



Public Participation Plan

City of Lacey | Thurston County | Joint Planning Update

COVID-19

Given the ongoing and variable health risks associated with in person communication, all outreach efforts will be conducted in a hybrid format. If public gatherings and in person conversations are deemed safe by licensed state health practitioners before the completion of this project, the public participation plan may be revisited.

If online engagement proves burdensome or prohibitive to your participation, please feel free to contact Hans Shepherd (HShepher@ci.lacey.wa.us), the City of Lacey project contact for additional opportunities to participate.

Introduction

The Lacey Urban Growth Area (UGA) was established in 1988, in part, to protect County resources of agricultural, timber and environmentally sensitive areas from sprawling development. The boundaries were based primarily on what areas were already urbanized, considering developed and vested sites, current and proposed land use designations, and the Regional Sewer Phasing Plan.

Joint Plans establish a framework for Cities and Counties to manage these areas in preparation for increasing populations and changing land uses. Joint plans are a requirement of the [Washington State Growth Management Act](#) (GMA), with reviews and updates taking place (at a minimum of) every eight years. Plans establish a vision, address GMA changes, set policies for the UGA and, once adopted, make the land-use process more predictable for citizens, consistent across jurisdictions, and more seamless at the time of annexation.

Who

Joint Plans are developed in collaboration with community members, city and county staff, elected representatives, and other interested stakeholders. The update process includes multiple opportunities to meet with the project team, learn about the plan, connect with your neighbors, and share ideas for the future.

Within this Joint Planning Process, the City of Lacey serves as the lead agency through plan development and adoption. Once adopted, Thurston County works to maintain compatible service and development standards for these unincorporated areas consistent with the city. Until UGA incorporation, Thurston County maintains primary jurisdiction within the UGA and implements development regulations through the Thurston County land use permitting process.

What

This joint planning effort will focus on validating previous community goals identified within *Envision Lacey* and past updates, while soliciting additional feedback to help inform decision making, guide implementation, and shape community development patterns. While many decisions have yet to be determined, a few areas of focus have been identified for this update cycle. These include:

- Understanding population and density demands on existing land uses;
- Revisions to housing type and mix within Moderate and High-Density Residential zones;
- Assess the Mixed-Use High-Density Corridor District along Martin Way;
- Expanded sewer requirements for new development;
- Review development standards of the Agriculture zoning district;
- Evaluate urban holdings within the Pleasant Glade and McAllister Geologically Sensitive Area;

When finished...

The joint plan will serve as the primary guide for community planning and development practices within the City of Lacey UGA. Plan elements will include:

1. A community driven framework on how to coordinate and manage land uses;
2. Detailed lists of goals and policies to guide the joint decision-making process;
3. GIS inventories and analysis of existing land uses, availability, and development patterns;
4. Population projections and future needs assessments;
5. Updated zoning designations and development standards;
6. Revised level of service standards to accommodate anticipated growth;
7. An implementation strategy with clear actions and target objectives;
8. A public involvement processes, including timely communications with community members and elected officials through web updates, presentations and various forms of public outreach;

Where

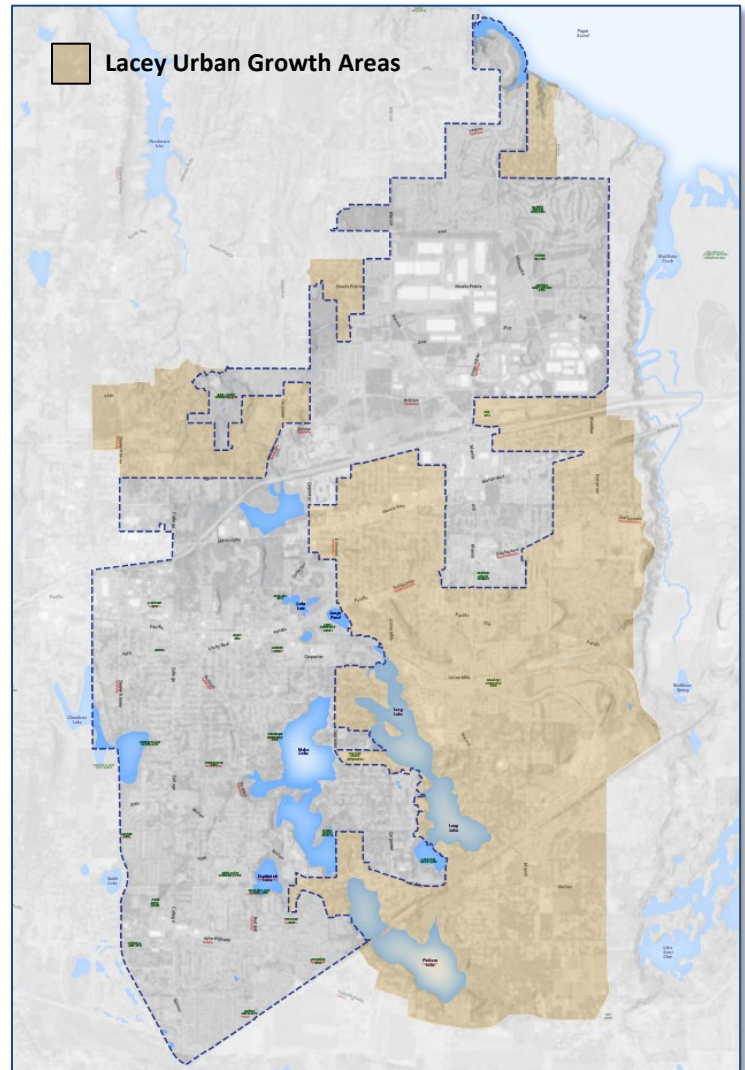
For the purposes of this joint planning effort, the project boundaries will encompass all City of Lacey Urban Growth Areas. Generally speaking, they extend as far north as the Puget Sound and as far south as Yelm Highway. To the east and west they are bound by the Nisqually River Valley and the City of Olympia respectively.

The areas have been strategically located to accommodate future development demands while minimizing sprawl in other portions of Thurston County. The [2016 City of Lacey Planning Areas Report](#) goes into greater detail on the characteristics and development patterns of these areas.

In total, the City of Lacey UGA encompasses an area of 9,122 acres (14.25 square miles). The dominant land use within the UGA is residential at 81.4%. At a distant second, Lakes (Long Lake and Pattison Lake) represent 6.4% of the area, more closely followed by Open Space (Institutional, Park, and School) at 3.4%.

An estimated 35,038 people live within the City of Lacey UGA (Esri 2021). By comparison, approximately 58,180 people live in the City of Lacey (2022 OFM Estimate).

Lacey UGAs are identified within map at right.



How

This project will serve the Lacey community as a whole. As a result, people tend to have a lot of interest, big ideas, and strong opinions when it comes to planning for the future. A successful engagement process harnesses that energy and inspires community ownership, while adapting to new ideas and insights.

Community members supply the local knowledge, context, and information necessary to make informed project decisions. Early and often engagement of the residents and businesses who live and operate in these areas will be a key factor in the success of this update. This starts with the Public Participation Plan where we identify steps to ensure project transparency, open communication and multiple opportunities for feedback and collaboration.



- **Virtual Public Workshop(s):** As these areas are dispersed over large areas, and in some cases, many miles apart, it is important that we reach as many community members as possible to ensure a representative range of experiences and expectations are reflected in the decisions and outcomes of this project.
 - **Action:** A virtual workshop will be developed to offer community members an opportunity to learn about the project goals and provide location-based insights, pinpoint concerns, share ideas, and discuss topics with neighbors and other community patrons about the spaces they know and value.
 - **Format:** Opportunities to access, navigate, and participate within this virtual workshop will be distributed publicly across social media platforms, the City of Lacey and Thurston County website, and other local communication channels. The virtual public workshop will be accessible from any internet connected device.
 - **Timeline:** The virtual workshop will start in Spring of 2023 and run over the course of a few months. This timeline is intended to reduce as many barriers as possible by offering 24-hour availability and in-home access in a format that is flexible to community schedules.
 - **Outcome:** After this phase of outreach has concluded, shared ideas will be reviewed for similarities and new perspectives that can better inform and drive project tasks. Project alternatives and opportunities will be evaluated based on community input and existing needs.

- **Project Specific Webpage:** In support of these outreach efforts, a project specific webpage will be developed as the primary information hub for updates, ongoing efforts, and project milestones.
 - **Action:** The webpage will provide an additional level of project transparency as project documents, contact information, opportunities for participation, and next steps will be published and made publicly available.
 - **Format:** The project webpage will be linked and accessible through the City of Lacey and Thurston County websites, with easy navigation and opportunities to provide comments and contact project leads.
 - **Timeline:** The webpage will be released and promoted early in the project (Spring 2023), allowing visitors to become familiar with the site, learn about the project phases, and identify opportunities for participation.
 - **Outcome:** The webpage will ensure transparency throughout the project; providing timely updates; open communication channels, project milestones, and an opportunity to join the project mailing list.

- **Hybrid Events:** Following the insights and ideas gathered throughout this process, a draft will be developed. To ensure the draft reflects the experiences of the community, hybrid (virtual/in person) project events will be held later in the Summer 2023.



- **Action:** The draft plan will be shared publicly and distributed to the project webpage and mailing lists.
 - **Format:** Open houses will offer interested community members an opportunity to review the preliminary plan and provide feedback to the project team.
 - **Timeline:** Open houses will be held in Summer 2023.
 - **Outcome:** The project team will use the collected input to refine the plan into an updated draft.
- **Council and Commissioner Briefings:** To ensure the plan is reflective of County and City goals and community insights, Councilmembers and Commissioners will receive updates on project findings, milestones, and alternatives.
 - **Action:** City Council members and County Commissioners will receive project briefings at public meetings to review project materials, progress, and recommendations.
 - **Format:** Briefings will take place at regularly scheduled public meetings.
 - **Timeline:** Two to four briefings are currently anticipated. The first will take place near the project’s midpoint to update representatives on project milestones, findings, and draft

proposals. Additional briefings will take place near the project’s conclusion with an updated draft, deliverables, and insights from the community.

- **Outcome:** The intent of this phase is to ensure Councilmembers and Commissioners are well informed and have multiple opportunities to provide targeted guidance to the community and project leads.

Before final adoption, the draft update will undergo review by City and County staff, the City Planning Commission, the Thurston County Planning Commission, the City Council, and the Board of County Commissioners. The final adoption comes from Thurston's Board of County Commissioners, which adopts a Joint Plan as part of the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan update process.

Project Timeline

