Vision Port Orchard
2016 Comprehensive Plan Update

What are we planning for?
Our community is growing, with thousands of new residents and jobs expected over the next 20 years. Planning ahead now can make sure Port Orchard is as great a place to live and work in 2036 as it is now. The graph below illustrates our current population and employment numbers compared to our allocation and land capacity calculated by Kitsap County. Port Orchard has surplus land capacity, but we’ve heard that new growth should be somewhat concentrated to increase investments in infrastructure and to preserve Port Orchard’s small town feel in its many neighborhoods.

What is the “centers strategy”?
It is a citywide land use strategy to increase the intensity of development in key nodes while still allowing for growth citywide and in previously planned developments. It will help preserve established neighborhoods and open spaces. Focusing new growth in centers will potentially enable new growth to pay for itself and utilize public services more efficiently. The strategy will incentivize redevelopment and the infill of empty lots through infrastructure investments and future updates to land use regulations.

The City Council adopted ten centers of local importance last year. In the coming years a series of subarea planning efforts focused on each center will refine their boundaries and establish specific visions for development based on community needs and infrastructure capacity.

Most of the centers are in existing commercial areas and along the city’s major streets. They will be planned to offer a greater variety of housing options, new transportation choices, and a mix of shopping and employment opportunities. With shopping and homes in close proximity, residents may find leaving the car at home to be an attractive option, reducing the costs of traffic congestion and road maintenance.

![Port Orchard Land Capacity Chart](chart.png)

![Port Orchard Centers of Local Importance Map](map.png)
What are we required to do?
The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires cities and counties to prepare comprehensive plans that help reduce urban sprawl, protect natural resources, and efficiently use public facilities. Plans need to be updated every eight years to comply with the GMA. The Department of Commerce has a checklist of the minimum requirements at this link: http://www.commerce.wa.gov/Documents/GMS-2014-Periodic-Update-City-Checklist.docx

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) maintains Vision 2040, a plan for accommodating the 5 million people expected to live in the region by 2040. It promotes the well-being of people and communities, economic vitality, and a healthy environment. The City’s Comprehensive Plan must be certified by PSRC to be eligible for certain types of transportation funding. PSRC has a checklist for comprehensive plans at this link: http://www.psrc.org/assets/4362/PSRC_Comp_Plan_Reporting_Tool_10-25-2010.doc

What are the major changes?
A new vision statement, the centers strategy, and the theme of connections are major new additions to the Port Orchard Comprehensive Plan. Each element is being updated individually to reflect these broader ideas. And along with updated maps and data, the goals and policies of the draft elements reflect the modern needs of residents, businesses, and government.

Where are we in the process?
We’re about halfway through the 2.5 year update process. So far we have begun drafting the Introduction, Land Use, Housing, and Economic Development elements and recently hired consultants to update the separate plans behind the Transportation, Utilities, and Natural Systems elements. This summer we’ll be focusing on updating the Parks and Capital Facilities elements. Our schedule is to have all of the elements in a final draft form by the end of the year for state review. The plan must be adopted in full by the City Council by June 2016.