

# CHAPTER 1

# LAND USE ELEMENT

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## A. INTRODUCTION

### A.1 Land Acknowledgement

The foundation of this community began a very long time before the municipal incorporation of the City of North Bend. Recognizing this long and deep history is important in putting into context North Bend's culture and identity and our relationship to the land and to those around us. A land acknowledgement helps to set this context and to guide the City's efforts as we work to protect the environment, steward our collective resources, preserve our history, and plan for our future, as articulated in this Comprehensive Plan.

The City of North Bend is located on the ancestral indigenous land of the Coast Salish people who have sovereign, inherent Tribal rights across this land, specifically the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe (sdukwalbixw). We thank these caretakers of this land who have lived and continue to live here since time immemorial and share with them a commitment to steward this land and its natural resources for future generations.

### A.2 Purpose and Intent

The Land Use Element provides a long-range guide to the development of North Bend and its Urban Growth Area (UGA). Its purpose is to ensure that an adequate supply of land, a desired mix of uses, and employment opportunities are available for the successful implementation of the other elements of the Comprehensive plan. The element translates the vision of the City into a plan and directs development in North Bend over the next twenty years by introducing strategies that will retain and enhance small-town character, environmental health, and cultural and economic sustainability.

The Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan examines the character and quality of existing development in both the City limits and the unincorporated areas of the UGA. It identifies, trends, and projects potential growth within recognized opportunity areas. It also proposes the distribution, location, and extent of land used for various land use classifications. It considers both the state mandates of the Growth Management Act (GMA) as well as

appropriate Countywide Planning Policies in King County. It presents the community's principal themes of preservation of its small town character with its desire to protect environmentally sensitive lands as growth occurs. Finally, it formulates the guiding goals and policies designed to shape the community into its acknowledged vision.

The Land Use Element sets general land use designations for the City and its UGA. Land use designations are intended to provide predictability to residents and property owners about the nature of land use within North Bend and provide the necessary planning tools to decision makers to make decisions about development applications. As mandated by the GMA, the Land Use Element accommodates the Growth Management Planning Council population and employment targets assigned to North Bend.

### A.3 North Bend's Vision

The community of North Bend wants to preserve its environment, natural beauty and small town scale and character. The residents of the community also desire to enhance the built environment of the downtown, the riverfront and community parks, new and existing residential neighborhoods, and the community's gateways.

### A.4 VISION 2050

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) VISION 2050 is a regional strategy for accommodating the growth expected to happen in the region by 2050. VISION 2050 is a long-range plan for maintaining a healthy region while promoting the well-being of the citizens and communities, economic vitality, equity, affordability, and a healthy environment. Vision 2050 is disseminated from PSRC to member counties (including King County) through Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs).

The North Bend Comprehensive Plan Elements address each of the policy areas in VISION 2050. VISION 2050 has policies that provide a unified framework for counties to collaboratively address regional issues including: population growth, housing affordability and displacement, transportation, climate change impacts, environmental protection,

and others. North Bend's Comprehensive Plan has been updated based on residential and employment targets that align with VISION 2050. Chapter 3 of the North Bend Comprehensive Plan, the Housing Element, identifies the number of

housing units in the City for the year 2044, and also includes affordable housing goals. North Bend's Comprehensive Plan supports a sustainable approach to growth and future development.

The Comprehensive Plan and North Bend Municipal Code (NBMC) support low-impact development techniques for landscaping and stormwater. The Comprehensive Plan calls for urban development in the downtown core and includes design guidelines for mixed-use and transit-oriented development. The Housing Element commits to expanding housing options to meet the diverse needs of both current and future residents of all incomes consistent with the City's adopted affordable housing targets as outlined in the King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs). The Economic Development Element in the Plan supports creating jobs and maintaining a high quality of life. The Transportation and Sustainability Elements advance cleaner and more sustainable mobility, with provisions for complete streets and green streets. In addition, the City has programs and strategies that support multimodal travel.

## B. REGULATORY SETTING

### B.1 Growth Management

Under the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.070) a Land Use Element is required to address the following:

- distribution/location/extent of land uses (agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, public utilities, public facilities and other land use);
- population densities, building intensities and estimates of future population growth;
- protection of the quality and quantity of ground water used for public water supplies; and
- drainage, flooding and stormwater runoff within and nearby the jurisdiction as well as guidance

for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute waters of the state.

### B.2 Countywide Planning Policies

The King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPP's) provide a countywide vision and serve as a framework for each jurisdiction to develop a comprehensive plan consistent with the overall vision for the future of King County. North Bend is located outside the larger metropolitan UGA to the west, which includes nearby cities such as Issaquah, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and Woodinville; however the City has its own designated UGA boundary. Within the designated UGA, North Bend shall provide urban services, residential densities, and a mix of land uses that will provide for residential and economic growth for the next twenty years. The full list of CPP's is available on King County's website at: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/executive/governance-leadership/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/cpps>.

The Land Use Element also recognizes the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) growth and employment targets for the City as a key component to its direction. The GMPC, working with all metropolitan jurisdictions, identified household and job growth targets based on the land capacity of each city and its identified UGA that would accommodate its portion of the State Office of Financial Management's (OFM) projected growth for the region.

### B.3 Tribal Coordination

Multiple Puget Sound area tribes have federally adjudicated treaty rights in the North Bend vicinity. These treaties protect traditional ways of life through preserving the right of tribes to fish at all usual and accustomed stations and hunt and gather in all open and unclaimed land. The Snoqualmie Tribe additionally has reservation land and significant facilities, investments, and services in close proximity to the City of North Bend's jurisdictional area.

RCW 36.70A.040 outlines a voluntary coordination approach for tribes as a part of planning for the update of Comprehensive Plans. The City of

North Bend will work to actively solicit input and participation by local tribes when updating the City's Comprehensive Plan, as well as to increase communication, collaboration, and consultation with tribes on issues of mutual interest and concern and on actions that may impact tribal interests or treaty rights.

## C. LAND USE

### C.1 History and Existing Development Patterns

North Bend's development pattern is the result of its spectacular setting in the upper Snoqualmie Valley between Mount Si and Rattlesnake Ridge, at the foothills of the Cascades. The Snoqualmie River defines a rich and environmentally sensitive river valley. The Snoqualmie Tribe and its ancestors recognized this ideal natural context, establishing settlements and managing a broad, open prairie ideal for building and sustaining community life. Later development activities of farms, pasture lands and timber harvesting, and the existing built environment including the Interstate 90 interchanges, are all influences molding the City's present and future development.

The river valley floor is relatively flat and has developed with the most intensive land uses such as those located in downtown, east of downtown along North Bend Way, and the freeway interchanges at Exit 31 and Exit 34. These areas contain the heart of the City's retail, employment park and commercial districts, as well as the highest density residential developments. Lower density residential, protected open space and rural pasture lands comprise the balance of land activities within the City, its UGA, and surrounding unincorporated lands.

The rich and long history of life of the Snoqualmie Tribe and its ancestors here and early settler reliance on the area's abundant natural resources is a guide to defining the City's future, where the natural setting of North Bend continues as the key component to the City's identity and heritage.

### C.2 Natural Features

The natural setting of North Bend within the broad Snoqualmie Valley allows ample opportunities for residential living with a small town feel, supportive services, and sub-regional employment centers. At the same time, development constraints such as aquifer recharge areas, rivers, streams, floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes, and geologically unstable soil define the existing development limits and predict the shape of future development activity along key corridors.

The North Bend UGA occupies a very small percentage of the entire upper Snoqualmie River basin (above the falls), but its location on the valley floor close to the outlet for the upper Snoqualmie basin makes it vulnerable to major flooding, which can damage residences or other property. Implementing development and management practices that acknowledge the impact of the river and its tributaries is critical for the health and safety of existing and future residents. Associated wetlands are key natural resource areas for enhancing water quality, providing important fish and wildlife habitat, and serving as water retention and flood storage areas. They provide opportunities to maintain the natural geologic systems of the area and their related habitat functions.

Additional information on the City's predominant natural features and their importance to the future development of the City is given in detail in the Critical Areas Element and the Shoreline Element. Review of drainage, flooding, and stormwater run-off in North Bend, as well as protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater intended for public use is addressed in the Critical Areas Element of the North Bend Comprehensive plan. To the extent necessary to comply with RCW 36.70A.070(1), the Critical Areas Element is incorporated by reference in this Land Use Element. Shoreline designations shall coordinate future land development and permitted uses with the Shoreline designations identified in the Shoreline Master Plan.

In addition to the City's geographic features, the City's existing tree canopy and many mature and significant trees serve as a significant natural asset that contributes to the livability of the community through stormwater mitigation, cooling, and other climate resilient benefits. Planning for protection of the City's tree canopy is provided in the Urban Forestry section of the Energy and Sustainability Element.

Also notable with North Bend's natural and forested surroundings is an increased risk of wildfire and an associated need to plan accordingly. Addressing this risk and the risks of other natural hazards are policies within the City's Energy and Sustainability Element.

### C.3 Built Environment

The historic development pattern of the City is along its east-west spine. The City's downtown commercial area developed along the old east-west SR-10 corridor (also known as the 'Sunset Highway'). In part, this 'Sunset Highway' first came to North Bend via Snoqualmie on the Boalch road alignment. The original route was subsequently moved to the present alignment of SR-202 then replaced with the old east-west SR-10 corridor now called North Bend Way. When Interstate 90 was completed in 1973 south of downtown North Bend, the original SR 10 assumed the function of a local access arterial route. Early residential neighborhoods clustered around the downtown employment node and were generally platted along the grid system, which gave definition and form to the urban environment. Other, typically rural land uses were scattered throughout the Upper Valley and are still evident today along the minor and major arterials as a mix of large lot rural residences with small commercial and industrial land uses.

The completion of the I-90 interchanges propelled new land uses forward by the mid-1980s in response to the commercial opportunities created by interstate transportation access. The principal impact at the Exit 31 South Fork interchange was the emergence of retail sales outlets and services

that cater to both the visitor population and to the City and the surrounding area. With the distribution center for Nintendo at Exit 31 and the Genie facility at Exit 34, and the zoning of additional Employment Park lands for similar uses, the City has additional employment opportunities in the South Fork Neighborhood, as well as the vacant lands along North Bend Way in the Tanner and Edgewick Neighborhoods. The I-90 corridor is a Designated National Scenic Byway which gets international tourism promotion from the Federal Scenic Byways Program. The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (MTSGT) and City of North Bend work together on enhancement projects throughout the City primarily funded through the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum by the King County Flood Control District. The MTSGT strives to protect and enhance the I-90 corridor greenway. The City of North Bend received 'Tree City USA' in 2011 and has reached certification every year since.

Many of the existing, older commercial and residential structures show signs of age, particularly in the downtown neighborhood area. Maintaining the City's charm and appeal as a vital rural center will require additional attention to the rehabilitation and maintenance of its existing developed areas and structures. In part, the maintenance and repair of the City's infrastructure forms the foundation for this work.

### C.4 Historic and Cultural Preservation

One of the goals of the Comprehensive Plan is to help promote historic and cultural preservation within the City. Several sections of the Land Use Element reference key historic sites (see Table C.4) that deserve public intervention for protection. Some examples include the historic Tollgate and Meadowbrook Farms which are now in public ownership, and the historic downtown commercial district which was formally designated in 2000. Preservation of heritage sites helps to maintain the City's aesthetic and cultural diversity and provides continuity with its past. Heritage sites include

buildings, properties, natural areas, and structures of cultural significance. Identifying heritage resources and determining appropriate measures for their protection, preservation, or restoration is an ongoing process involving the King County Landmarks

Commission, the City of North Bend, the Snoqualmie Tribe, and state and federal agencies.

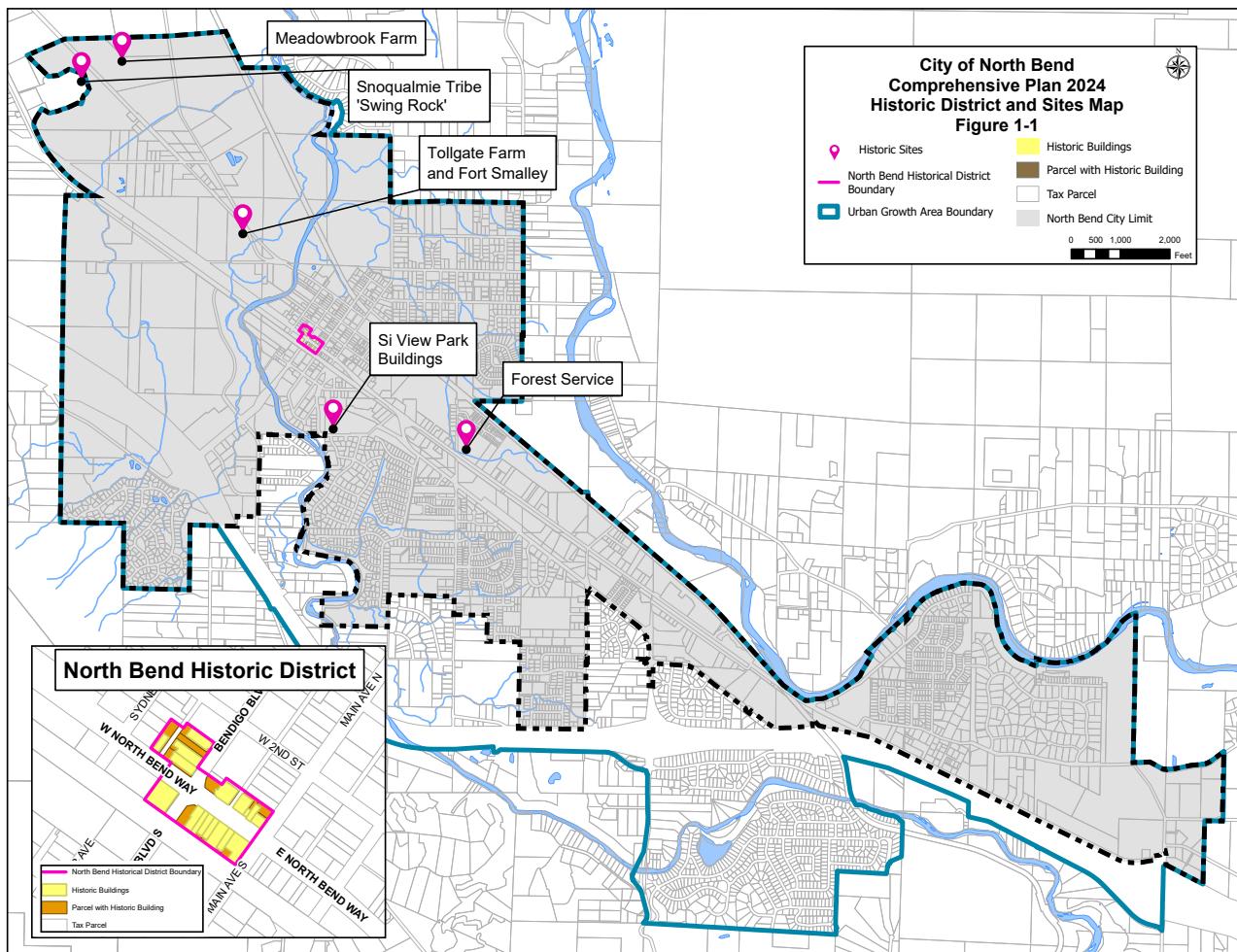
In order to facilitate the City's continued preservation of key area landmarks, the City will support the

TABLE C.4 INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES

Name	Location	King County Survey File Number
Tollgate Farm	North Bend	0740
Si View Park Buildings	North Bend	0848
Fort Smalley	Tollgate Farm on SR-202	0015
Meadowbrook Farm	North Bend and Snoqualmie	N/A*
Milwaukee Railroad Bridge (since removed)	North of North Bend on South Fork of Snoqualmie River	0018
Downtown Commercial Historic District	Downtown North Bend	HRI#1567
Snoqualmie Tribe "Swing Rock"	Highway 202	N/A*
Forest Service Complex	North Bend Way	N/A*

\* Sites not included in King County's historic survey designation but are important to the identity of North Bend.

<sup>1</sup> Tree City USA is a national program that acknowledges cities who meet four standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department; having a community tree ordinance; spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry; and celebrating Arbor Day.



development of a process that identifies, evaluates, and protects its local historic and cultural resources.

The City works closely with the King County Historic Preservation Program to implement the City's historic preservation ordinance. This may include entering into an interlocal agreement with the County to provide for the designation of a commission of landmarks within the City. The City should also work closely with Mountains to Sound Greenway to support its efforts to create a network of greenway buffers and interpretative signs which inform and celebrate the local history. Opportunities for interpretive facilities for existing designated historic sites and structures should be pursued, as well as the opportunity to work with the City of Snoqualmie and Snoqualmie Tribe on the Meadowbrook Farm property for significant interpretive venues. Local historic and interpretive avenues are greatly fostered within the City of

North Bend through its support of the efforts of the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum. This support should continue and expand as the museum considers future plans to restore or expand its facility in North Bend. The museum offers an accessible and unique avenue for retaining and expanding the community's awareness of its historic and cultural roots.

In addition to historic sites, it is important to protect Critical Cultural Resources. Critical Cultural Resources are archaeological objects of high cultural significance to the Snoqualmie people and/or other Tribes. Critical Cultural Resources as trees are often western red cedar; however, historical and traditional practices include other species, such as big-leaf maple or cottonwood. Archaeologists use the phrase Culturally Modified Tree, but it is not the preferred term for the Snoqualmie Tribe. The defining characteristic of a Critical Cultural

Resource is the visibility of past human modification. Typical modifications on Critical Cultural Resources include tree branches, bark and even tree clusters. These living historical markers and resources are an identifiable connection to locations and places of cultural/historical/archaeological significance for Tribes.



Historic Images of North Bend: Log trucks going through downtown

- **Residential Land Uses:** Residential land uses include low- to high-density housing and cottage housing.
- **Commercial Land Uses:** Commercial land uses include retail, services and office.
- **Employment Park Land Uses:** Office parks, high technology business parks, warehouses, heavy industrial, and manufacturing businesses are included in the discussion of employment-generating land uses.
- **Parks, Open Space, and Public Facilities Land Uses:** These areas include recreational open space, active and passive parks uses, and publicly owned facilities.
- **Mixed-Use:** Mixed-use refers to the combining of retail/commercial/office and/or service uses with residential use in the same building or on the same site. Typically this is accomplished in the following way; 1) A structure with ground floor retail/commercial or service uses and the above floors occupied by residential use; 2) A structure which provides retail/commercial or service use in the portion fronting the public street with attached residential or office uses behind;

## C.5 Land Use Types

The Land Use Element identifies the type, location, and intensity of the following distinct land uses and includes discussion of mixed uses among these categories.



Historic Images of North Bend: Downtown Building

and 3) Multiple structures on one site which provide retail/commercial or service uses in the structure(s) fronting the public street or public realm, and residential and/or office uses in separate structure(s) behind. Mixed-use development opportunities are recognized as a key plan component in creating revitalization of the existing built environment and spurring new development opportunities. Benefits of mixed use developments include but are not limited to: 1) allowing citizens to live, work and shop within a close proximity to each use; 2) creating activity within the district or neighborhood during longer periods of the day; 3) creating housing options and housing diversity; 3) promoting pedestrian activity and reduced auto dependency and 4) creating a sense of place.

## C.6 Community Design and Mixed Use

Traditional zoning separated homes from employment, shopping and commercial spaces. Commercial and industrial spaces were concentrated in large centers oriented towards the freeway and the automobile. Population growth and traffic congestion created a need to accommodate a better mix of uses where people can live, work and shop. Mixed-use development can provide a better jobs to housing balance and provide citizens

with the option to live closer to work, thus making walking, biking and transit choices more abundant. Mixed-use buildings as described under C.5 above are a combination of retail/commercial/office and/or service uses with residential use in the same building or on the same site. Mixed use is permitted and encouraged in the Downtown Commercial (DC) zone, Neighborhood Business Zones (NB) and through Master Plans developed consistent with City regulations governing such process.

**LU - Goal 1: Preserve North Bend's small town qualities and its natural environment, while allowing for growth and development.**

*Policies:*

- LU - 1.1 *Ensure consistency with applicable requirements of the Growth Management Act, Multicounty Planning Policies, and Countywide Planning Policies when updating the Land Use Element and other relevant elements of the Comprehensive Plan.*
- LU - 1.2 *Ensure opportunity for tribal collaboration and participation when updating the City's Comprehensive Plan and in other land use planning processes, and increase communication and consultation with tribes on issues that may impact tribal interests and treaty rights.*
- LU - 1.3 *Accommodate the City's required residential and employment growth targets and ensure a well-planned balance of residential and commercial growth that can support a jobs-housing balance, and amend land use and zoning designations when necessary to accommodate such targets.*
- LU - 1.4 *Encourage infill residential development within the existing incorporated area in an effort to reduce sprawl and create more housing options.*
- LU - 1.5 *Allow development to occur within the identified Urban Growth Area as City services become available and adopted annexation policies are met when it is consistent with adopted population and employment growth targets.*
- LU - 1.6 *Locate new residential land uses in environmentally unconstrained areas where public services are available or nearby to increase walkability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*
- LU - 1.7 *Encourage retention of natural habitat in residential developments by providing sustainable landscaping, making Low Impact Development the preferred stormwater approach for site development, requiring set-asides for connecting open spaces, and by creating zoning incentives.*
- LU - 1.8 *Plan for wildlife habitat linkages and wildlife-conscious development practices in land use and development patterns.*
- LU - 1.9 *Develop a Citywide Gateway Plan, and associated regulations, to create attractive City entrances that highlight the community's small town character.*
- LU - 1.10 *Plan for development patterns that minimize pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and increase physical activity by facilitating bicycle and pedestrian mobility and supporting increased densities in areas accessible to transit.*

**LU - Goal 2: Protect, conserve and enhance the historic and cultural heritage of North Bend.****Policies:**

*LU - 2.1 Coordinate and cooperate with local, state and national historic and cultural preservation organizations, and the Snoqualmie Tribe, in order to promote and protect historic and cultural preservation within the City.*

*LU - 2.2 Develop criteria to establish a system of priorities for the preservation of historic, archeological and culturally significant properties and Critical Cultural Resources.*

*LU - 2.3 Work with the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society to make historic and cultural resources available in order to raise awareness of the richness of cultural diversity and to encourage retention of personal and community heritage.*

*LU - 2.4 Promote a mutually supportive relationship between historic and cultural preservation and economic development.*

*LU - 2.5 Incorporate the preservation of sites and structures of historic, cultural, and archeological significance as a part of the aesthetic and environmental consideration in site design and subdivision plan reviews.*

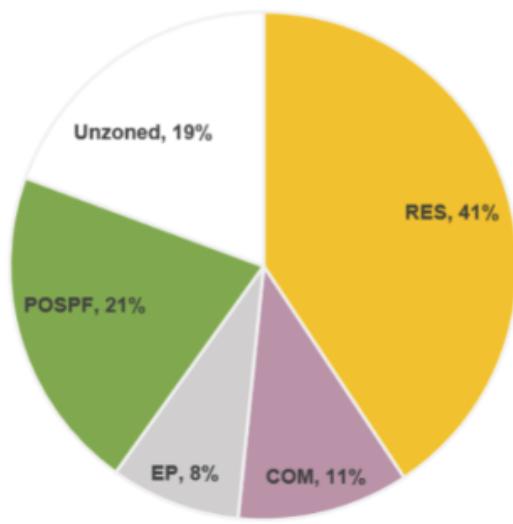
*LU - 2.6 Consult with the King County Historic Preservation Program and the Snoqualmie Tribe to determine and implement appropriate levels of archaeological review for development proposals to ensure the protection of cultural resources.*

## D. LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS, DISTRIBUTION AND LOCATION OF LAND USES

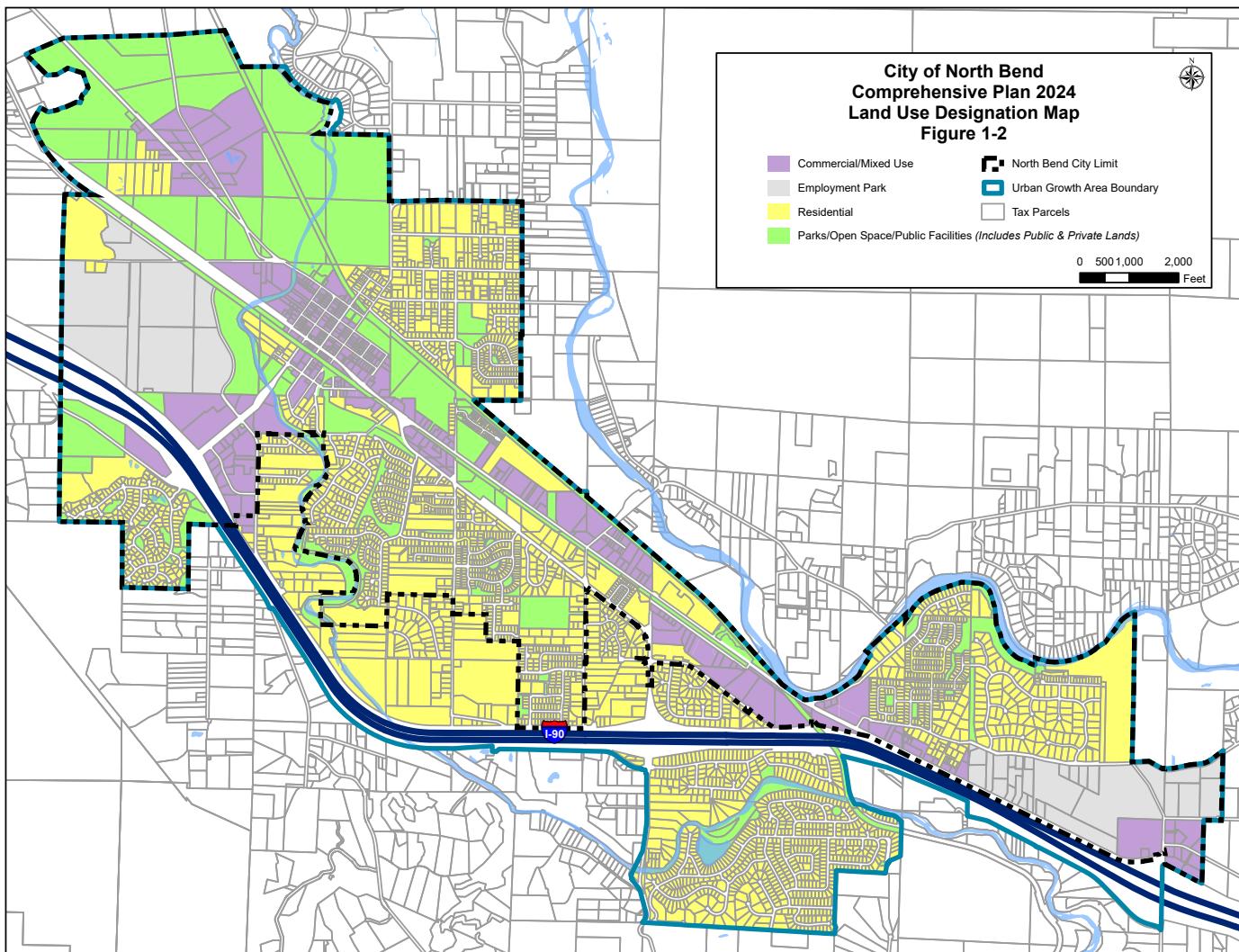
### D.1 Distribution of Land Use Designations

Land Area by Land Use Designation (City Limits and UGA)			
Abbreviation	Land Use Designation	Acres	Total (%)
RES	Residential	1565	41%
COM	Commercial/Mixed Use	421	11%
EP	Employment Park	318	8%
POSPF	Park/Open Space / Public Facility	799	21%
Unzoned	Unzoned/ROW/Waterbody	744	19%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3847</b>	<b>100%</b>

Land Area by Land Use Designation (City Limits and UGA)



The City of North Bend with its UGA is approximately 3,868 acres in size. The predominant land use activities, as classified on the current land use designation map, are residential uses. (See Figure 1-1)



## D.2 Parks, Open Space and Public Facilities

The City identifies land useful for public purposes within the Parks, Open Space, and Public Facilities Land Use Designation and zone. About 21 percent of the UGA land area is now used for parks, open space and public facilities, a relatively high percentage compared with most communities, but consistent with the high priority residents have placed on maintaining the City's rural and small town character. This zone also includes City offices and properties, schools, Si View Park, the City's wastewater treatment plant, and the fire station, as well as designated tracts for the protection of critical areas, public lands for future levy setbacks, and other public purposes. Other key components of open space include the Meadowbrook and Tollgate Farms, which together have been designated by North Bend

to serve as an urban separator between the Cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie. The preservation of land identified as environmentally critical areas, open space, and parks provides a variety of functions such as: providing access to the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries; providing visual relief from the built environment; retaining areas for wildlife habitat and stormwater retention; creating opportunities for study of the natural environment; supporting recreation opportunities; and linking the City with its historic past.

To adequately protect such critical land uses, the North Bend Municipal Code has specific zoning categories to identify and retain areas which function as either parks or open space. The Parks Element identifies recreational resources and provides specific policies, while establishing level of service

standards for this important component of North Bend's amenities. (See the Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan for more information.)

The City is well served by a diverse range of public facilities developed to meet the needs of its residents as well as the needs of those living in adjacent unincorporated King County. Facilities include: a King County public library (1994), a post office (1994), a public works Complex (2002), a fire station (2012), and a city hall (2018).

North Bend has a variety of public programs offered at public facilities. The North Bend Depot and associated historic train activities link North Bend to the City of Snoqualmie. In addition, the historic train provides tourist activities, which help generate economic activity. The Senior Center has a rich variety of programs and activities. The Si View Park complex has the only public pool in the Upper Valley and offers many classes and camps year round. The Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum has a depth of high quality programs, resources, and displays. (See the Capital Facilities Element and Parks Element for more information on parks, open space and public facilities.)

### **D.3 Residential Land Use**

The majority of the land area within the City of North Bend has been designated for residential land uses, ranging from constrained low-density residential areas to high-density residential. For further information on population growth projections and planning for and accommodating residential growth targets, see section H of this Element, Growth Targets.

### **D.4 Commercial Districts and Employment Centers**

North Bend offers a variety of jobs to persons residing both inside and outside the City limits. Commercial Districts and Employment Centers are predominately concentrated along Bendigo Boulevard and North Bend Way and Boalch Avenue NW, as well as on the east and west side of the City in

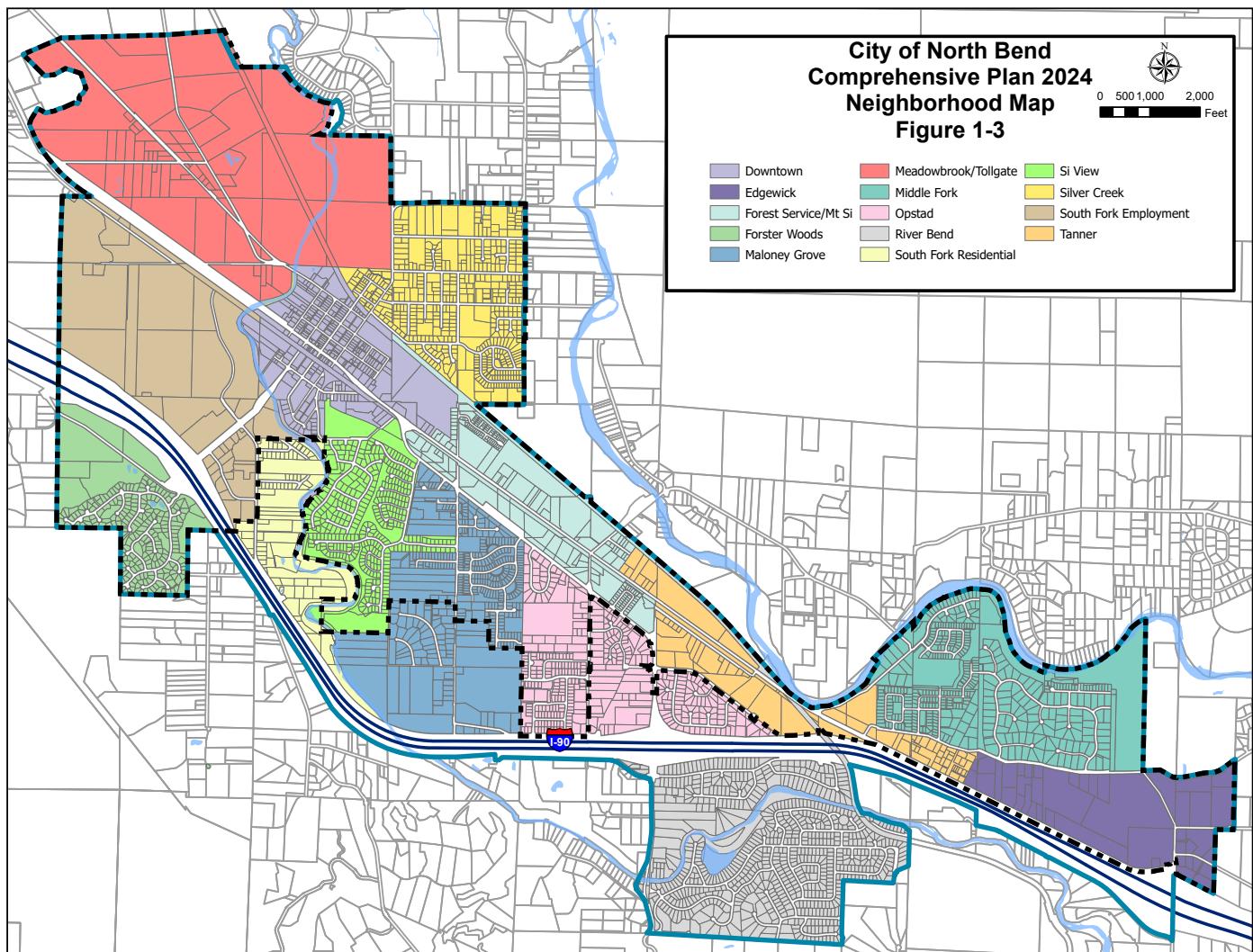
lands zoned Business Park and Employment Park.

### **D.5 Neighborhood Planning Areas**

For Comprehensive Plan purposes, the City has been divided into fourteen neighborhood planning areas identified in Figure 1-3. These neighborhoods have been established to create land use patterns that will help the City maintain its existing rural character, natural beauty and small town scale, as well as to identify neighborhood-specific planning and design issues and establish policies that help create identity, community, and a sense of place. These neighborhoods are characterized by pedestrian orientation and are linked by the City's existing and planned network of pedestrian and bicycle trails.

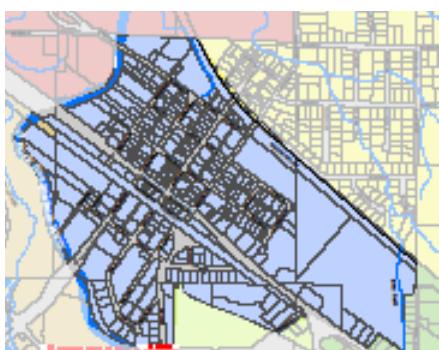
The potential for the creation of future neighborhood-specific plans will enable neighborhood residents to have a voice in the direction their neighborhood may take. Anything from the identification of needed neighborhood amenities to the development of neighborhood signage programs can be explored within the context of the neighborhood planning process.

Figure 1-3 shows all of the City's neighborhoods as currently designated. In concert with the Transportation Element and the Parks Element, the City should strive to seek land to accommodate neighborhood greenways and bike paths that both connect and articulate each neighborhood's identity. Development of future comprehensive neighborhood signage programs may help distinguish the neighborhoods' unique characteristics.



## Downtown Neighborhood

The Downtown Neighborhood includes the historic commercial downtown and the original town plat of North Bend, with a mix of commercial and residential uses. The Downtown Neighborhood contains several areas of vacant and re-developable land envisioned for infill projects and is one of the City's key employment centers for future commercial growth. The City has encouraged investment and improvement in the downtown through a number of ways.



Neighborhood size is generally defined by the walking distance to the neighborhood center. The Downtown Neighborhood has been designated in such a way that jobs, housing and services may be readily available to the local residents, often within walking distance. By encouraging a walkable downtown, a sense of community is affirmed, automotive pollutants are reduced, healthy lifestyles are encouraged, and human interaction is fostered. In addition, the City seeks to reduce urban sprawl as it encourages compact development, helping preserve the natural lands adjacent to the City.

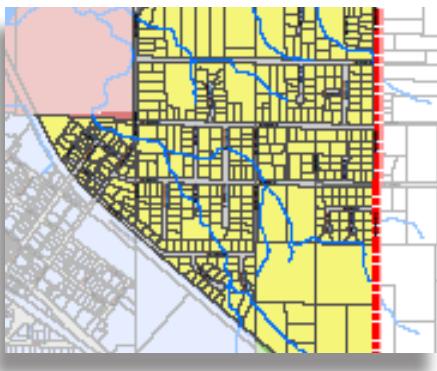
The identification and development of the Downtown Neighborhood within the City occurred with several goals in mind. First, the downtown can be compact and comprised of structures of varying scale. Clustering is to be encouraged to help minimize impacts of conflicting land uses while enhancing the natural features or open spaces within a proposed development. Second, development within the downtown must respect the historic and architectural styles and patterns of development. Streetscape and pedestrian scale are some of the additional components required by the Residential, Commercial, Mixed-Use and Industrial Design Standards adopted May 18, 2010.

In 2000, the City established the Downtown Commercial Historic District, covering seventeen historic buildings. This designation, administered through an interlocal agreement with the King County Historic Preservation Program, is intended to preserve and restore the historic character of the District. The Downtown Commercial Historic District is supported by several programs designed to stimulate maintenance and redevelopment of the designated structures.

In 2008, the City adopted a Downtown Master Plan. This plan identifies key development opportunity sites, specific infrastructure improvements, traffic and parking recommendations, and regulatory measures to help achieve the plan goals. In addition to the recommendations in the Downtown Master Plan, a future city hall, civic center, and plaza are envisioned in the downtown core, which can serve as a catalyst for further economic development and as a venue for community events. The Downtown Master Plan also recommends gateway features that are intended to draw people in and establish a sense of arrival. The City has achieved many of the Near-Term Projects and Actions identified in the Implementation Timeline of the Downtown Master Plan. These include projects such as: a roundabout at North Bend Way/Cedar Falls; way-finding signs; invasive vegetation removal at Riverfront Park; Downing Avenue Extension; intersection control at Park and North Bend Way; and garbage screening along McClellan. In addition, a new Visitor Information Center (VIC) was built in 2014 at the corner of Bendigo Blvd and Park Street.

The City also supports further investment in its downtown core through economic development strategies that foster a synergistic mix of retail, restaurant, nightlife, and service uses, clear and concise guidelines for development, and by developing incentives for infill and redevelopment such as expedited permit processes and reduced impact fees.

In other areas of the Downtown Neighborhood, infill and redevelopment of underutilized properties is expected to occur as property values increase relative to the value of existing structures. Supporting higher-density residential in the Downtown Neighborhood is key to fostering both pedestrian-oriented development and additional market support for further commercial uses. Mixed-use developments are particularly suitable for the Downtown Neighborhood and should be supported and encouraged through appropriate policies.



## Silver Creek Neighborhood

The Silver Creek Neighborhood is characterized by predominately single-family development, and further development should be limited to low-density residential in recognition of the established neighborhood character, its location within the floodplain, and the proximity of a number of floodway channels and critical areas associated with Silver Creek. Effort should be made to secure additional park land adjoining to E.J. Roberts Park as development is proposed. The additional park land will serve the growing number of residents using the park facilities in the Silver Creek Neighborhood.



## Forest Service/Mount Si Neighborhood

The Forest Service/Mount Si Neighborhood is a residential and commercial mixed neighborhood located southeast of downtown. The neighborhood is bisected by North Bend Way and the vacant Burlington Northern Railroad corridor/Tanner Trail, with residential uses predominantly south of North Bend Way and commercial uses north of North Bend Way. Primary existing public uses include the US Forest Service Ranger Station Complex, the City of North Bend Public Works site, and Fire Station 87.

Formerly Highway 10, this area developed along its length as an auto-oriented commercial strip, with motels, service stations, restaurants, and mobile home parks. As such, it exhibits the effect of auto-oriented "strip commercial" development with numerous egress and ingress points from North Bend Way. These multiple curb cuts are detrimental to public safety, impede the smooth flow of traffic, discourage walking and bicycling, and should be reduced over time through shared-driveways required as a part of redevelopment. Effort should also be made to ensure protection of significant trees located between North Bend Way and Cedar Falls Way, which form a distinct part of the neighborhood's character.

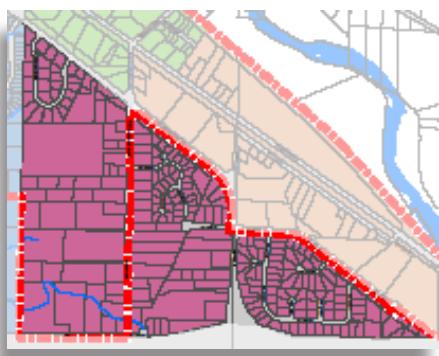
The neighborhood contains significant vacant and redevelopable areas which are envisioned for the development of cottage and medium density housing south of North Bend Way, and commercial and mixed use development north of North Bend Way.

A key intersection within this neighborhood is at East North Bend Way and SE Mount Si Road. This intersection provides access to the Mt. Si Trailhead. Because this trailhead is a regional draw, attracting over one hundred thousand people each year, retail and commercial opportunities are abundant. This neighborhood will see a demand for Neighborhood Business type uses, serving both the recreationalists and local clientele, and serving as a future neighborhood center. Retail and commercial uses should be pedestrian friendly, concentrated at the intersection, with parking located to rear. Mixed-use development consisting of retail/commercial and residential is encouraged.



### Riverbend Neighborhood

The Riverbend Neighborhood is a residential neighborhood in the Urban Growth Area south of I-90 Exit 32. The neighborhood has been largely built-out, with remaining single-family residential infill and redevelopment potential on existing larger residential lots off 436th Ave. SE. Private parks within the Riverbend neighborhood provide gathering places, and a golf course with associated restaurant and commercial uses provide additional services just outside the UGA. The Snoqualmie Valley Trail provides an important pedestrian and bicycle link under I-90 from the Riverbend Neighborhood to downtown and other parts of the City.



### Opstad Neighborhood

The Opstad Neighborhood is a residential neighborhood located southeast of downtown and directly south of the Mount Si Neighborhood. The neighborhood contains lower density single-family homes, Opstad Elementary School, and areas of vacant and redevelopable land. Much of the neighborhood has been "established" by existing residential subdivision patterns and should remain as low-density residential.



### Maloney Grove Neighborhood

The Maloney Grove Neighborhood is a residential neighborhood located southeast of downtown and directly west of the Opstad Neighborhood. The southern edge of the neighborhood is bounded by the I-90 right-of-way. The area contains lower density single-family residences. This neighborhood contains areas of vacant and redevelopable land envisioned for low-density residential development. Southern areas of the neighborhood are constrained by the floodplain and floodway. Development of trails along the South Fork levee as redevelopment of these properties occur would provide important extensions of the City's trail network and enable a safe pedestrian and bicycle connection to other areas of the City.



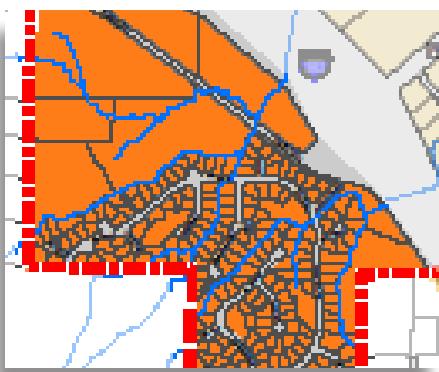
### Si View Neighborhood

The Si View Neighborhood is a residential neighborhood located south of downtown and northwest of the Maloney Grove Neighborhood. The western edge of the neighborhood is defined by the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The neighborhood has been largely built-out, and contains minimal area of vacant or redevelopable land, which is envisioned for single family residential use. Portions of the neighborhood are constrained by the floodplain and floodway. The neighborhood center is identified as Si View Park.



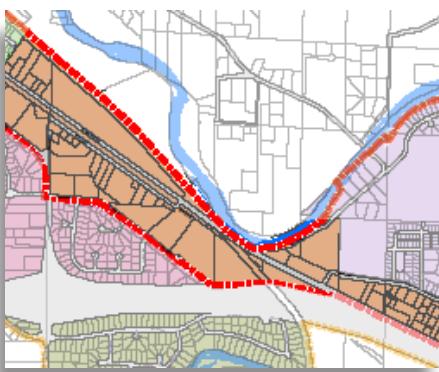
## South Fork Residential

The South Fork Neighborhood is a residential neighborhood located in the City's UGA, south of downtown and east of the South Fork Interchange area. It contains the existing subdivisions of Shamrock Park and Berry Estates. The neighborhood is bounded to the east by the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The neighborhood center is identified as the Exit 31 interchange commercial area within the South Fork Neighborhood to the west. Future development in the neighborhood is constrained by its location within the floodplain, some portions of which are in the floodway.



## Forster Woods Neighborhood

The Forster Woods Neighborhood is a residential neighborhood located southwest of downtown and southwest of the I-90 Exit 31 interchange. The area contains the Forster Woods subdivision, both single-family and multi-family, Tennant Trailhead Park, and additional vacant commercial land with moderate development constraints. Adjacent to the freeway intersection, vacant parcels would be developed as land uses suitable to the interchange.

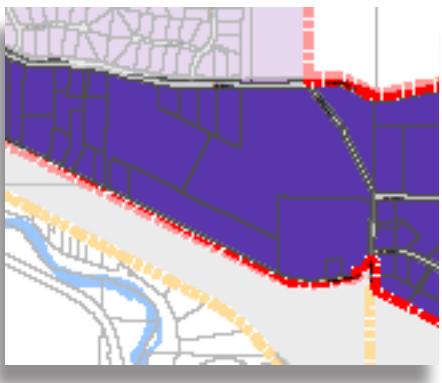


## The Tanner Neighborhood

The Tanner Neighborhood is a predominantly light-industrial neighborhood located southeast of the Forest Service/Mt. Si Neighborhood and the Edgewick Interchange.

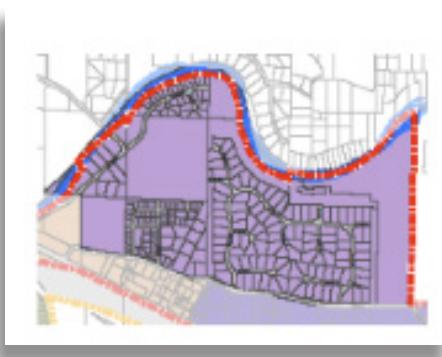
The neighborhood contains significant vacant and redevelopable land suitable for commercial and light-industrial uses and is an area anticipated to accommodate additional employment growth. Special overlay districts within areas of this neighborhood recognize unique site characteristics such as the presence of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail and the King County Tanner Landing Park, and therefore allow for a mix of residential and commercial/light industrial uses that wouldn't otherwise be permitted (see Overlay Districts section below).

The King County Snoqualmie Valley Trail provides an important pedestrian link through this neighborhood, connecting multiple parts of the City and encouraging bicycle and pedestrian transportation. The future Tanner Trail, within the Burlington Northern Railroad corridor, will provide a similar link along North Bend Way, and future developments that abut or contain this corridor should be constructed to align with and incorporate the trail into the design of the development. The area also has important scenic qualities with views of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River and Mount Si. Interpretive or historic signage would be appropriate, located in key areas along the corridor to give perspective on the natural and human histories of the area, including that of the Tanner Mill and the former Northern Pacific (Burlington Northern) and Milwaukee Road Railroad Lines.



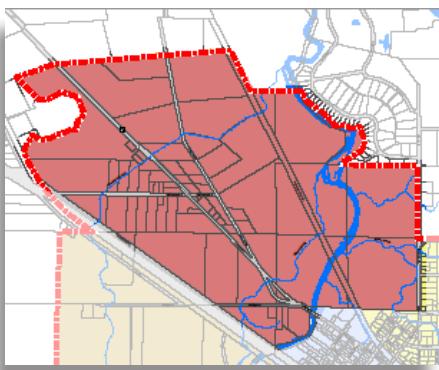
### The Edgewick Neighborhood

The Edgewick Neighborhood is a predominantly light-industrial neighborhood between SE 140th Street and North Bend Way at the eastern end of the City, and is one of the City's key employment areas anticipated to accommodate future employment growth. The neighborhood contains significant vacant and redevelopable land suitable for light-industrial and office park development. This area has great potential for increased job development due to its flat topography and excellent freeway access, and proximity to the Seattle metropolitan area. Attention to the most appropriate zoning classifications and land uses is also a significant issue, as the North Bend Vision Plan clearly articulates the City's desire to manage new commercial development with attention to the scale and intensity suitable for a small city. Employment-generating uses should be given preference over larger-scale warehousing and storage uses. The East North Bend Master Plan Overlay District provides additional planning and land use guidance to ensure a well-coordinated mix of office, employment park, research and industrial, and light manufacturing uses, and to coordinate vehicular circulation and site design to minimize adverse impacts to adjacent residential areas and nearby schools. The commercial areas at the Exit 34 interchange form the neighborhood center. Because 468th Ave. SE serves as the gateway to the popular Middle Fork recreation area, special attention should be paid to ensure that building and site design within this area—although it may be light industrial—retains a small town character and scale consistent with the City's vision statement.



### The Middle Fork Neighborhood

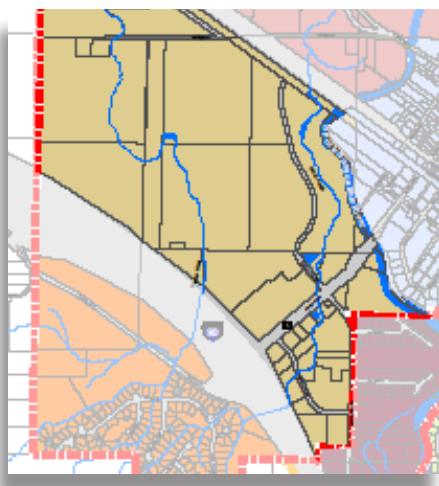
The Middle Fork Neighborhood is a residential neighborhood bounded to the north by the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The City will require that future development of this area provide public access to the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River with pedestrian trails that connect residential areas to the river where possible. Remaining development within the Middle Fork Neighborhood should remain as low-density residential.



## Meadowbrook/Tollgate Neighborhood

The Meadowbrook/Tollgate Neighborhood is chiefly characterized by the preserved Meadowbrook and Tollgate Farms. Both Meadowbrook Farm and Tollgate Farm are managed consistent with master plans that were developed for each property, as public park and open space areas intended to preserve scenic, historic, and cultural resources, and to be developed for lower intensity recreational activities, with a portion of Tollgate Farm also being developed for active recreation. (See the master plan for each property for more information.)

The Meadowbrook neighborhood contains some housing units as well as limited commercial and manufacturing land uses. The neighborhood contains areas of vacant and redevelopable land, and is envisioned as a mix of low-density residential uses and lower-intensity commercial uses. This neighborhood is not anticipated to accommodate higher-intensity commercial growth, to ensure compatibility with the adjacent agricultural and open space uses at Tollgate Farm and Meadowbrook Farm. Future development in the neighborhood is also constrained by wetland, stream and floodplain critical areas.



## South Fork Employment

A commercial and light-industrial neighborhood, the South Fork neighborhood includes the Exit 31 interchange commercial area and the large vacant and redevelopable properties between I-90 and North Bend Way in the western end of the City. This neighborhood is one of the City's primary employment centers and is anticipated to accommodate much of the City's future employment growth. Key existing uses include Nintendo and North Bend Premium Outlets to the west of Bendigo Boulevard, and the Mountain Valley Center east of Bendigo Boulevard. The neighborhood also serves as a primary gateway into the rest of the City. Maintaining and enhancing the streetscape along Bendigo Boulevard with landscape, lighting, signage, and sidewalk improvements consistent with recommendations in the Downtown Master Plan will help draw people from this area into downtown.

Policies for light industrial lands are intended to provide guidance toward identifying adequate land area for job growth and creation, developing parameters to help reduce conflicts between adjoining land uses and providing direction for new development to exhibit sensitivity to the natural environment. Uses in the Interchange Mixed-Use zone are to be limited to less intensive commercial activities that will be more compatible with the residential zoning district surrounding the interchange.

## D.6 INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES

The City of North Bend's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations need to reduce incompatibility between residential and commercial or industrial land uses in the North Bend UGA. Reducing and/or mitigating compatibility of land uses between adjacent residential and non-residential properties is fundamental to sound land use planning. To improve compatibility between residential and non-residential properties, the City development code shall include enhanced setbacks, additional landscaping, and enhanced design guidelines as well as limitation on permitted uses in specified locations. The objective of the development code will be to provide buffering as necessary to preserve and enhance the character of residential zoning districts.

**LU - Goal 3: Maintain residential quality and neighborhood livability suitable for residents of North Bend.**

*Policies:*

- LU - 3.1 *Encourage the development of human-scale neighborhoods planned to be easily accessed by pedestrians, bicycles, and transit to increase walkability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*
- LU - 3.2 *Encourage retention of existing open spaces and the creation of a citywide, linked open space network that integrates neighborhoods, provides access for all to clean healthy environments, protects natural resources and increases resilience to climate change impacts. Prioritize acquisitions and improvements in neighborhoods with historical underinvestment and disproportionately impacted communities.*
- LU - 3.3 *Utilize adopted multi-family and single family design guidelines which help to promote high quality residential development.*
- LU - 3.4 *Protect neighborhoods from adverse impacts such as junk vehicles or other nuisances by actively enforcing City codes.*
- LU - 3.5 *Support new transit opportunities linked to residential growth.*
- LU - 3.6 *As needed work with neighborhood residents to help define each neighborhood's character and address each neighborhood's challenges.*
- LU - 3.7 *Promote walkways and bikeways within new residential developments that can be linked to existing or proposed trails and walkways.*
- LU - 3.8 *Reduce sprawl by creating development regulations that allow smaller lot infill development at a scale and intensity that complements existing neighborhoods.*
- LU - 3.9 *Protect residential zoning districts from adverse impacts created by land uses permitted in adjoining commercial or industrial zoning districts.*
- LU - 3.10 *Limit new multi-family dwellings constructed in the Downtown Commercial zone to the second story or above when constructed in the downtown core.*

## D.7 EQUITY IN LAND USE

Historic and traditional land use practices, policies, and zoning can impact the ability of individuals and households to access housing and services, participate in land use decision making, and remain within their homes and communities, often disproportionately affecting marginalized populations. Such populations include people with low incomes, people with language access needs, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, and people with disabilities. Intentional policies and programs are necessary to address such impacts and counter intentional and unintentional biases against such populations. Additional policies addressing equity are found in the Housing Element and the Energy and Sustainability Element.

### LU - Goal 4: Foster equity in land use development and decision making.

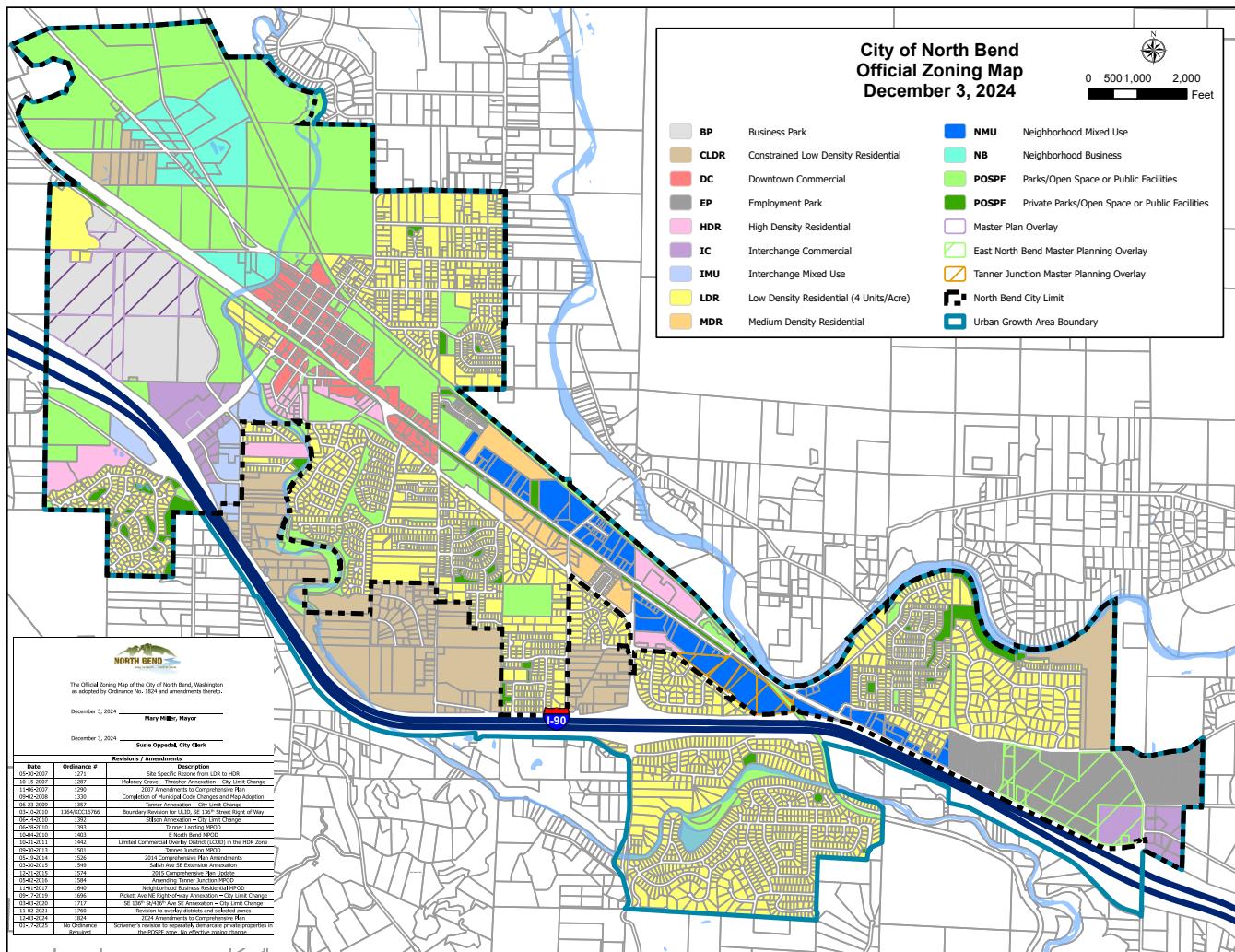
#### *Policies:*

- LU – 4.1 Ensure that all residents, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have a clean and healthy environment. Identify, mitigate, and correct for unavoidable negative impacts of public actions that disproportionately affect residents and neighborhoods impacted by existing and historical racial, social, environmental and economic inequities, and who have limited resources or capacity to adapt to a changing environment.*
- LU – 4.2 Develop and use tools that consider equity impacts when establishing plans or policies for outcomes that might disproportionately impact marginalized populations.*
- LU – 4.3 Promote land use development patterns that support the equitable siting of, and access to, services and community facilities.*
- LU – 4.4 In outreach and education activities and in the public process for land use decision making, strive to reach underrepresented and marginalized populations, including Tribes, and encourage their participation.*

## E. LAND USE AND ZONING DESIGNATIONS

How the City classifies uses of land within its incorporated boundary and its growth areas is important to the way the City will develop over the next twenty years. The zoning code is designed to implement the principles of the North Bend Vision Plan by promoting neighborhoods that are pedestrian-scale, predominately residential areas with mixed commercial and residential uses permitted in the commercial and industrial core of the City.

A general description of the City of North Bend's zoning code classifications are provided in the following sections. The zones provide the direction necessary to fulfill the City's vision for greater choice and expanded opportunity for residents and businesses, while also allowing the City to meet the population, employment, and affordable housing targets mandated by Countywide Planning Policies.



Much of North Bend is identified as Residential Neighborhoods (see Map 1-4. Residential zones provide for both single-family and multi-family housing with a range of densities while also accommodating appropriately scaled commercial nodes within proximity to residential areas. Locating these uses in a "mixed-use core" within walking distance of the neighborhoods in a deliberate, pedestrian-scaled pattern, encourages people to walk and bicycle and makes for a safer and more vibrant neighborhood. New residential development is encouraged to evolve according to traditional settlement patterns, with higher densities concentrated in the "unconstrained" areas and the "mixed use core" area, and gradually diminishing at the neighborhood's edges. All residential zones (definitions below) create attractive and satisfying environments for family and household life, ensure adequate services are provided, and provide for public amenities such as passive and active recreation areas, open space, and trails, and promote the opportunity for area-wide coordination and continuity of pedestrian, bicycle, and greenbelt corridors. In addition, these zones promote a traditional neighborhood development pattern and scale which serves to maintain and enhance the existing character and pedestrian orientation.

## **Low-Density Residential (LDR)**

Low-Density Residential designations provide for neighborhoods of predominately single-family structures at a maximum density of four dwelling units per acre. This zoning designation can accommodate for other uses that are compatible with single-family residences, including accessory dwelling units and some percentage of cottage housing within a planned neighborhood district.

## **Constrained Low Density Residential (CLDR)**

Constrained Low Density Residential is a designation for single-family residential use that is recognized for having larger lots or development constraints, such as frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, river and stream corridors, channel migration areas, wetlands, and native wildlife and fish habitat. Density in this area is expected to reach a maximum of two dwelling units per acre. The CLDR area includes properties located within the floodplain and floodway areas adjacent to the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River, and includes properties within the UGA, characterized by larger lot sizes and in keeping with the small town and natural character recognized as important in the city's vision statement.

## **Medium Density Residential (MDR)**

The Medium Density Residential zoning designation provides for innovative housing types on smaller lot sizes with increased densities to create greater diversity for residents of North Bend. MDR is comprised of predominately single-family smaller detached housing in the form of cottages, as well as attached housing within smaller-scale buildings consistent with single-family neighborhood character at densities between Low Density Residential and High Density Residential.

## **High-Density Residential (HDR)**

High-Density Residential zoning designations provides for attractive and satisfying pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods and/or areas of predominantly multi-family structures allowing for a mix of housing types, including affordable housing.

## **E.2 Parks, Open Space, and Public Facilities**

### **Parks / Open Space or Public Facilities (POSPF)**

The Parks Open Space or Public Facilities designation will include all public parks, schools and community facilities, as well as developed trails and other public recreational corridors and lands, and privately owned open space lands such as homeowners association parks, stormwater, and critical area tracts. Through the City's Parks and Open Space Element, property to be acquired for future parks or trails may be designated "future" Parks, Open Space, and Public Facilities. The "future" Park's designation may be applied without changing the underlying zoning. The POSPF zoning may be segregated to distinguish lands designated primarily for parks and open space from lands designated primarily for public facilities. Agriculture, forestry, galleries, gardens and museums, cemeteries, as well as governmental offices are permitted.

## **E.3 Employment**

The Employment Park and Business Park designations include areas where the future employment growth for North Bend will occur. These designations provide for development of large and small business to meet the twenty-year job target identified for North Bend by the Growth Management Planning Council. An important consideration for the development regulations is the need for parcels of sufficient size, with few constraints, that can provide efficient use of land to meet job targets. Activities promoted in this designation could include indoor fabrication, research and development, finance and other service-related businesses, and distribution facilities.

### **Business Park**

The Business Park designation located on the west end of North Bend is intended to provide areas for light industrial and limited commercial uses that are compatible with adjoining land use districts, including offices, light manufacturing, warehouse and distribution and research and development. The business park zone is constrained by the presence of floodplain along the valley floor as well as topography and critical areas that may limit larger-scale development opportunities. A Master Plan Overlay District covers much of the Business Park designation reflecting the need to carefully plan the mix of uses in consideration of environmental constraints, traffic circulation, adjacent uses, and other factors.

### **Employment Park**

The Employment Park designation located on the east end of North Bend is also intended light industrial and commercial uses that are compatible with adjoining land use districts, however some heavier industrial uses and retail uses will be accommodated here as well. An East North Bend Master Plan Overlay District covers much of the Employment Park designation reflecting the need to carefully plan the mix of uses in consideration of traffic circulation, adjacent uses, and the geographical context of the proximity to Interstate 90 and the entrance to the Middle Fork recreational area,

## **E.4 Commercial**

### **Downtown Commercial (DC)**

The Downtown Commercial designation will be the focus of services, entertainment, specialty retail, and mixed-use development. Development will be encouraged to conform to traditional northwest vernacular architecture and color palette, front onto streets, include pedestrian amenities, promote alternative transportation by providing bicycle racks and facilities, and develop shared parking facilities. Multi-storied development will be permitted to include residential and/or professional office uses above the street level. By promoting and enhancing commercial land uses within the historic, or traditional downtown area, redevelopment activities are encouraged which can prepare the North Bend downtown for the opportunities of the next century.

## Interchange Commercial (IC)

The Interchange Commercial designation provides for business activities that typically serve the travel and tourist trade while also supplying goods and services in larger scale commercial development.

The Interchange Commercial zone provides for services to the traveling public, as well as larger scale commercial activities.

## Interchange Mixed-Use (IMU)

The Interchange Mixed-Use zoning designation provides a modified set of permitted “interchange commercial” activities to protect residential uses adjacent to Interchange Commercial zoning districts.

The Interchange Mixed-Use occurs where Interchange Commercial (IC) zoning is near residential (LDR, HDR) zoning. The purpose of this zoning is to provide a transitional zoning district to act as a buffer between Interchange Commercial and Residential zoning. The transitional area provides for a limited set of interchange commercial uses that are more compatible with adjacent residentially zoned parcels.

## Neighborhood Mixed Use (NMU)

The Neighborhood Mixed Use zone is a commercial zoning district intended to allow a variety of small-scale retail centers for shops providing goods to serve the everyday needs of the surrounding population, where residential development can be encouraged.

## Neighborhood Business (NB)

The Neighborhood Business zone is intended to allow a variety of retail and service uses at a scale and intensity compatible with environmental constraints including floodplain and critical areas, and adjacency to agricultural and park uses at Tollgate Farm Park and Meadowbrook Farm.

**LU - Goal 5:** **Focus future employment growth in designated economic opportunity areas including the downtown, the South Fork interchange and employment park area and the East North Bend Way to Edgewick corridor.**

*Policies:*

**LU - 5.1** *Implement a high level of design and retention of the City’s unique visual quality to areas zoned for commercial or industrial land uses through review and implementation of the adopted Commercial and Industrial Design Standards.*

**LU - 5.2** *Promote pedestrian-scale development by utilizing shared driveways or existing roads and providing pedestrian-level amenities.*

## **F. MASTER PLAN OVERLAY DISTRICTS (MPODS)**

The North Bend Municipal Code (NBMC) Master Plan Overlay Districts (MPODs) provide a process by which a specific planned mix of uses and layout may be provided through a master plan to address unique site-specific opportunities and constraints. The underlying land use designation for these areas has not changed but in most cases they have been given special considerations for types of uses, approximate locations for open spaces, public streets and access points. The Planning Commission or property owner may docket consideration of an overlay zone. The first and initial land use development application for any parcel within an MPOD shall show consistency with the overlay district. Additional MPODs may be adopted over time and incorporated into the NBMC and zoning map amendments.

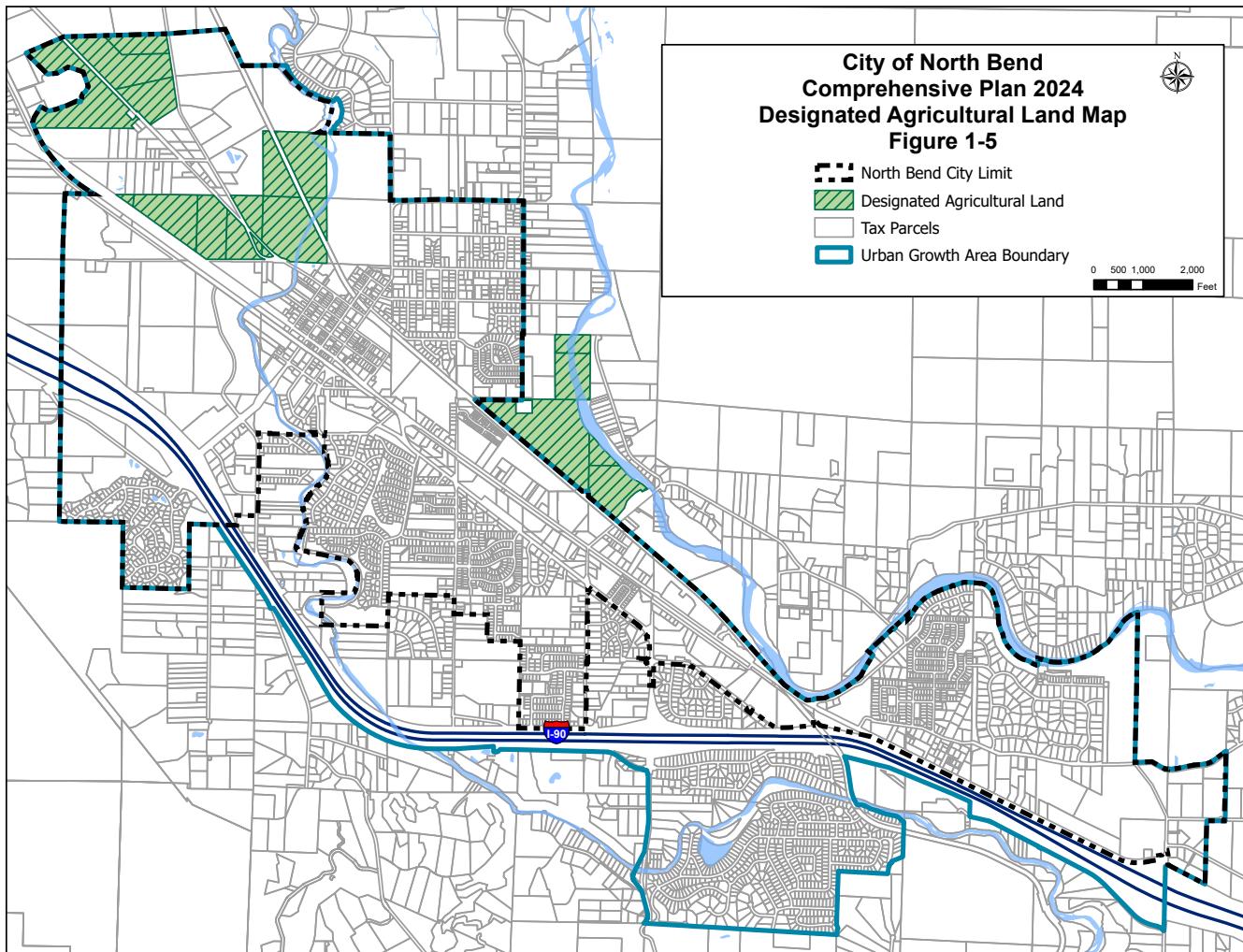
## **G. NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS**

The protection and management of natural resource lands both inside and outside the North Bend Urban Growth Area (UGA) is a concern of the City of North Bend. Both forestry and agriculture play a large role in North Bend's history, helping to form a part of its identity and character. Within City Limits, ongoing agriculture exists at Tollgate Farm, and to a limited extent at Meadowbrook Farm, both public properties purchased with King County Conservation Futures Tax grant funding and protected for permanent open space, passive outdoor recreation and agricultural use under deed restrictions on the properties. Immediately outside of City Limits and the City's Urban Growth Area, ongoing agriculture exists on the Stringfellow Farm just east of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. The Growth Management Act (GMA) in RCW 36.70A.020(8) addresses Natural Resource Industries in planning goal # 8 in order to:

Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.

The City can help protect and sustain agricultural uses consistent with WAC 365-196-480 by requiring notices on title on property adjacent to designated agricultural lands to caution potential buyers that they may experience noise, dust, odors and other inconveniences due to farming and/or forestry operations, encouraging the development of small-scale agricultural uses at Tollgate Farm and other areas as appropriate, and ensuring appropriate land use transitions adjacent to agricultural lands, including permitted uses and intensities, buffers, and other measures.





**LU Goal 6: Protect existing resource lands and support agricultural uses important to the history and character of North Bend.**

**Policies:**

- LU – 6.1 Support the development of small-scale agricultural uses at Tollgate Farm to preserve the history of agriculture in the Snoqualmie Valley.*
- LU – 6.2 Maintain Right-to-Farm and Forestry regulations to support maintenance of natural resource lands within and around the North Bend UGA and protect farm and forestry operations from nuisance laws.*
- LU – 6.3 Require Notice on Title of residential properties adjacent to designated agricultural lands to notify owners of potentially incompatible activities at the time of development approval.*
- LU – 6.4 Require landscape buffers for development on properties adjacent to certain designated agricultural lands to protect agricultural activities from impacts from potentially incompatible future urban land uses.*
- LU - 6.5 Seek opportunities for City-County cooperative acquisition, development or shared maintenance of key sites that provide scenic and recreational benefits for City Residents.*

## **H. GROWTH TARGETS AND POPULATION PROJECTION**

### **H.1 Growth Targets**

The Growth Management Act<sup>2</sup> requires Washington cities and counties to measure their land supply (in acres) and land capacity for both housing units and jobs in order to ensure these cities and counties have sufficient capacity to accommodate forecasted growth for a 20-year period. North Bend has analyzed preceding years and forecasted capacity for the future anticipated growth and found there is adequate land available for housing and employment target numbers. Future development and build-out analysis assumes highest and best use of lands, which is not always achievable or realized with each individual development.

The current targets established by the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) are for the planning period 2019-2044. The Growth Management Act requires cities to plan for sufficient areas and densities for growth anticipated to occur in a twenty-year period. By adopting this plan in the year 2024, the City is fulfilling the GMA requirement.

The King County Countywide Planning Policies identifies a housing target of 1,748 net new dwelling units and employment target of 2,218 net new jobs for North Bend for the years 2019–2044. Since 2019, North Bend has permitted 772 total new dwelling units and established approximately 406 jobs through commercial and residential

North Bend has the capacity for 1,207 new dwelling units and 6,543 new jobs on developable land in the city based on the City's existing 2021 zoning map, therefore exceeding the adopted targets by 231 units and 4,731 jobs respectively.

In the LCA, additional analysis to satisfy GMA housing element requirements<sup>3</sup> revealed housing capacity deficits for households with incomes less than 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI). based on the City's then-current 2021 zoning map. The City of North Bend proposed an alternative zoning map which resulted in projected housing and employment capacity increasing by 697 units and 21 jobs respectively. The proposed alternative zoning was adopted as a part of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan amendments.

2024 LCA Housing and Employment Capacity Alternate Zoning Comparison				
	Housing (units)		Employment (jobs)	
	2023 Base Zoning	2024 Proposed Alternative Zoning	2023 Base Zoning	2024 Proposed Alternative Zoning
2019-2044 Target	1,748	1,748	2,218	2,218
2019-2023 Permitted Growth	772	772	406	406
Remaining Target	<b>976</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>1,812</b>
2024 LCA capacity	1,207	1,904	6,543	6,564
<b>Capacity Surplus (or deficit)</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>4,752</b>

## H.2. Population growth and 2044 projection

The overall population in North Bend has increased significantly over the past twenty years, as demonstrated in Figure H.2.A, below. The population remained stable between 2000 and 2008 before steadily increasing from 2008-2022. The annual population growth rate since 2010 for the City of North Bend is 3.18% per year, which outpaces King County's growth rate of 2.39%. In 2022, the population was 7,915, which increased by 13% since 2019 and 67% since 2000. Additional data on the City's population growth and associated demographic information can be found in the City of North Bend Housing Needs Assessment (Blueline, March 2023), included as an appendix to the Housing Element.

Based on North Bend's average household size of 2.67 people and OFM's 2018 population estimates, North Bend's projected 2044 population will be 11,495 people, assuming the average household size remains the same, as illustrated in Figure H.2.B, below.

<sup>2</sup> The Washington Legislature enacted the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990 to guide planning for growth and development. It has been regularly amended to further define requirements and to advance coordination among local governments.

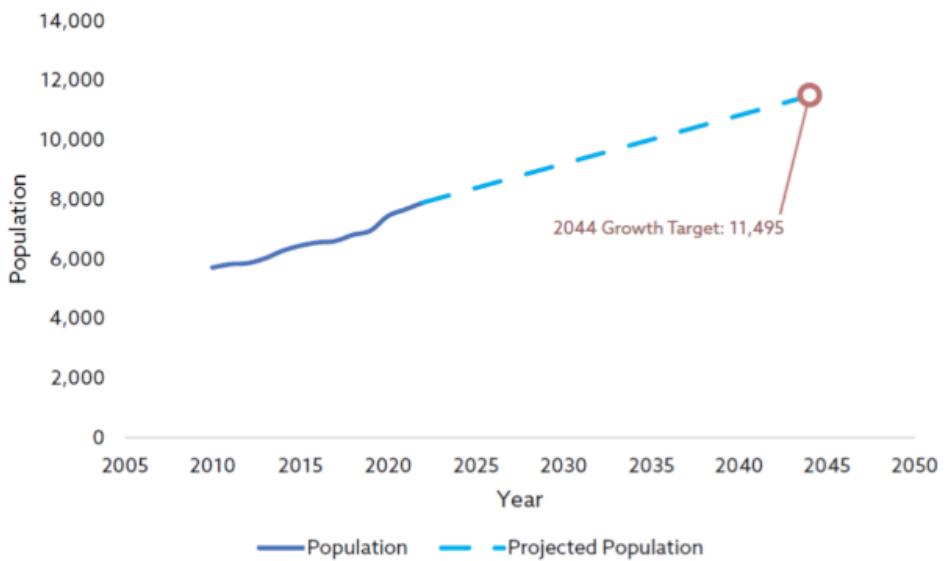
<sup>3</sup> RCW 36.70A.070(2)(a)

**Figure H.2.A North Bend Population Growth 2000-2022**



Source: OFM, 2021. Postcensal Estimates of April 1 Population, 1960 to Present. OFM, 2020. Intercensal Estimate of April 1 Population, 2010-2020. OFM, 2020. Intercensal Estimate of April 1 Population, 2000-2010.

**Figure H.2.B North Bend 2044 Population Projection**



Source: OFM. (2021). Postcensal Estimates of April 1 Population, 1960 to Present; OFM. (2021). Intercensal Estimates of April 1 Population, 1960 to Present; Puget Sound Regional Council, 2017; King County, 2021.

Refer to the 2024 LCA (Appendix X) for a detailed review analysis of methodology, assumptions, and results.

## I. DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE GROWTH

### I.1 Urban Growth Area Annexation

The City's UGA offers many opportunities to provide high quality City services to future residents and businesses. Over the next twenty years, the City will entertain a variety of requests for annexation by property owners who value North Bend's services and recognize the need for City utilities and amenities in order to develop or redevelop their properties in an ecologically responsible manner. The purpose of the annexation goals and policies included in this Plan is to establish parameters which facilitate the smooth transition from King County to North Bend jurisdiction when areas within the UGA seek to be annexed by the City.

Annexation of property within the UGA should benefit the City, its residents, and property owners. The City benefits by its ability to hold new development to City standards, to extend its boundary in a logical manner, to expand its economic tax base, and to provide opportunities for new residential development that meet the needs of underserved populations. Property owners and new residents gain the ability to participate in local government, which directly impacts their lives and property. They also gain access to local services including building and land use controls and City water and sewer systems.

Annexation which occurs before an area is ready to develop can overextend and cause inefficiencies in the provision of City services. Annexation can also act as an impetus for establishing urban densities and may encourage development before it is appropriate. Property owners may seek annexation if they can meet the annexation criteria outlined in Chapter 35A.14 RCW, and if they can establish the merit to their proposal to the satisfaction of the City.

When deciding whether to annex areas of the UGA, the City considers:

- the annexation policies below;
- the City's ability to provide City services;
- consistency with City population and employment targets;
- achievement of logical, regular boundaries;
- development potential of area to be annexed; and
- identification of existing or potential community.

#### I.1.a Residential

Additional specific measures will be proposed to ensure consistency of new growth with adopted population and employment targets. To comply with concurrency standards and achieve urban densities, extension of water and sewer would be necessary for all new development in the City. The City evaluates the potential to accommodate new residential development by infilling within the current City limits or on case-by-case basis at the time it is presented with an annexation proposal. Before accepting residential annexation proposals, the City will make a determination if required services have been extended to existing areas of the City in sufficient quantity to accommodate remaining growth targets. If the serviced land has not been created inside the City, the annexation shall be subject to compliance with the policies outlined below and with the annexation criteria in Chapter 35A.14 RCW.

**LU - Goal 7:** Develop agreements with King County to apply City-compatible development standards that will guide UGA land development prior to annexation.

**Policies:**

- LU - 7.1** Require that unincorporated land that is adjacent to the City boundary be annexed to the City at the time development is proposed. The extension of City services to an area will not occur without that area first seeking annexation into the City.
- LU - 7.2** Encourage the County to allow unincorporated land that is located in the UGA, but is not adjacent to the City boundary and is not practical to annex, to develop subject to compliance with City Comprehensive Plan designations, zoning and other development standards, and impact mitigation requirements.
- LU - 7.3** Include in interlocal agreements provisions regarding protection of sensitive land areas and environmental reviews, transportation system planning, and design and building permits for projects at specified threshold levels.
- LU - 7.4** Pursue interlocal agreements with King County to address issues of potential concern to the City within the Urban Growth Area.

**LU - Goal 8:** Annex areas within the Urban Growth Area consistent with the goals and policies of this Plan, the interlocal agreement policies of this Plan, and the general annexation policies listed below.

**Policies:**

- LU - 8.1** Encourage growth and development consistent with the City's ability to provide adequate and efficient services and facilities and the City's desire to maintain high quality service provisions in areas to be annexed.
- LU - 8.2** Encourage economic growth consistent with the long-range financial position of the City and its residents in all annexation considerations.
- LU - 8.3** Consider the opportunity to promote a healthy mix of residential, commercial, industrial, and parks and open space land uses when areas seek annexation.
- LU - 8.4** Consider the opportunity with the annexation to help address City needs concerning racial and social equity, housing affordability, and access to opportunity.
- LU - 8.5** Ensure outreach to the community concerning annexation proposals and consider the level of community interest before moving forward with annexations.
- LU - 8.6** Provide for urban services within the City's Urban Growth Boundary at time of annexation.
- LU - 8.7** Seek to expand the area of annexation proposed when such an expansion is based on natural features, would serve to make the City boundaries more regular, or where the area to be served is a logical extension of City service capabilities and is within the UGA.
- LU - 8.8** If an Urban Growth Boundary modification is pursued through King County, analyze and encourage exchange of ecologically sensitive or important areas such as floodplains, critical areas, and wildlife habitat areas, for areas that are not as constrained.

