmental Sustainability	4	11
Garden/Edibles	6	21
Park Amenities	1	1
Park Amenities, streetscape	1	1
Sidewalks, Community Character	2	2
Stormwater	2	2
Street Maintenance	1	1
Traffic Control	1	1
Trees	38	43
Trees, Community Garden	3	3

Categories: Broad and Detailed	Coded Records	# of Comments
Housing	**89**	**163**
15-minute Walk	2	3
Community Character	4	6
Housing	81	152
Zoning	2	2
Land Use/Economic Development	**114**	**180**
15-minute Walk	7	16
Business License	1	1
Community Character	7	7
Economic Development	78	135
Economic Development, Streetscape	1	1
Facilities	1	1
Parking	1	1
Permitting	1	1
Streetscape	2	2
Transportation	1	1
Zoning	12	12
Zoning, Economic Development	2	2
Maintenance	**56**	**68**
Code Enforcement	3	3
Community Character	12	14
Community Engagement	1	1
Economic Development	1	1
Facilities	1	1
Infrastructure, Utilities	2	2
Park Maintenance	7	13
Park Maintenance, Street Maintenance	1	1
Recreation Center	1	1
Rental Housing Inspection	1	1
Stormwater	6	6
Street Lights	2	2
Street Maintenance	16	20
Street Maintenance, Park Maintenance	1	1
Trails	1	1
Other	**7**	**7**
Other	5	5
(blank)	2	2
Parks & Recreation & Arts	**321**	**419**

Categories: Broad and Detailed	Coded Records	# of Comments
15-minute Walk	5	23
Aquatics	21	37
Arts & Culture	25	34
Arts & Culture, Creative District	3	3
Communications	1	1
Community Character	6	9
Community Events	6	6
Dog park	10	11
Economic Development, Streetscape	1	1
Equity	3	3
Garden/Edible landscape	1	1
New Parks	33	43
Other	2	2
Park Amenities	85	96
Park Amenities, Water access	1	1
Park Maintenance	11	11
Park Rules	6	7
Playgrounds	11	13
Recreation	22	25
Recreation	10	10
Recreation Center	11	11
Services	1	1
Specialty Parks	4	4
Sports Courts	6	26
Sports Field	1	1
Sports Fields	7	11
Streetscape	1	1
Trails	1	1
Trees	9	9
Youth & Teens	17	17
Public Safety	**73**	**92**
Other	1	1
Public Safety	72	91
Schools/Day Care/Education	**8**	**10**
15-minute Walk	3	4
Economic Development	1	1
Highline School District	4	5
Social/Human Services	**41**	**52**

Categories: Broad and Detailed	Coded Records	# of Comments
15-minute Walk	3	7
Communications	1	1
Equity	4	4
Housing	4	4
Public health	1	1
Services	25	32
Transportation	3	3
Trails	**28**	**28**
New Parks	1	1
Park Amenities	1	1
Sidewalks	2	2
Trails	23	23
Trees	1	1
Transportation	**325**	**377**
15-minute Walk	3	11
ADA	8	8
Bike Lanes	14	18
Community character	1	1
Crosswalks	25	27
Equity	4	5
Park amenities	3	3
Park amenities: water access	1	1
Parking	3	3
Public safety	1	1
Services	1	1
Sidewalks	50	61
Sidewalks, Community Character	1	1
Sidewalks, Streetscape	1	1
Street Lights	4	5
Street Maintenance	2	2
Streetscape	4	5
Traffic Control	43	44
Traffic Control	3	3
Traffic Control, Sidewalks	1	1
Trails	4	4
Transit	78	91
Transit/Parks	1	1
Transportation	57	67

Categories: Broad and Detailed	Coded Records	# of Comments
Transportation	9	9
Trees	1	1
Zoning, Economic Development	1	1
Zoning, Housing	1	1
Grand Total	**1,281**	**1,700**

September 7, 2023 |
Comprehensive Plan, Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, Shape Your City, Transportation Master Plan

Turning Vision into Strategies to Plan for Burien's Future

In 2022, the City of Burien embarked on a process to gather community input to inform major updates to our Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Master Plan (TMP), and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. During the first phase, we asked broad questions about our community's wishes for living, working, and playing in Burien now through 2044. Planners are also looking at existing plans and past community engagement to supplement what they are hearing during the Shape Your City initiative.

Earlier this year, we followed up with the community to gain deeper insight into what we heard last year. We asked for people's stories about housing and priorities for transportation, parks, recreation, and public art. Our goal was to identify specific strategies to include in the updated plans. During this phase, we started to ask more specific questions that are more closely related to the different plans. Read below for themes that emerged.

Comprehensive Plan (Burien 2

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On the topic of housing, people expressed concerns around affordability and accessibility and gave feedback on design, location, and other factors related to "middle housing". Other themes that emerged include:

- People often moved to Burien for its affordability and accessibility.
- Escalating housing costs are a concern. Burien is at risk of losing residents due to a lack of affordable, quality housing (both ownership and rental).
- Improving existing housing (e.g., play areas, parking, unit maintenance) is important.
- Housing solutions for Burien should include middle housing to improve housing choices and help with affordable homeownership.
- Criteria for middle housing should address location, design, open space and landscaping, parking, access, infrastructure, and more. There is also a desire not to overburden the permitting process.
- Burien should place more density at intersections and in the Urban Center for improved design and walkability. There is a concern about rezones and what that means for existing residents.
- Burien should focus on housing opportunities for the workforce and multigenerational families.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

While community members expressed some satisfaction with current parks and services, there were concerns about safety and infrastructure. Other themes that emerged include:

Parks and trails

- Aging parks need improvements including better parking, restrooms, accessibility, and safety. More shade and better ligh[t]ed as a

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need.

- Community wants to see improve signage and more connections between parks and trails.
- People wanted to also see more open forest and open space as well as more trees.

Amenities

- Some community wanted to see more picnic shelters and open play areas for free play.
- A new splash pad for youth was a popular request.
- Covered walking spaces and repairs to existing sports courts were also requested.

Recreation

- Community asked for more recreation programs in the parks and more recreation programs for youth.

Public Art

- Public art feedback focused on maintaining our current public art collection, rotating temporary public art through different neighborhoods, and investing in more public art in the parks.
- Community asked to be more involved in making public art through projects like community murals and temporary art pieces.

Arts, Culture, and Community

- Community wants to see more gathering spaces including spaces for older adults.
- More live performance spaces were also requested.

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Transportation Master Plan

While Burien has public transportation that supports regional connections, community members commented that there is a lack of public transportation options that serve destinations within Burien. There is support for a Burien circulator (or shuttle bus) to help riders get to Burien Transit Center and other light rail connections. Other themes that emerged include:

- Community members want to feel safer riding transit, including while waiting at Burien Transit

Center, and to see more enforcement on buses.

- There are mixed opinions on recent changes on Ambaum Blvd SW related to RapidRide H Line

construction and the impact on driving. Many community members have yet to see the benefits of the project, as the travel time to Seattle is not yet enticing riders to use it instead of driving.

- Community members reported that they do not feel Burien is bicycle friendly due to a lack of maintenance on sidewalks and bike lanes, lack of enforcement of traffic laws, and not enough comfortable facilities.
- Multiple responses identified a need for more sidewalks throughout Burien, especially in places with higher traffic volumes and near schools to provide safe routes to schools.

Community engagement: How we gathered your feedback

Between November 2022-June 2023, City staff and consultants gathered feedback through multiple methods including:

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- Open house event held in the community room at the Burien Library (April 2023)
- Online and mailed surveys targeting specific topics and demographics
- Small stakeholder groups hosted by City staff and community facilitators
- Community Connectors hosted sessions at the Burien Community Center for in Spanish and Vietnamese speakers.
- Southwest Youth and Family Services and Para los Niños hosted discussions on the topic of housing
- Walk Bike Burien (WABI) hosted a "walk and talk" session to discuss transportation and parks issues
- Burien 2044 Advisory Board provided input on Comprehensive Plan updates
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Arts Commission provided input on PROS Plan updates

What's next?

The third phase of community engagement will begin later this fall and will focus on gathering feedback on drafts of the Comprehensive Plan (Burien 2044), Transportation Master Plan, PROS Plan, and Economic Development Action Plan.

An open house is scheduled for December 6, 2023 in the community room at the Burien Library. Opportunities to provide feedback online will be launched later this fall. Plans will also be discussed during advisory board meetings and City Council meetings over the next several months. Visit our event calendar to stay up to date on upcoming opportunities to engage.

About the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

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The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is a six-year strategic plan for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. The plan will look at the existing conditions of our facilities and programs, listen to community desires and priorities, identify gaps in facilities and programs, propose strategies, projects and programs to address those gaps, and finalize those strategies and a prioritized capital improvement plan in the final PROS Plan. The PROS Plan was last updated in 2018.

Learn More

About the Transporation Master Plan

The Transportation Master Plan helps determine our community's current and future transportation needs, guiding how we invest in transportation over the next 20 years. The plan was last updated in 2012. We need your ideas about how to keep our transportation network safe, healthy, and efficient.

The updated plan will include recommendations about how to pay for improvements. This plan influences transportation decisions for the next 20 years.

Learn More

English

About Shape Your City

The City of Burien is re-imagining the long-term future of our city through a coordinated planning effort combining major updates to the Comprehensive Plan, a new Transportation Master Plan, and an update to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Specifically, this planning process focuses on land use, economic development, human services, environmental protection, infrastructure, transportation, parks and open spaces, recreation programs, public art, and cultural services.

Results of this planning effort will guide policymaking, operational plans, and budgets for the next twenty years. It's vital that community voice guides these important planning processes.

Learn More

About the Comprehensive Plan

The City of Burien is embarking on a major update to its Comprehensive Plan. This effort will help Burien plan and build for the next few decades. Planning for this growth helps us build a City with an equitable, sustainable, and healthy future. The C

English

covers many topics including land use and zoning, economic development, public services, environmental protection, and infrastructure, meeting the community's needs and reflecting the community's vision.

Learn More

Tags: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT HUMAN SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE NEIGHBORHOODS PARKS TRANSPORTATION

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PREVIOUS
City Planners Present Burien 2044 Progress to City Council

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STEP Housing Open House and Expert Panel on September 25



Presentation of Burien Planning Commission's Recommended Comprehensive Plan



Economic Development Action Plan Adopted



Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for 2024-2030 Adopted



Planning Efforts for Ambaum and Boulevard Park Continue

Upcoming Events

OCT 5 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Salmon Creek Park – Which dating app do trees u

OCT 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

English

19 **Green Burien Day**

OCT 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

24 **Hazel Valley Park – Plant a forest!**

NOV 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

9 **Miller Creek Trail Restoration**

View Calendar

Explore by Topic

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Burien Community Hub is an official website of the **City of Burien, WA.**

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of Use

Burien Housing Stories & Strategies

Public Engagement Results June 2023

Purpose

Burien received a grant from the State of Washington Department of Commerce to evaluate the adoption of middle housing types in its plan and zoning code for at least 30% of low density lots. Middle housing includes housing like duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, courtyard style apartments, cottage clusters, or accessory dwelling units. The scope of the grant also includes developing and evaluating displacement, exclusion, and racially disparate impacts in housing. The results of the grant include draft goals, policies, and code changes that remove barriers to housing for all households regardless of race, income, age, income, etc. and that promote middle housing. These would be folded into the Burien 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update. The grant included the development of an engagement plan and activities to help shape the work. This document shares the engagement activities and results that largely took place in Spring 2023.

Housing Engagement Plan and Objectives

The City of Burien developed a public engagement plan intended to reach the community as a whole as well as community based organizations (CBOs) and groups that serve overburdened communities. The objectives of the engagement plan included:

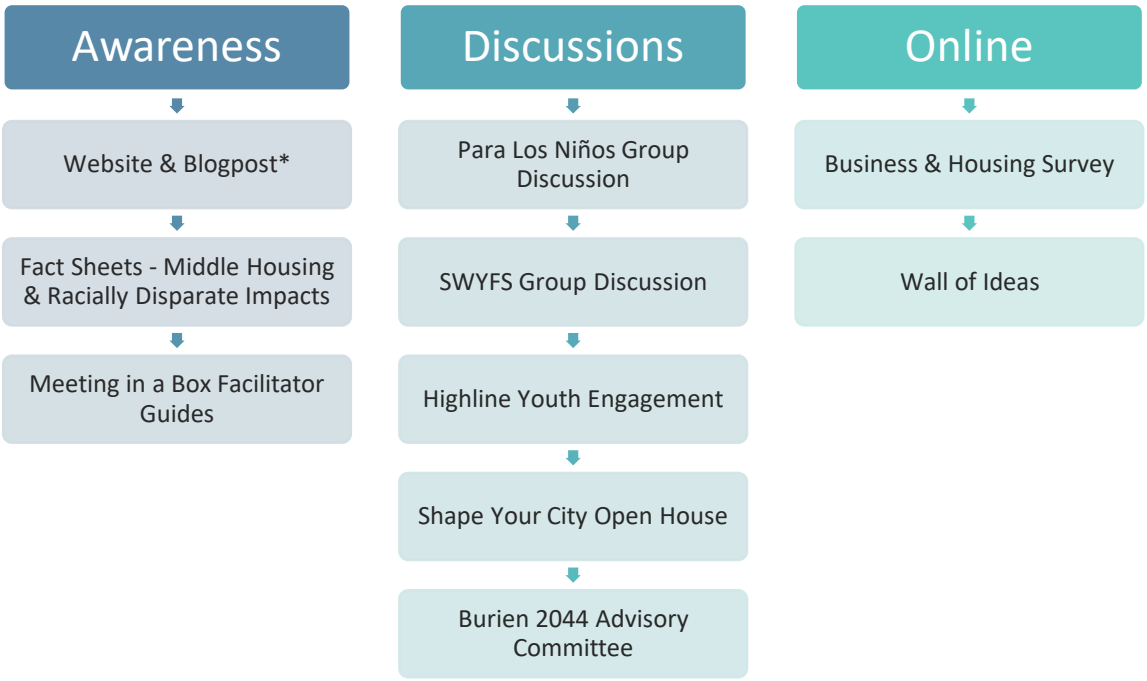
- **Share information about Burien's zoning history and housing trends**, barriers, and potential solutions to encourage housing for all households regardless of race, age, gender and sexual preferences, and incomes.
- **Seek and hear about Burien community members' housing stories.** The stories may be about exclusion, displacement, or barriers as well as how participants have persevered. The Burien

community includes both residents and business owners. Business owners may have stories of employees' struggles with finding housing in Burien and living in other communities.

- **Share draft policies and codes** meant to remove unintentional or intentional zoning barriers, and identify places for Middle Housing opportunities. Through engagement opportunities, these policies and codes would be vetted and improved.

The engagement plan identified phases and activities in Exhibit 1. Each of the events and activities is described in this summary. Materials are included in Attachment A. Individual event summaries are included in Attachment B.

Exhibit 1. Middle Housing Engagement Phases and Activities



*Website and Stories and Strategies Post: https://connect.burienwa.gov/shape-your-city-initiative-asks-community-to-share-stories-and-strategies/.

Participation and Engagement Themes

Over all events, the city reached about 200 people. See Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2. Spring 2023 Housing Related Engagement Activities and Participation

Event	Description	Date	Participants
Para Los Niños	Community based organization led group discussion.	April 20	14
Southwest Youth and Family Services Group Discussion	Community based organization led group discussion.	April 26	21
Highline Youth Engagement	Highline youth group mind map exercise at Burien Community Center led by City staff and consultants.	April 13	5
Shape Your City Spring 2023 Open House	City sponsored community wide open house with stations on housing, economic development, transportation, and parks.	April 18	60 approx.
Burien 2044 Advisory Committee	Ad hoc group meeting periodically as a sounding board for Comprehensive Plan Update.	March 28 and May 10	19 members
Business & Housing Survey	Online survey for businesses to share their employees housing needs and hurdles.	May	22
Wall of Ideas	Online forum to share housing stories and weigh in on middle housing, neighborhood centers, and economic development.	April-May	65

Key themes included:

- People often moved to Burien for its affordability and accessibility.
- Escalating housing costs are a concern heard from participants across all events. Burien is at risk of losing residents due to lack of affordable, quality housing, both ownership and rental.
- Improving existing housing (e.g., play areas, parking, unit maintenance) is important.
- Housing solutions for Burien should include middle housing to improve housing choices and help with affordable homeownership.
- Criteria for middle housing should address location, design, open space/landscaping, parking, access, infrastructure, and more. There is also a desire not to overburden the permitting process.
- Burien should place more density at intersections and in the Urban Center for improved design and walkability. There is a concern about rezones and what that means for existing residents.
- Burien should focus on housing opportunities for the workforce, multigenerational families, and more.

What we heard - a sample

- *I rent my house, but too expensive to buy a property here in Burien. We need new houses with affordable prices.*
- *When we moved here in 2016, we were looking for a place close to our children's schools. I would move out if I could.*
- *Great location with easy access to bigger markets like Seattle. Wonderful small town feel and vibrant food scene.*
- *I own a modest house in a great neighborhood. I'm disappointed that so much new construction is unaffordable and not aligned with the existing home size.*
- *We need affordable housing prices everywhere. So good alternatives to mitigate price hikes that don't mean building high story buildings are welcomed (i.e., middle housing or 2-3 story buildings).*
- *The urban core around downtown needs A LOT more density. The areas around Dottie Harper and the skatepark should be high density residential. This area is extremely close to TWO parks, a community center, the transit center, and grocery stores…*
- *Burien needs to bring down the pressure on landlords. Many people complain about the rising cost of rent ALL OVER WASHINGTON. This is not an issue specific to Burien. … With rising rent increases (and no wage increases) we will see MORE houseless people. …*
- *I lived in an apartment with my 2 young sons for years before I could afford a single-family home (700 sq ft). Was able to upgrade to a larger home several years later but face moving because our areas are being upzoned for more development.*
- *DONT spread tall (5 over 1) buildings outside of major intersections! Increase density overall by using middle housing. Small 3 story multiplexes or row homes should be used. Otherwise, Burien will become an ugly sprawling and congested mess.*
- *Burien needs housing that can accommodate multi-generational families. Encouraging developments of studios or micro-housing is not taking consideration of families that care for elders, or have small children. …*
- *What housing type/style would you like to live in the next 5-10 years? "A place that cares about renters and regulates price rent." "A place for the youth/kids to have a place to play and enjoy time out safety."*
- *Make sure housing is affordable for library workers, young people and old people.*
- *Own a business in Burien but live outside: Pandemia Aumento los costos de vivienda, y ahora vivo en Pacific, a 45 minutos de manejo por que vivo compartiendo la renta. [Pandemic Increase in housing costs, and now I live in the Pacific, a 45-minute drive away because I live sharing the rent.]*

Discussions

Community Based Organizations

The City has established agreements with organizations such as Para Los Niños and Southwest Youth & Family Services (SWYFS) to engage with community members. These groups led small group discussions using a "meeting in a box" facilitators guide and translated fact sheets to obtain local housing stories.

Para Los Niños Group Discussion

In April 2023, Para Los Niños held a small group discussion with about 14 participants that were Hispanic/Latino. Most wanted to attain their own home for freedom, safety, and amenities. Many felt their apartments were not meeting their needs due to a lack of reliable parking and play areas. Many had felt exclusion or displacement for economic, racial, or safety reasons.

Results showed:

- Living in Burien
  - Participants live in Burien because of affordable housing compared to other parts of South King County, and its public transportation, and proximity to good and services.
  - Nearly two-thirds live in apartments, around a quarter live in homes and the rest in mobile homes.
- Housing desires and needs
  - All participants would like to own their own home in 5-10 years for stability, freedom, places for kids to play, privacy, and safety.
    - Many currently live in apartments and have expressed concerns of increasing rent, lack of repairs to their units and even retaliation when grievances have been vocalized.
  - To help people stay in Burien participants felt the following would help: raise minimum wage; lower the rent/place more restrictions on increasing rent; and address safety.
  - Just under half of the participants believed their housing did not meet their needs due to parking being arbitrary and there is towing at the expense of the car owner. There is a need for recreational spaces for kids to play.
- Exclusion or displacement experiences
  - One person worked in Burien but did not live there due to high and unaffordable housing. They wanted to live in Burien due to their community ties and employment.
  - Over half of the participants had moved between 1 and 4 times in the last 10 years since coming to Burien due to mold infestations, eviction or because of drastic rent increases.
  - Half of the participants found that they have had to move for economic reasons.

- Half of participants answered that they either had been evicted themselves or knew people who had been evicted. This was due to increases in rent. Some felt racism had been a factor.
- Intimidation, crime, or harassment led to just under half of the people moving neighborhoods or out of Burien. Examples included: faced retaliation or discrimination from management after asking for repairs to their unit or expressing grievances; increases to their rent increases were racially driven to evict Latino tenants; gang violence led to many youth being in unsafe situations within Burien and needing to relocate after threats.

Southwest Youth and Family Services Group Discussion

In April 2023, about 21 participants were part of a discussion group, and were Hispanic/Latino. All live in Burien in apartments because of its location and the community. They have faced expensive housing that is insufficient in quality maintenance, as well as small in size and lacking parking. They desire to live in quality housing in larger dwellings, with nearby parks and recreation programs. While most have stayed in Burien, increasing rents and intimidation may mean they have to move out of Burien.

- Living in Burien
  - Participants live in Burien because of its location, community and comfort, available transportation, support from non-profit organizations, locations to play and have fun, available library, banks, schools, airport, mall.
  - Participants live in apartment complexes.
- Housing desires and needs
  - In 5-10 years, people would like to live in a place that cares about renters and regulates rental prices and affordable housing. Other desires included: places for kids to play, gardens, community center, more security, programs for families and students, programs for immigrants.
  - People would stay in Burien with an affordable housing program, accessible housing, laws helping residents in the city.
  - Current housing doesn't meet needs because the units are small, lack parking, lack locks, have pests and mold, lack outdoor place for families, and have office staff that harass.
- Exclusion or displacement experiences
  - Families have not moved because it is expensive to move out with the deposits and not enough time in their schedules due to having to work far from Burien.
  - After COVID many of the families have lost their jobs or have had their hours cut along with their salary not being fair and too low to manage basic home/ family needs.
  - Participants have faced steep increases in rents. The rent tends to rise at an extreme amount from one year to the next, having the families struggling to pay monthly rent. This has created and made our families have to move out and far from Burien city.
  - Participants felt harassment and intimidation from leasing offices including amount of utilities not matching right amount.

Community Center Youth Engagement

A Youth Engagement Event was held at the Burien Community Center in the Eagle Landing Room on April 13, 2023 in the afternoon. Five students with the Burien Green Teens program at Highline High School participated. The event was structured around a mapping exercise that asked each participant to illustrate their current Burien and then change it to their ideal Burien. Participants then finished the workshop by writing several policies that could be implemented to make these changes. In addition to policies about safety, climate resilience, and transportation, the students wrote policies about housing and goods:

- More affordable housing
- Food is cheaper
- Food gardens



Shape your City Open House

On April 18, 2023, the City held a Shape your City Open House in the Burien Library community room in the evening. Activities asked about community opinions on the Burien 2044 Comprehensive Plan periodic update, Transportation Master Plan Update, and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update.

One activity asked people to Share their Housing Story. See Exhibit 3. Highlights included:

- People live in both rental and ownership housing, and many are concerned about housing costs.
- Some are concerned about rezones that could impact their neighborhoods.

Exhibit 3. Share Your Housing Story

Share Your Housing Story
I love in a neighborhood with a diverse mix of single and multi-family housing types (Sunnydale)
Lived at home all my life, want to age in place. We should not be upzoning + lose our homes.
I love my rental house, but I don't know if I'll ever be able to own one
I own a modest house in a great neighborhood. I'm disappointed that so much new construction is unaffordable and not aligned with the existing home size.

I lived in an apartment with my 2 young sons for years before I could afford a single-family home (700 sq ft). Was able to upgrade to a larger home several years later but face moving because our areas are being upzoned for more development.
I love our houses and neighborhood of 28 years! I am extremely distressed to have learned, by chance, last Tuesday, that the block I call home is not only being considered for rezoning (with no notification to the current homeowners) but is being proposed for residential high density zoning (6 or 7 stories). How can this be? The process for this has been extremely flawed in the form of both communication and the proposed zoning being considered.
Lived in my home 24 years, on the same street 51 years, with room to garden and play in my yard with children. I am sick to learn my safe space is being considered for rezoning of high density 6 story buildings with no public notification. Deplorable.
I rent my house, but too expensive to buy a property here in Burien. We need new houses with affordable prices.
Ability to subdivide large lot to multi-family. Ability to age in place. Ability to provide affordable housing. New home buyers look for smaller, easier maintained lots.
No alley access prevented me from putting in townhouses.

Another activity asked people to share their how the City can encourage more middle housing in the City. See Exhibit 4. Results showed ideas to place density near transit, provide sufficient infrastructure and protect critical areas, and making zoning and building more flexible, including streamlining permits.

Exhibit 4. Middle Housing

What could the City of Burien do to encourage more "middle housing" throughout the city?
Allow many more options. Don't limit to all these types, organic development will occur naturally. Eliminate setbacks in all multifamily zones. Allow building code and other codes to control building shape and form.
Allow all of these so that this is an interesting city.
Allow more density adjacent to transit
Roadway standards and zoning are too preventative. Remove arbitrary building codes and barriers. Remove/revise complex housing/building regulations.
Make sure housing is affordable for library workers, young people and old people.
Gentile density e.g., Eco Thonic
Streamline permit process for ADU. Add incentives for homeowners and limit story heights for residential.
More density. Creativity in designs to create more density that still feels spacious. Ease restrictions regarding subdivisions.
Middle housing. Allow more ADU's per lot. Limit taller buildings and only allow them at the biggest and major intersections.
Continue to protect critical areas.
Reparations for native residents of Burien. No home ownership.
How is missing middle defined?
Townhouses, courtyard houses, apartments, and mixed-use housing.
Waive or reduce permit fees. Faster permit process for reuse building with higher occupancy for example. Trickle down these benefits to buyers.

What could the City of Burien do to encourage more "middle housing" throughout the city?
Rebuild old apartments before building new ones.
Be creative. Think tiny houses, shipping containers, etc. Changes in zoning to allow more residential divisions of large lots. Cottage housing in single family zones.
More cottages that are small and affordable in friendly neighborhoods.
Infrastructure is lacking, roads, parking, sewers.

Burien 2044 Advisory Committee

The Burien 2044 Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from different City commissions, a City Council representative, and the Community Connectors. The group reviewed racially disparate impacts evaluation and policy analysis and missing middle concepts and standards in March and May 2023. Meeting notes are included in Attachment B.

The six Community Connectors are trusted leaders in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Amharic speaking Communities. They interface with their communities in multiple ways and at multiple events. Connectors also participate on the Burien 2044 Advisory Committee. Their input at the Advisory Committee is shared in this document.

At the May 10, 2023 meeting, the Advisory Committee discussed Middle Housing. Highlights include:

- Desire for flexibility and variety everywhere
- Diverging views on design requirements
  - Design with good setbacks and landscaping
  - But don't make so **onerous,** allow whatever fits
  - Avoid blocking sunlight
  - Address transitions to single family areas
  - Port package for windows and soundproofing
  - Tree code compliance
  - Height, sociable design, front yards
- Desire for open space
- Support for a criteria-based approach to where middle housing is allowed.
- Middle housing on alleys could help improve currently impassible/overgrown alleys.
- Key messages for explaining to neighbors – examples:
  - Think ahead 20-30 years, should this place be exactly the same?
  - Property owners control their own property – no one will force them to sell.
  - Small individual choices make gradual change over time.
  - Required to do comprehensive planning, and having so much single family residential doesn't allow us to comply with the Growth Management Act.

- Need more education about programs to support middle housing (e.g., condos) and cost of construction.

Online Outreach

Business & Housing Survey

The City of Burien issued an online survey to Burien businesses to gain insights into the challenges and opportunities of attaining housing in Burien for their employees and themselves. The survey was conducted in May 2023. The survey was amplified through about nine outlets, business groups, and meetings. The City received 22 surveys with 2 in Spanish.

Businesses that responded tended to be in service industries and on average had three employees, employee counts ranged from 1-49. Many businesses found that their employees preferred to live outside of Burien but nearly the same number found that their employees did not live in Burien because of a lack of housing choices or affordability. Many thought that housing solutions for Burien should include missing middle housing (accessory dwelling units, duplex, triplex, small apartments, etc.) to improve housing choices and middle housing that helps with affordable homeownership (e.g., townhouses, small lot single family lots). Other ideas included adding mixed use developments to improve walkability, and generally to improve permitting and regulations.

Wall of Ideas

Over April and May 2023, the City of Burien asked for Burien residents and business owners to share input in a "Wall of Ideas" on Housing, Middle Housing, Neighborhood Centers, and Economic Development. Commenters could review prompts about each topic and background information and give ideas about how the City could increase housing choices and affordability, integrate middle housing, identify neighborhood centers, or improve economic development in Burien.

Through this effort the City received 65 comments, 211 up votes and 36 down votes, with slightly more comments on Middle Housing and Neighborhood Centers than other topics. See Exhibit 5. Comments and responses, agreements and disagreements can also be seen at the website: https://burien.mysocialpinpoint.com/syc2cp/your-ideas.

Exhibit 5. Wall of Idea Comments and Interactions

Wall Topic	Count of Comment Threads	Up Votes	Down Votes
Economic Development	15	49	13
Housing	13	52	1

Middle Housing	18	51	13
Neighborhood Centers	19	59	9
Grand Total	**65**	**211**	**36**

The City received 31 comments on housing or middle housing and 51 upvotes and 13 down votes. Most comments suggested greater housing choices for families of all sizes and incomes, and focusing higher growth at intersections and in the Urban Center, and offering renewed housing to existing residents where redevelopment happens.

Exhibit 6. Housing Themes and Comments

Theme	Example Quotes
Keep higher density to intersections.	▶ General: DONT spread tall (5 over 1) buildings outside of major intersections! Increase density overall by using middle housing. Small 3 story multiplexes or row homes should be used. Otherwise, Burien will become an ugly sprawling and congested mess. ▶ Ambaum Corridor: I believe that the proposed zones 'Mixed Use Low' and 'Residential High' seem backwards. Why would we allow a lower height of buildings on Ambaum than the parcels East and West of it? … I thought the same thing! Larger buildings should be at major intersections and on arterials.
Upzone the Alcove at Seahurst.	▶ Affordable rentals still, built originally as military housing in WWII, but definitely nearing the end of safe housing life. Is there a possible future where this property could remain affordable housing, but be upgraded? … Yes, the Alcove needs to be upzoned to high density. The complex is large enough to require the developer to build one building at a time and rehouse people within the property.
Urban core needs more density.	▶ The urban core around downtown needs A LOT more density. The areas around Dottie Harper and the skatepark should be high density residential. This area is extremely close to TWO parks, a community center, the transit center, and grocery stores…
Burien needs multigenerational housing.	▶ Burien needs housing that can accommodate multi-generational families. Encouraging developments of studios or micro-housing is not taking consideration of families that care for elders, or have small children. …
Address rents and homelessness	▶ Burien needs to bring down the pressure on landlords. Many people complain about the rising cost of rent ALL OVER WASHINGTON. This is not an issue specific to Burien. … With rising rent increases (and no wage increases) we will see MORE houseless people. … ▶ Get the HOMELESS FOLKS OUT OF 152ND…
Build affordable single-family homes	▶ …start building affordable single family homes. Make sure that homes are being sold to people that intend to live there. I have 2 million dollar homes on my street that have been sitting empty for a year plus.

Most commenters were supportive of middle housing, with ideas about scale, height, and design. See Exhibit 7. Some were concerned about attached housing and crime. Regarding crime, studies

have shown that increasing housing that is affordable can help retain a stable population and reduce crime rates.[1]

Exhibit 7. Middle Housing Comments

Theme	Example Quotes
Improve vacant land by adding middle housing with amenities like urban farms/gardens.	▶ There are numerous brownfields, empty or overgrown lots, buildings that appear to be abandoned, disused or vacant. … In addition to considering these parcels for middle housing, what about urban farms … gardens? We have increasing pressure on our food systems. ▶ I absolutely agree with the empty/derelict lot tracking. And happy to see gardens … urban farms. ▶ Burien is already full of housing like this. We do not want more of it. Please stop pushing this on us. ▶ …To be honest, I much rather see an increase in middle housing than larger 6-8 story apartment buildings… ▶ If it's a problem for everyone then let Laurelhurst, Medina, Montlake, and Magnolia take a turn on the problem….
Middle housing should be allowed throughout Burien at low-rise heights.	▶ We need affordable housing prices everywhere. So good alternatives to mitigate price hikes that don't mean building high story buildings are welcomed (i.e., middle housing or 2-3 story buildings). ▶ Middle housing should be allowed throughout. Max 3 stories.
Ensure good design of middle housing.	▶ We need to be careful that multi-plex properties do not end up putting parking lots along the street front, and instead have parking behind the buildings so that buildings front the street. Some amount of trees should also be required to be planted along the ROW. ▶ I like the idea of allowing middle housing across Burien because it allows for more density while giving individual property owners the chance to build their wealth …I think there should be some limitations around design so we don't end up with ugly box buildings and large car parks facing the street everywhere (trees pls!!). ▶ Limit stories. Allow ADU's. Allow condos as well as apartments. Require green spaces, play equipment, bus service…. ▶ Maybe free inspections for people that renovate their homes to accommodate more people? (i.e., granny suites) This might help combat unscrupulous contractors…
Concern about apartments and crime.	▶ The city should discourage apartments and the like, there are plenty already in other nearby cities. Do you want your town to turn into a crime-riddled dangerous neighborhood or do you want it to stay safe and attractive to people who are looking to put real money down into living areas i.e., a house? People will move out if you keep pulling this stuff on them, so just don't. ▶ Well, the city should discourage an overemphasis on big buildings with small apartments. There need to be more things like duplexes and fourplexes that provide some outdoor area around the buildings to encourage kids to play and people to hang out in a way that is interactive

[1] See: Higher-Density Development Myth and Fact, Urban Land Institute, 2005: https://uli.org/wp-content/uploads/ULI-Documents/HigherDensity_MythFact.ashx_.pdf, Stanford, 2017: https://web.stanford.edu/~diamondr/LIHTC_spillovers.pdf, and Livable Cities Lab, 2022: https://www.affordablehousingpipeline.com/blogs/california-affordable-housing/new-affordable-housing-lower-crime-connection.

Theme	Example Quotes
	with their neighbors. Larger apartment buildings are isolating and do not foster community outside of the building itself.

Use of Input

These comments were collected in Spring 2023 as part of a multi-pronged effort to gather stories and strategies especially around housing. Input was gathered through surveys and small group discussions. The comments can help the City consider how to develop policies and plans for housing including middle housing that offers housing affordability and variety.

For more information, please see the project website at: https://connect.burienwa.gov/projects/comprehensive-plan-update/.

December 8, 2023 | Comprehensive Plan, Shape Your City

Comprehensive Plan Discussed at Shape Your City Open House

Thank you to everyone who attended the Shape Your City Open House on December 6! We appreciate hearing your ideas for the future of our city!

If you couldn't make it, or have more to share, we have launched an online engagement activity where you can learn more and take a survey about the Comprehensive Plan. This activity will close on January 5, 2024. We encourage you to participate and share with your networks!

Online Engagement Activity

What's next?

The Comprehensive Plan team will be evaluating feedback delivered through the open house and online engagement activity and present different options to the Burien 2044 Advisory Committee, Planning Commiss n the following dates:

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- First week of January 2024: Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Comprehensive Plan will be published together. Public comment will be accepted for 45 days through mid-February.
- January 24, 2024: The Burien 2044 Advisory Committee will meet one more time to discuss preferred alternative recommendations.
- Spring 2024: Plan will be presented to the Planning Commission for discussion and review in public meetings.
- Summer 2024: Plan will be presented to the City Council for discussion, review, and adoption in public meetings.

Community members are invited to provide public comment during these meetings. Learn more about how to attend the Planning Commission and City Council meetings.

About Shape Your City

The City of Burien is re-imagining the long-term future of our city through a coordinated planning effort combining major updates to the Comprehensive Plan, a new Transportation Master Plan, and an update to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Specifically, this planning process focuses on land use, economic development, human services, environmental protection, infrastructure, transportation, parks and open spaces, recreation programs, public art, and cultural services.

Results of this planning effort will guide policymaking, operational plans, and budgets for the next twenty years. It's vital that community voice guides these important planning processe

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About the Comprehensive Plan

The City of Burien is embarking on a major update to its Comprehensive Plan. This effort will help Burien plan and build for the next few decades. Planning for this growth helps us build a City with an equitable, sustainable, and healthy future. The Comprehensive Plan covers many topics including land use and zoning, economic development, public services, environmental protection, and infrastructure, meeting the community's needs and reflecting the community's vision.

Learn More

Tags: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE NEIGHBORHOODS TRANSPORTATION

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Open House Invited Community to Help Shape Burien's Future

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Presentation of Burien Planning Commission's Recommended Comprehensive Plan

Economic Development Action Plan Adopted

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STEP Housing Open House and Expert Panel on September 25



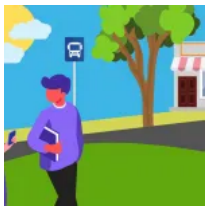
Presentation of Burien Planning Commission's Recommended Comprehensive Plan



Economic Development Action Plan Adopted



Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for 2024-2030 Adopted



Planning Efforts for Ambaum and Boulevard Park Continue

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Upcoming Events

OCT 5 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Salmon Creek Park – Which dating app do trees use? Timber.

OCT 19 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Green Burien Day

OCT 24 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Hazel Valley Park – Plant a forest!

NOV 9 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Miller Creek Trail Restoration

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Explore by Topic

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January 22, 2024 | Comprehensive Plan, Shape Your City

Burien 2044 Advisory Committee to Guide Comprehensive Plan Update

The City of Burien established a committee in early 2023 to help advise City staff on a major update to Burien's Comprehensive Plan. The advisory committee is one of many groups of stakeholders advising the City on the Burien community's needs and wishes for its future. The committee will provide recommendations to the Burien City Council.

The membership includes:

- A representative from several City Council-appointed advisory boards (Arts Commission, Burien Airport Committee, Business and Economic Development Partnership, Human Services Commission, etc.)
- Five Burien Community Connectors, representing Burien's Amharic, Spanish, and Vietnamese-speaking communities.
- Previously, the Burien Planning Commission was a member of the advisory committee.

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The advisory committee will hold quarterly meetings via Zoom. Meetings will be recorded and available for members of the public to view after each meeting. Meetings are open to the public with a portion of the meeting reserved for public comments.

The following are anticipated topics the advisory committee would cover. Five to seven meetings are anticipated from January 2023 – March 2024. Prior to each meeting, agendas and background information will be posted below. After each meeting, video recordings will also be available below.

January 25, 2023

- Share: Results of Visioning Community Engagement (October-November 2022 events)
- Identify vision statement amendments during an interactive session
- Provide advice on draft environmental impact statement alternatives and scope

Meeting Materials:

- Agenda
- Glossary PowerPoint
- Presentation PowerPoint

English

March 22, 2023

- Consider/review: Missing Middle Housing Policy/Code Options

Meeting Materials:

- Agenda
- Meeting 1 Summary Notes
- Vision Statement Draft
- Racially Disparate Impacts Fact Sheet
- Middle Housing Fact Sheet
- Presentation PowerPoint
- Racially Disparate Impacts Full Draft Report

English

May 10, 2023

- Consider/review: Urban Center & Neighborhood Center Options

Meeting Materials:

- Agenda
- Meeting 2 Summary Notes
- Summary of Comments
- Written Public Comments
- Presentation Powerpoint
- Middle Housing Models Handout
- Draft Land Use Alternates Handout
- Middle Housing Fact Sheet

English

June 28, 2023

- Consider/review: Draft climate resilience strategies

Meeting Materials:

- Agenda
- Meeting 3 Summary Notes
- Draft Burien Climate Vulnerability Memo
- Presentation Powerpoint

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September 27, 2023

- Review: Draft Plan Elements & Draft EIS Sharing

Meeting Materials:

- Agenda
- Meeting 4 Summary Notes
- Draft Burien 2044 Comprehensive Plan Update Memo
- Draft Burien 2044 Comprehensive Plan
- PowerPoint Presentation

English

January 24, 2024

- Provide: Preferred alternative recommendations

Meeting Materials:

- Agenda
- Meeting 5 Summary Notes
- December 2023-January 2024 Engagement Slides
- Land Use Maps
- PowerPoint Presentation

English

- Meeting 6 Summary Notes

This page has been updated to reflect updates to the advisory committee structure and is continuously updated with meeting materials.

Originally published: February 23, 2023

Last updated: May 30, 2024

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Tags: GOVERNMENT NEIGHBORHOODS

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Draft Comprehensive Plan Ready for Feedback

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Burien City Council Receives an Update on the Economic Development Action Plan

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