

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Preface

The City of Algona lies in King County and is part of the Puget Sound region. It is conveniently located about twenty miles southeast of Seattle and eight miles northeast of Tacoma. Algona is near the southeast interchange of State Route 18 and State Route 167 and shares borders with the City of Auburn to the north and east, the City of Pacific to the south, and the unincorporated area of King County, Lakeland South, to the west. Surrounding cities follow similar land use patterns that consist of residential, commercial, parks, and critical areas.

Over the next 20 years Algona, like many cities in the Puget Sound region, is projecting growth. The Puget Sound region, composed by King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties, is expecting approximately 1.6 million new residents by 2044. Without proactively considering the impact of population growth, cities will struggle to accommodate housing and job growth and the infrastructure necessary to support the projected population. Algona participates in growth planning activities and is projecting an increase of approximately 600 residents, 170 homes, and 325 jobs by 400, which is a proportional share of the region's overall anticipated growth.

The 2024 Algona Comprehensive Plan provides the guidance and roadmap for Algona's future, implementing a local vision that aligns with the regional vision for the region. This plan was developed within the parameters and resources provided through the Growth Management Act (GMA), Department of Commerce, Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) Vision 2050, and King County's Countywide Planning Policies. The vision and implementation actions reflect the input and feedback of the Algona community, including its elected leaders and city staff, through a robust public engagement process.

While Algona is one of the smallest cities in King County, staff recognizes that the City must collaborate with neighbors, partners, and leaders to find realistic solutions to national and regional problems and pinch points in a small community setting. This edition of the comprehensive plan is a framework and guide to addressing growth as it is specific to Algona and its diverse residents.



COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING 101

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The comprehensive plan (Plan) is a long-term planning document that identifies a multi-elemental planning and implementation strategy for at least 20 years into the future. The Plan is periodically revised to describe existing and projected community conditions, and actions to best meet the shifting needs of the community. The Plan establishes a vision, goals, policies, objectives, and implementation actions to guide the following:

1. Growth;
2. Development;
3. Community Character/Values; and
4. Quality of life.

Algona leaders adopt the Plan in 10-year intervals continuously informing local decision-makers on the projected changes in population, impact of growth, and the plan to maintain a high quality of life while accommodating more residents, businesses, and public uses. Algona has previously adopted two Plans, the first in 2005 and the second in 2015. Since the 2015 Plan, the population has grown by over 200 people¹. As further described below, the Plan continues to be periodically updated as local and regional policies, demographics, development patterns, economies, and state laws change over time.

Per the schedule provided in [RCW 36.70A.130](#), the Plan is updated and revised on an annual and periodic schedule. Both update schedules provide assurance that the Plan remains relevant and useful for the next 20-years, and that best available science, public engagement, state legislation, and community conditions remain up to date within the Plan. The City may adopt amendments once per year as determined necessary by city staff or as requested by members of the public. These amendments are usually the result of permit approvals, such a zoning amendment or other project related land use decisions and emergency actions.

The City is required under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to periodically review and update its Comprehensive Plan and municipal development regulations every 10 years. This is also known as the *periodic update* which examines the City's overall programs, infrastructure, and capacity more closely as PSRC and King County update their policies, growth assumptions, and vision for the future of the overall region under the GMA. The requirements from the GMA and PSRC are further below.

¹ [OFM, 2023](#).

KEY TERMS

Vision:

A vision statement captures what community members most value about their community, and the shared image of what they want their community to become ([MRSC, 2023](#)).

Goal:

A general statement of a future condition towards which actions are aimed ([Gary D. Taylor, 2019](#)).

Objective:

An objective is a statement of measurable activity, a benchmark, to be reached in pursuit of the goal ([Gary D. Taylor, 2019](#)).

Policy:

A statement of intent or definite course guiding the legislative or administrative body while making a new decision or evaluating a new project.

Implementation Action:

Steps required to achieve a specific goal. Actions breakdown the metrics required to achieve a goal, such as individual tasks, timeframes, resources, management, and implementation.

Why do we plan for growth?

Growth is an integral part of every community, as places change and fluctuate over time. Implementing the GMA provides every local government baseline guidance to understand the shifting conditions of their community, and subsequently the changing needs of their community. Efficient planning for future growth allows local governments to acquire the resources and infrastructure required to adhere to those needs. In other words, the comprehensive planning process provides the local government both a snapshot of their community in time, as well as a projection into the future, allowing them to make informed decisions on how to improve the resources and infrastructure that sustains their community in the short and long term.

The overall purpose of the GMA is to ensure Algona's elected officials and local government staff have access to relevant local guidance on long range planning initiatives, legislation directives, and demonstrate consistency with the GMA. Planning for growth in a Comprehensive Plan allows local governments to plan and make decisions that are uniform, consistent, strategic, and equitable. These efforts allow Algona to continue the community values and character that make Algona a safe, healthy, and vibrant place to live.

Growth Management Act (GMA)

Relationship to the GMA

Washington State adopted the GMA in 1990² as a more proactive planning approach was necessary to address and accommodate increasingly impactful population growth. The City of Algona maintains their Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Section 36.70A.070 of the GMA. The GMA is a series of state statutes³ that requires fast-growing cities and counties to develop a Comprehensive Plan to manage their population growth. Algona is located in King County and is required to conduct the comprehensive planning process fully as shown in **Figure 2**.

To further help guide development of a Comprehensive Plan, the GMA establishes fifteen primary goals for each local government to consider and address when planning for their population growth. These goals are meant to guide development of both the Comprehensive Plan and municipal development regulations and are not prioritized in a specific order. See **Figure 1** below. In addition to the fifteen primary goals, local governments are directed by the GMA (under RCW 36.070A.070) to include mandatory elements in their Comprehensive Plans, including but not limited to, **land use, transportation, housing, utilities, and capital facilities**. The *Algona 2024 Comprehensive Plan* is therefore required to identify and describe these elements as they pertain to the City of Algona.

The Plan provides local governments a consistent framework for addressing jurisdictional needs and challenges. It represents the community's overall vision for the future, with goals and policies that outline community priorities to strategically distribute growth in all city sectors. The Plan directly impacts the built environment through planning the locations of future businesses, homes, and public facilities and evaluates the quality, accessibility, and service potential of local infrastructure, programs, and facilities.

² [MSRC, 2023](#).

³ "Statutes": Laws passed by a legislature ([Library of Congress, 2023](#)).

Figure 1: Goals of the GMA (RCW 36.70A.020)

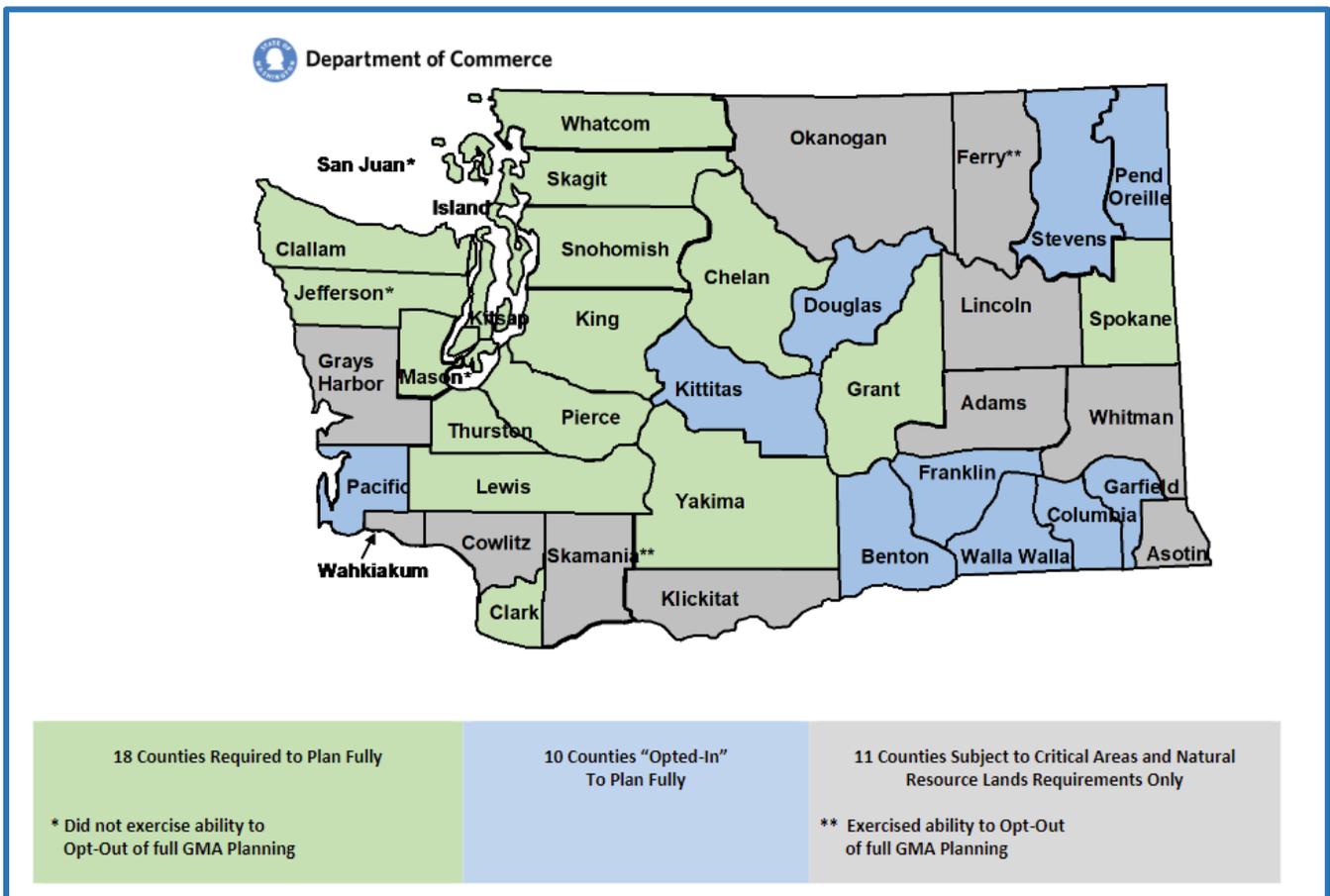
Urban Growth	Encourage development in urbanized areas where public facilities and services exist.
Reduce Sprawl	Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into low density, sprawling development.
Transportation	Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled.
Housing	Plan for and accommodate housing that is affordable to every economic segment of the population by promoting a variety of housing types and densities and encouraging preservation of the existing housing stock.
Economic Development	Encourage economic development throughout the state by promoting economic opportunities for all citizens, supporting retention and expansion of local businesses, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth.
Property Rights	Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made.
Permits	Applications should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability.
Natural Resource Industries	Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, such as fishing, timber, or agriculture.
Open Space and Recreation	Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities and accessibility, and preserve fish and wildlife habitats.
Environment	Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.
Citizen Participate and Coordination	Encourage the involvement of citizens in planning activities, including the Comprehensive Plan. Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions and agencies to reconcile shared issues or conflicts.
Public Facilities and Services	Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support concurrent development shall be adequate.
Historic Preservation	Identify and encourage preservation of lands, sites, and structures with archeological or historic significance.
Climate Change and Resiliency	Ensure that comprehensive plans, development regulations, and regional policies, plans, and strategies adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate.
Shoreline Management	Maintain alignment between the Comprehensive Plan and the Shoreline Management Plan.

Who implements the GMA?

The Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) implements the GMA and is the primary contact for all local governments required to “fully plan” under the GMA. “Fully planning” counties make up about 95% of the state's population⁴. Based on the requirements in [RCW 36.70A.040](#), the City of Algona is required to “fully plan” under the GMA, meaning the City is required to develop and maintain a Comprehensive Plan that meets the requirements of [RCW 36.70A.070](#).

In accordance with the GMA, the City of Algona implements and utilizes the Comprehensive Plan as its focal point for local long-range planning. The GMA requires that the Plan contains a vision statement, goals, objectives, policies, and implementation actions for the purpose of strategic decision-making in the short term and into the future.⁵

Figure 2: GMA Planning Counties and Cities



⁴ [MSRC, 2023](#).

⁵ [MSRC, 2023](#).

Implementation is a key component of the GMA because it provides the methodological steps to achieve the goals and policies of the plan. The goals, policies, and overall objectives of the Comprehensive Plan cannot be achieved without a thorough and realistic implementation plan. Implementation plans consider how a community's current or projected zoning, development regulations, capital spending, and non-capital spending should be adjusted to administer goals and policies successfully.

For example, policies towards affordable housing and accessible transportation should be aligned with the Capital Improvement Plan and municipal development regulations to ensure adequate budget is available to build new accessible infrastructure, and that development regulations allow enough flexibility to facilitate high-density development near that accessible infrastructure.

Successful implementation of the Comprehensive Plan relies on the conformity of a local government's regulations, procedures, and capital budget decisions for the purpose of consistent decision-making ([RCW 36.70A.120](#))⁶.

Regional Planning

PSRC Planning Requirements

Algona is located within the jurisdiction of a regional planning organization, known as Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). The PSRC is a regional planning organization with the goal of ensuring regional consistency in infrastructural investments, policies, and major economic and political decision making. PSRC develops regional plans, goals, and policies that are intended to meet a regional vision for the future.

The GMA requires counties with populations of 450,000 or greater with contiguous urban areas to adopt Multi-County Planning Policies (MPPs) ([RCW 36.70A.210\(7\)](#)). Multi-county planning coordinates growth strategies both laterally (between local jurisdictions) and vertically (in conjunction with county, tribal, regional, and state bodies). This coordination ensures regulatory consistency between local and county plans (as required in [RCW 36.71A.100](#)) and ultimately brings jurisdictions together to simultaneously implement directed regulations across the state. The PSRC is the regulatory body that administers MPP's that Algona's local comprehensive plan must align with as shown in **Figure 3**.



Shown Left: The PSRC in 2023 developed a series of webinars titled Passport to 2044, which was aimed to help jurisdictions within the regional planning area prepare for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan periodic update process policies. Graphic by: PSRC.

⁶ [MSRC, 2023](#).

PSRC VISION 2050

In 2020, PSRC adopted [VISION 2050](#), which is a long-range plan that provides multi-county planning policies, actions, and a regional growth strategy for the Central Puget Sound Region including King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish County. VISION 2050 articulates the region’s vision for accommodating growth while aligning with regionally shared values of environmental sustainability, social equity, and efficient growth management that maximizes economic strength and mobility. By the year 2050, it is projected that an additional 1.5 million people will call the Central Puget Sound Region their home, raising the total population to 5.8 million people. Additionally, 1.1 million more jobs are anticipated by 2050. Ultimately, VISION 2050 will help navigate this region’s cities through planning for and accommodating this shared vision. More information on PSRC regional plans is located below, under *Regional Considerations and Certification*.

Policies and strategies outlined in the plan were selected based on these shared goals:

1. Increase housing choices and affordability;
2. Provide opportunities for all;
3. Sustain a strong economy;
4. Significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
5. Keep the region moving;
6. Restore Puget Sound health;
7. Protect a network of open space;
8. Growth in centers and near transit; and
9. Act collaboratively and support local efforts.

Figure 3: Regional Policy Consistency



Figure 3 is a graphic prepared by PSRC that describes how state and regional agencies influence Algona’s Comprehensive Plan goals and policies.

King County’s Countywide Planning Policies

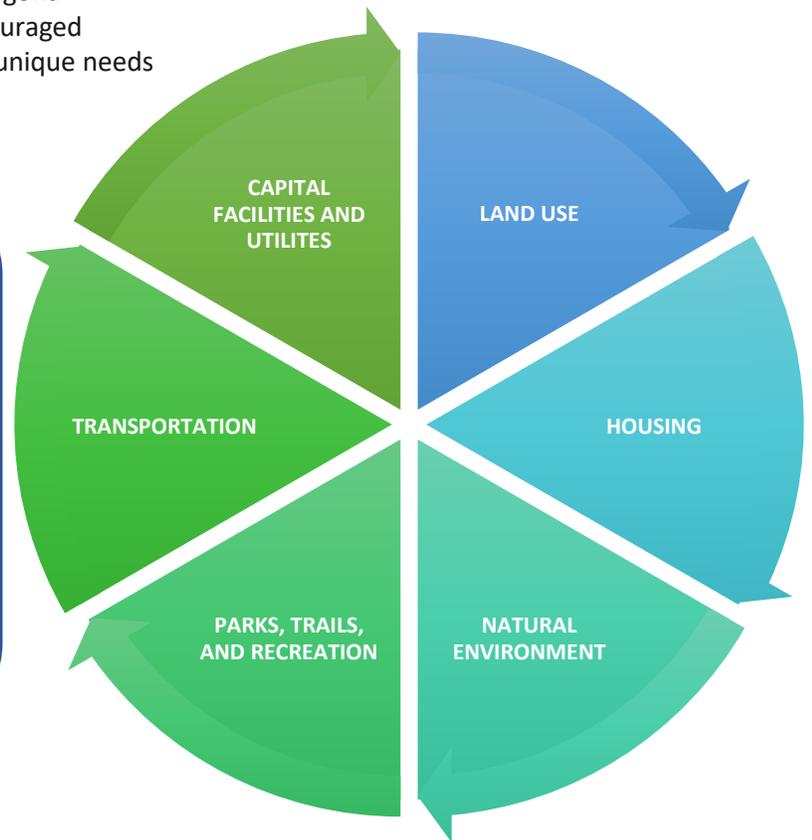
In addition to MPPs developed by PSRC, Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) are also required by the GMA. Intended to share a similar purpose to MPPs, CPPs establish a shared approach between local, tribal, and transit agencies within a singular county. The most recent major update to [King County’s Countywide Planning Policies](#) took place in 2021 in advance of the 2024 periodic update. The CPP’s were then amended again in 2022 and 2023. The newest updates for the 2021 CPPs reflect new priorities in addressing equity and social justice.

The King County CPPs are intended to create a coordinated approach for growth management planning for King County jurisdictions in accordance with [RCW 36.70A.210](#). The CPPs were established with oversight of the Growth Management Planning Council, a body composed of elected county and city officials. This body makes recommendations which are then voted on for adoption by the King County Council.

Separately from Washington State and the PSRC, King County also prepares regional economic planning goals and works collaboratively with Algonia for implementation. As described above, the PSRC crafts economic goals and policies that Snohomish, King, Kitsap, and Pierce Counties must align with in order to achieve the regional vision for the interconnected economy of the Puget Sound. King County, on the other hand, creates goals and policies that align with PSRC but are more specific to the needs of the county as depicted in **Figure 3**. Algonia must also ensure that adopted economic goals align with the vision for King County’s economy.

While PSRC and King County play a role in how Algonia determines its goals and policies, the City is encouraged to tailor Algonia’s economic policies to meet the unique needs and appropriately leverage public interests and investments.

Figure 4: Algonia’s Elemental Chapters



The Plan’s Structure

In accordance with the requirements of the RCW 36.70A.070, the City of Algonia Comprehensive Plan is composed of six primary elemental chapters as shown in **Figure 4** and described in **Figure 5**.

Goals and policies for each element are located at the end of each chapter. Appendices and supporting documents are included at the end of the Comprehensive Plan.

Figure 5: Comprehensive Plan Elements

1. LAND USE: Designates the distribution and extent of uses throughout the planning area, including housing, business, industrial, parks, natural environment, and natural resources lands.

2. HOUSING: Planning for housing ensures the vitality and character of residential areas.

3. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Inventories critical areas and identifies actions to protect and preserve natural resources and the environment.

4. PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION: Parks planning requires a facilities inventory, demand prediction, and strategy to meet future parks needs. Recreation planning evaluates recreational needs.

5. TRANSPORTATION: Transportation planning evaluates the impacts of future land use goals on transportation facilities and creates future transportation strategies.

6. CAPITAL FACILITIES AND UTILITIES: This element plans to address the gap in capital facilities between present conditions and anticipated future demand. Additionally, the chapter consists of the location and capacity of existing and needed utility locations.

The Comprehensive Planning Process

The Algona Comprehensive Plan update began in mid-2021 and was adopted on XXX ____, 2024. This multi-year effort consisted of public engagement, local stakeholder engagement, and workshops with the Planning Commission, the Mayor, and City Council. The Plan is implemented as a 20-year guide to direct and accommodate growth until the next periodic update is due in 2034. **Figure 6** describes the general comprehensive planning process taken for the 2024 periodic update, which includes four primary phases of the project. Details on each step of the process are described further below.

Figure 6: Planning Process



Step 1: Public Engagement

The Comprehensive Plan Planning Process began with public outreach, visioning, and engagement. Public input and engagement are vital to the achieving an inclusive planning process. The City launched a focused outreach campaign to understand current priorities and needs for the community between mid-2021 through early 2024. Public feedback influenced Algona’s selection and prioritization of goals, policies, and actions. Community feedback generated within the survey, stakeholder meeting, and community events, and the Planning Cafe is located within *Appendix J: Public Engagement Summary*. Several outreach methods were utilized to maximize engagement in the Comprehensive Plan process, including:

- An online community survey, open from July 1, 2023 to February 20, 2024
- A supplementary youth survey, distributed at 2023 Algona Days and 2023 Pumpkin Launch
- Community Newsletters
- Informational displays and planning activity booth at five (5) local civic events
 - 2022 Algona Days
 - 2023 Algona Days
 - 2023 Pumpkin Launch
 - 2023 Tree Lighting
 - 2024 Adults Night Out for Valentine’s Day
- One (1) stakeholder meeting with local developers
- One (1) public Planning Café
- Planning Commission
- City Council Public Hearings
- City Website and Facebook Group updates on the planning process

Step 2: Technical Review

While the public engagement process is a critical component of the comprehensive planning process, it is one side of the coin used to evaluate how growth should be accommodated. The City performs a series of technical analyses to understand the current needs of residents while estimating the future demand on services, infrastructure, and uses based on anticipated population, housing, and job growth.

City staff take on a portion of the technical analysis required to update each element. The City hires some consultants to help with more precise analytics, such as the *Traffic Demand Report* in *Appendix F* and the *Housing Needs Assessment* in *Appendix H*.

Additionally, the Plan must be aligned with the GMA and policies from PSRC and King County, which require an assessment of the 2015 Algona Comprehensive Plan policies to identify changes or policy gaps that must be addressed in the 2024 periodic update. The appendix contains a number of consistency documentation, including *Appendix B: Commerce Periodic Checklist*, *Appendix C: Policy Gap Analysis*, and *Appendix M: PSRC Certification Checklist* documenting how this Plan meets state and regional planning requirements.

Step 3: Evaluation

Key city stakeholders in the Comprehensive Planning process include the Planning Commission, City Council, and the Mayor. These members of City Staff are responsible for evaluating community feedback, implementing community-identified priorities, and amending existing Comprehensive Plan goals and policies with new goals and policies that meet the current and projected needs of the community.

The internal city evaluation process is conducted throughout the Comprehensive Plan update and is repeated to ensure sufficient review of technical plans, chapter updates, and proposed actions. The primary goal of City Staff Comprehensive Plan evaluation is to ensure legislative decisions are aligned with overall community goals:

1. Staff Collaboration with the Mayor

City Staff will collaborate with the City Mayor to drive the process of the Comprehensive Plan update. The Mayor will work alongside City Council to review technical reviews, citizen comments, and proposed Plan or code updates. The Mayor and City Council are responsible for approving or declining proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan during annual or periodic update schedules.

3. Planning Commission

The Planning Commission manages the City's open dialogue with public participants and leads community workshops related to the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission will organize all community feedback and present community identified priorities and concerns to the City Council.

2. Community Survey/Engagement Results

An online and in-person survey was made available to the public to comment on various comprehensive planning topics. The City used this survey to inform community prioritized amendments to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan.

4. City Council Review/Adoption

The City Council is composed of a City Mayor and City Council members, elected by City residents, to conduct legislative decision making on behalf of the community. The City Council is responsible for making decisions on policies that will ultimately shape the outcomes of the community. City Council will hold a Public Hearing to review all findings and recommendations submitted by the Planning Commission to make a final decision on adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

Step 4: Implementation

The City of Algona will be implementing the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan through a package of technical, specialized plans and updates. These plans and updates are as follows:

1. Transportation Improvement Plan

Each metropolitan planning jurisdiction is required to develop a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). The TIP includes a list of projected transportation projects aimed to improve transportation infrastructure, such as public roadways, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. The TIP is required to include capital and non-capital surface transportation projects, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities (multi-modal plan), freight system improvements, and Level of Service standards for all inventoried infrastructure. The Algona Transportation Improvement Plan is available in *Appendix N*.

2. Capital Improvement Plan

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identifies funding, descriptions, timelines, and locations for capital improvement projects over a 6-year and 20-year period. Capital improvement projects are generally listed by priority and sector and are financed through the jurisdiction's capital budget. The primary purpose of a CIP is to establish a financial plan for preserving and improving

community's major infrastructure (i.e. roads, stormwater, utilities, and other facilities). The Algona Capital Improvement Plan is available in *Appendix D*.

3. Implementation Plan

An Implementation Plan identifies strategic steps to execute an action, or a series of actions and projects. The Implementation Plan breaks down project logistics, including but not limited to (1) timeline, (2) level of effort, (3) team responsibilities, (4) success criteria, and (5) performance measures. Implementation Plans are often informed by the results of technical plans, such as the TIP and CIP. Overall, Implementation Plans allow jurisdictions to strategically plan for and allocate required resources ahead of time to achieve desired goals. The Implementation Plan is available in *Appendix K*.

4. Code Updates

As discussed throughout various chapters of the Comprehensive Plan, the City will perform a series of municipal code updates between 2024 and the first half of 2025 in order to meet GMA requirements, legislative changes, and changes driven by analysis. Code updates triggered through the Comprehensive Plan update are required to be adopted by June, 2025 and are detailed in the implementation plan, in *Appendix K*.

Algona's Vision for 2044

What is a Vision Statement?

The vision statement (Vision) of a Comprehensive Plan is a set of community-identified values that represent the aspirations, priorities, and improvements to be implemented in city planning. It is both a continuous process and a declaration. The Vision ensures decision-making remains consistent with the broader long-range goals of the community, and changes to community Vision are subsequently trickled down into annual and periodic amendments of the Plan's goals and policies, as the City deems appropriate.

The Algona vision statement is a combination of results from the visioning exercise completed by the Planning Commission and the City Council. The City identified what values were elemental in founding every goal, policy, and implementation action included in the Comprehensive Plan. These values are more cross-connected than a regulatory element and are intended to be implemented across the Plan to foster community-oriented neighborhoods, a balanced economy and housing market, and accessible, clean, and green environments. A visual copy of the Vision is located in **Figure 7**.

2044 Algona Vision Statement

Algona is committed to positive community changes that promote livability, quality development, and convenience within a rural, small-town setting. Algona values providing a high-quality lifestyle within a rural atmosphere where homeowners know their neighbors, support local businesses, and are in touch with the built and natural community.

Community Oriented

The City recognizes the rich social connections sustaining the community and its quality of life. The City of Algona should continue to foster social opportunities through community events and will create more opportunities for active recreation by developing public spaces and parks. The enjoyment and educational value of such activities is enhanced by a diversity of activities suitable to variety of ages, abilities, and identities.

Efficient Algona

A livable community is a thoughtful and functional community. Algona will continue to work with local, regional, and state agencies to provide excellence in services, infrastructure, and problem solving. Algona will utilize available funding and grant programs to enhance key issues important to the community, such as flooding, sidewalks, and the natural environment.

Blossoming Economy

Citizens cherish local businesses that provide services and goods that enhance the convenience of living in a small town and support the growth of the community. Algona strives for a vibrantly healthy local economy by providing a predictable development atmosphere, emphasize diversity in the range of goods and services and ensure that as the economy changes, employment opportunities are balanced with a range of housing opportunities.

Equity and Inclusion

Community is built by people, and Algona will work in tandem with citizens to assemble a city that people of all background that can thrive in. Algona shall provide ample opportunities for public engagement of public and private involvement in development, city operations, and community traditions or celebrations.

One Community

The city will provide clear communication on a variety of platforms to encourage participation, volunteerism, and activism. The city will continue to practice mindful policy making, enhancing the quality and availability infrastructure for all abilities, and listening to the needs of our citizens.

Environmental Stewardship

Algona supports implementing a culture of environmental advocacy through education, volunteerism, conservation, and preservation. The city is committed to preserving natural open space and conserving parks and trails for the public's enjoyment. The city is dedicated to conserving resources to curb Algona's environmental impacts.

Figure 7: Algona 2024 Vision Statement Graphic



An Overview of Algona

Indigenous Peoples and Colonization

The Puyallup, Muckleshoot, Duwamish, Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla nations inhabited the area where Algona now sits for at least twelve thousand years, also referred to as time immemorial. Nations of this land, now known as the Puget Sound region, held unique and extensive economic and cultural networks and spoke dialects of the Puget Sound Salish language.⁷ After European colonization, the United States Homestead Act of 1862 permitted settlers to claim land throughout the Western United States, which brought settlers to the northwest area throughout the second half of the 1800s.⁸ Disease, violence, and war was brought by colonization and settler inhabitation devastating the sovereign nations, displacing communities, and suppressing cultural practices. Some sovereign nation peoples remain in the Pacific Northwest as does their culture and the lingering generational impacts of colonization. The City of Algona acknowledges that it is built on the native land of sovereign nations.



Shown above are some of the earliest photographs available of Algona's early days as an agricultural-based community. Photos from the King County Library Digital Historic Archives.

A Valley of Flowers

Algona was originally called Valley City in 1907. After notification from Washington D.C. that there was already a city in eastern Washington called Valley City, a town resident, Mr. Petrie, suggested the name "Algoma", which refers to an indigenous name meaning "Valley of Flowers"⁹. The name Algoma was submitted to the Post Office, but somehow the name "Algona" was substituted. The name Algona was thereafter adopted by the community's residents. It was around this time that Algona experienced changes from national events, regional patterns, and local trends. **Figure 8** visually describes the City's timeline and history of the area that is now called Algona.

A Diverse Community

Agriculture and a strong sense of community considerably influenced Algona's formation. The early community was settled by a mix of predominantly Euro-American, Japanese, and Filipino settlers. William Hart is one of the first recorded Euro-American settlers to buy land in the White River Valley area. Hart and his father homesteaded 600 acres in 1872.⁴ His description of the land, "tall timber and

⁷ ["Native Americans of Puget Sound — A Brief History of the First People and Their Cultures"](#). History Link. Watson, Kenneth (1999).

⁸ [Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest. \(n.d.\). Introduction.](#) The University of Washington.

⁹ ["Algona History"](#): City of Algona Website (2023)

lots of bears”, describes the natural resources attractive to settlers at the time. Many other early Euro-American families owned multiacre homesteads to sustain private farms. Some of the families found in early land purchase and sale records include the following.⁴

- William H. Wood (August 10, 1874)
- L. S. Rogers (March 1, 1875)
- Lynus J. Burr (October 20, 1882)
- Thomas J. Lenover (October 20, 1882)
- Gideon A. Weed (May 25, 1883)
- Lieutenant William Guthrie Latimer (May 25, 1883)
- Dayton and Bessie Hillmann (1906)

By 1900 there were more than 5,000 people of Japanese ancestry living in the state, with some settling in the White River Valley area beginning around 1892.⁴ Japanese settlers in the region worked as laborers on railroads, sawmills, and canneries. Many worked as farmers in Algona. Some of the first known Japanese settlers in Algona include the following families:

- Toichi and Mitsuno Okura (1907)
- Tomota and Jho Namba (1909)
- Fukutaro and Toku Norikane (1930)

Filipinos began moving to the White River Valley area to pursue education and employment opportunities in the late 1920s and early 1930s.¹⁰ Dionicio J. Cristobal is described in a 1976 interview as being the first Filipino to buy land in Algona. Cristobal paid in installments for 18 acres of land in 1943 and operated a farm during WWII. Cristobal later served on the Algona City Council in 1965 and 1966, marking one of the first Filipino Americans to hold such a position in Washington State⁴. Some of the first known Filipino settlers in Algona also include the following families (settlement dates unknown):

- Eulalia M. Augustus
- Fidel Askacio
- Y. De La Cruz
- Alyandro Glava
- F. Raquarin
- Thomas P. Respicio

Large farming operations, often owned and operated by Filipino and Japanese residents, grew fields of beans, peas, rhubarb, celery, lettuce, cabbage, raspberries, and strawberries¹¹. Cultivated produce was sold in markets in Seattle and Tacoma. Fruits and vegetables were also hauled to a processing plant in Kent where vegetables were canned and cabbage was turned into Kraut⁵. While farming operations were mostly successful, these racial groups often faced additional hardships such as discrimination, prejudice, not being eligible for citizenship, and being barred from owning property by alien land laws¹². In the face of these challenges, these families still married, started families, and continued their businesses.

¹⁰ [“Algona — Thumbnail History”](#). History Link. Givens, Linda (2015).

¹¹ [“Algona History”](#): City of Algona Website (2023).

¹² [“Algona — Thumbnail History”](#). History Link. Givens, Linda (2015).

During WWII, President Franklin D. Roosevelt passed Executive Order 9066, which incarcerated people of Japanese descent in isolated camps from 1942 to 1945¹³. Japanese Americans in Algona were sent to detention camps and lost their farms and constitutional rights as a result. Attitudes toward local Filipino residents also changed due to national misinformation, discrimination, and fearmongering towards non-white people. Algona acknowledges the injustice of historic actions and strives to create and sustain an equitable, anti-racist community.

Infrastructure and Economic Development

Development of the City's economic base and public infrastructure stems from a series of events occurring over the 20th century. The following events are recognized as key components of establishing the foundation for today's city facilities and services:

Plats: The area was platted in 1906 by C.D. Hillmann in 40' by 200' lots, providing pioneers and settlers with an organized land purchase system⁵. The development of neighborhoods encouraged the establishment of more families, workers, and their associated trades.

Interurban Railway: A recorded easement in 1901 for right-of-way serving the Interurban Railway between Seattle and Tacoma was the first indicator of the community's connection to the increasingly growing outer region of greater Seattle¹⁴.

Community Club: The population of Algona reached 1,000 by 1925 when the town formally established a school and multiple small businesses. The Community Club was later in the 1920s formed to help support public facilities and social activities, bring business owners together, and encourage building community identity¹⁵.

Water System and District: Temporary wooden pipes installed by the Inter-City Water District of Tacoma in the 1940s provided the first water system in Algona. Due to poor water protection and no fire protection, an official Water District was formed in 1959 with an arrangement to get water from the City of Auburn.⁹

Algona Boulevard and State Route 167: In 1965, local roadways became congested after a Boeing Company fabrication plant opened in Auburn. In response, Algona Boulevard was developed and State Route 167, the state highway traversing Algona, was extended to Tacoma.⁹

Public Facilities: In 1973, AlPac Elementary was built on Milwaukee Boulevard after the closure of the historic Algona Elementary School. In 1975, the old school building was renovated to house the Algona City Hall, Police Department, and Public Library. During this time, the Algona City Park was renamed John Matchett Memorial Park in honor of the long-standing Mayor⁹.

¹³ "Japanese Internment Camps". History.com Editors (Updated 2021).

¹⁴ "Algona History": City of Algona Website (2023).

¹⁵ "Algona — Thumbnail History". History Link. Givens, Linda (2015).

Commercial and Manufacturing: The population of Algona reached 1,467 in 1980, spurring the development of major businesses in the City, including Tharco Manufacturing Plant, Dyna Craft, and AccuDuct. Tim's Cascade Style Potato Chips opened in Auburn in 1986. In 2015, they opened a processing facility in Algona⁹.

Algona Day Festivities: The “Algona Day Festivities” became a vibrant community celebration in the 1980’s. Started in 1983, Algona Days held the first successful 10 K. Swamp Romp in 1985 and in 1987, the City of Algona took part in the Seattle Seafair by entering a float in the Seafair Parade⁹.

City Incorporation

The City of Algona became incorporated (receiving a charter from the State) in 1955.⁸ Ward Thomas became the first Mayor of Algona in 1965⁹. Ora Thompson, Ed Solak, Herbert Yandell, Herman English, and Art Springer served as the first City Council⁹. Leadership of the City in the 20th century passed through many hands, including Mayor John Matchett, William Larson, Hardin Bailey, August Shuman, and Richard Waffle.⁹ Many of these leaders were responsible for substantial community progress such as opening new schools and parks, supporting improvements of frontage roads, and informing residents of local activities and events. The Algona Economic Development Corporation, established in the 1980s, also helped develop the community by obtaining tax-exempt financing for businesses that created environmentally clean industries¹⁶. Troy Linnell is the currently elected Mayor of Algona and is supported by the elected City Council, which includes William Thomas, Lynda Osborn, Timothy J. Fairley, Gordon Cook, and David White¹⁷.

Since incorporation, the City has adopted two Comprehensive Plans (2005 and 2015) and a 2023 Housing Action Plan to meet the identified needs of the community such as affordable and diverse housing, transportation infrastructure, economic and job development, and preservation of natural areas. As the community continues to grow and change, Algona aims to retain the City’s strong sense of community through acknowledgment of the past and strategic actions to obtain an inclusive and equitable future.



Algona City Hall. Photo by Betty Padgett.

¹⁶ [“Algona — Thumbnail History”](#). History Link. Givens, Linda (2015).

¹⁷ [“Welcome to Algona”](#). City of Algona Website (2023).

Algona HISTORICAL TIMELINE

SETTLEMENT

SOVEREIGN NATIONS

● Pre-1850's

The Puyallup, Muckleshoot, Duwamish, Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla peoples inhabited the area where Algona now sits, known by settlers as the White River Valley area, for at least twelve thousand years (time immemorial).

1862 ●

HOMESTEAD ACT

The United States Homestead Act of 1862 permitted settlers to claim land throughout the Western United States, which brought settlers to the northwest area throughout the second half of the 1800s.

EURO-SETTLER LAND CLAIMS

● 1874

Earliest records of the City in the early 1870's provide records of land purchase and sales by the Wood, Rogers, and Hillman families. Many early Euro-American families owned multiacre homesteads to sustain private farms.

1897 ●

JAPANESE SETTLEMENT

The first know Japanese immigrants in Algona were the Okura, Namba, and Norikane families. Many farms in Algona were operated by Japanese Americans.

ESTABLISHMENT

1902 ●

INTERURBAN RAILWAY

The Puget Sound Electric Railway began service on the Interurban Railway between Seattle and Tacoma, passing through Valley City (Algona) and connecting locals to the growing outer region of Seattle.

VALLEY CITY

● 1907

The early community was named Valley City. After clarification that there was already a city in eastern Washington called Valley City, a town resident suggested the name "Algoma", which refers to an indigenous name meaning "Valley of Flowers". The town name of "Algona" was thereafter adopted by the community's residents.

1920 ●

COMMUNITY CLUB

The population of Algona reached 1,000 by 1925, when the town formally established a school and multiple small businesses. The Community Club was later formed to help support public facilities and social activities, bring business owners together, and encourage building community identity.

FILIPINO SETTLEMENT

● 1930

Filipinos began moving to the White River Valley area in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Augustus, Askacio, De La Cruz, Glava, and Cristobol were some of the first Filipino families on the City census. The Cristobal family bought and farmed land during WWII.

1942 ●

JAPANESE INTERNMENT

During WWII, President Franklin D. Roosevelt passed Executive Order 9066, which incarcerated people of Japanese descent in isolated camps from 1942 to 1945. Japanese Americans in Algona lost their farms and were sent to detention camps as a result. Attitudes toward Filipinos also changed.

FIRST WATER SYSTEM

● 1945

Temporary wooden pipes installed by the Inter-City Water District of Tacoma provided the first water system in Algona. Due to poor water protection and no fire protection, an official Water District was formed in 1959 with an arrangement to get water from the City of Auburn.

INCORPORATION

CITY INCORPORATION

● 1955

The City of Algona became incorporated (receiving charter from the State) in 1955. Ward Thomas became the first Mayor of Algona in 1965. Ora Thompson, Ed Solak, Herbert Yandell, Herman English, and Art Springer served as the first City Council.

Algona HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1965

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

In 1965, local roadways became congested after a Boeing Company fabrication plant opened in Auburn. In response, Algona Boulevard was developed and State Route 167, the state highway traversing Algona, was extended to Tacoma.

1980

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The population of Algona reached 1,467 in 1980, spurring the development of major businesses in the City, including Tharco Manufacturing Plant, Dyna Craft, and AccuDuct. Tim's Cascade Style Potato Chips opened in Auburn in 1986. In 2015, they opened a processing facility in Algona.

21st CENTURY

PUBLIC FACILITIES

1973

In 1973, AlPac Elementary was built on Milwaukee Boulevard after closure of the historic Algona Elementary School. In 1975, the old school building was renovated to house the Algona City Hall, Police Department, and Public Library. During this time, the Algona City Park was renamed John Matchett Memorial Park in honor of the long-standing Mayor.

ALGONA DAY FESTIVITES

1983

The "Algona Day Festivities" became a vibrant community celebration in the 1980's. Started in 1983, Algona Days held the first successful 10 K. Swamp Romp in 1985 and in 1987, the City of Algona took part in the Seattle Seafair by entering a float in the Seafair Parade.

2005 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2005

The City adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2005 with goals including accommodating population growth from 2,590 to 3,540 in 2025, encouraging apartment and mixed-use developments, and developing a robust retail and commercial area along Boundary Boulevard.

2008

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The 2008 Great Recession resulted in 8.8 million lost jobs nationally. Washington's economy disproportionately relied on residential construction, which was heavily impacted by the recession. Unemployment peaked at 10.1% in the area Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metro area, and foreclose rates were especially high in South King and Pierce counties.

2015 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2015

The City adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2015 with goals including improving Level of Service for the under-improved West Valley Highway, encourage "market rate" housing serving households with higher income levels, and accommodating approximately 2,346 jobs in the City.

2020

COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Snohomish County had the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the country in January 2020. States of emergency were announced, large gatherings banned, workers were sent home, and the economy was largely placed on pause. Governor Jay Inslee lifted all remaining statewide restrictions in October 2022.

HOUSING ACTION PLAN

2023

In June 2023, the City of Algona adopted a Housing Action Plan to provide a menu of recommended strategies to develop affordable housing and other infrastructure to support identified community housing needs at all income levels.

2023

ALGONA WETLAND PRESERVE

The City of Algona dedicated the David E. Hill Wetland Preserve in October 2023. This preserve will expand educational and passive recreation opportunities in the city by providing access to 2.3 acres of wetland. The city will create interpretive signs, kiosks, boardwalks, overlooks, and on grade trails.

Regional Consistency and Conformity

PSRC Transportation 2050

The values and strategies incorporated in *VISION 2050* are directly translated into PSRC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP is a long-range transportation plan designed to support *VISION 2050* and implement its transportation related MPPs. The plan articulates the financial strategies and policies necessary to develop transportation networks that are safe, efficient, and sustainable. The goals of the *Regional Economic Strategy* focus on eight major challenges experienced in the Puget Sound:

1. Climate

The decarbonization of the transportation system is identified as a critical component of the RTP. Two goals have been set: a 50% reduction below 1990 levels of greenhouse gases by 2030, and a 83% reduction below 1990 levels by 2050.

2. Access to Transit

Increasing access to transit systems is as important as creating transportation networks which provide access to jobs, schools, and services. Improving the safety of transportation systems to all users is increasingly critical as the demand on transportation system continues to grow: transit ridership will triple by 2050.

3. Equity

Applying an equity focus demands that the regions most vulnerable populations are included future transit development. The TRP finds that areas with higher concentrations of people of color and people with low incomes will have more access to high-capacity transit compared to the regional average.

4. Safety

The TRP takes steps to implement the state's goal of zero transportation deaths or serious injuries. This will be executed through safer system design, better maintenance, and timely replacement of critical infrastructure like bridges and ferries.

5. Mobility

As the region continues to grow, the TRP seeks to lower current and future congestion. Increasing access to transportation, increasing transportation capacity, and increasing the transportation choices available should result in a 15% delay reduction from current conditions, and average household vehicle miles traveled should be reduced by 23%.

How do jurisdictions work together?

Regional implementation of the RTP is dependent upon local jurisdiction and transit operator collaboration. PSRC provides a number of tools to assist jurisdictions in aligning their transportation elements both laterally and vertically. As the regional certifier of local, county, and transit agency long-range plans, PSRC establishes a process for reviewing these plans. The PSRC certification process ensures that local jurisdictions conform to state GMA requirements, are consistent with the regional transportation plan, and are consistent with the MPPs.

6. Local Needs and Future Visioning

The RTP was developed with a set of data resources developed to help forecast the needs of the transportation system through the scope of the plan. The plan was developed with the vision of what the needs of the transportation system are both now and in the future.

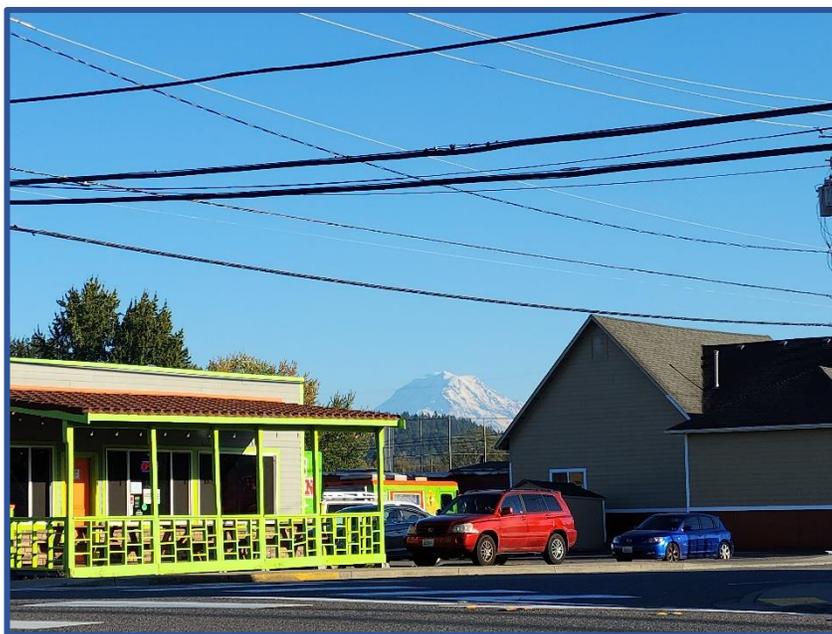
The RTP is updated every four years to help with the continued identification and refinement of transportation projects. As the regional metropolitan transportation authority, the PSRC has the unique privilege of stimulating project implementation through its coordination. As new concepts and paradigms in transportation arise, PSRC has the capacity to work with member cities and counties to develop solutions for implementation. Additionally, PSRC has the responsibility for distributing transportation project related federal funds through an evaluative framework. The evaluative framework is reviewed and refined as part of the RTP update process. Parameters for transportation funds include projects that serve regional growth for manufacturing/ industrial centers and locally identified centers.

To fulfill the necessary requirements for certification, implementation of the RTP will take place within Algona's *Transportation* element. The *Transportation* element defines the planning, investment, and operation of transportation infrastructure within and for Algona. The goals and policies selected in the transportation element reflect the shared strategies of the RTP while staying true to Algona community values.

PSRC Regional Economic Strategy

The Puget Sound region plans for economic development collaboratively through the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). PSRC developed the *Regional Economic Strategy*⁴ in 2021 to provide a roadmap for the region to build a resilient, equitable economic future. The *Regional Economic Strategy* focuses on key regional weaknesses or threats impacting the Puget Sound and recommends strategies to address these concerns. While Algona is not required to align with this plan, there are regional weaknesses that residents may be experiencing that are being considered. The goals of the *Regional Economic Strategy* focus on eight major challenges experienced in the Puget Sound:

1. Equity



A local favorite, Tacos El Tajin, along 1st Avenue North grants residents the opportunity to enjoy nachos with a stunning view of Mount Rainier. Photo by Betty Padgett.

There are historic economic inequities that are experienced by the region’s Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) populations that can impact their opportunities and outcomes, such as income, generational wealth, unemployment risk, education, and business ownership levels.

2. Health

A healthy workforce is critical to the success and growth of the economy. The PSRC describes that enhanced infrastructure planning is needed to improve public health, reduce health care costs, and reduce impacts of lost productivity.

3. Childcare

The availability of childcare impacts the ability for the labor force to work. Childcare is a critical infrastructure needed to sustain the workforce and impacts the overall performance of the region’s economy. A lack of access to affordable childcare keeps approximately 133,000 parents out of the Washington labor force and specifically impacts working mothers and low income families. It is estimated that a lack of childcare has resulted in a loss of approximately 14.7 billion in personal earnings, \$34.8 billion in gross state product, and over \$1 billion in annual tax revenue⁵.

4. Job Distribution

The distribution of jobs has been shaken by the COVID-19 pandemic and created uncertainty around where people will live and work in the future as the workforce transitions to permanent remote accommodations. If the job distribution changes as work from home or remote employment becomes more popular, there are both opportunities and challenges with adapting existing communities to expand or reduce their economic base.

5. Broadband

One result of the COVID-19 pandemic was a heightened demand for broadband services across the region to accommodate online education and work from home trends. Access to broadband is not equitable throughout the community and creates opportunity barriers for households for education and employment.

6. Housing

There is a shortage of housing available in the region because new housing development has not kept up with population growth. Additionally, prices for homes have increased at a faster rate than incomes. A lack of affordable housing options can detract new talent and businesses from coming to the region.

7. Business Recovery

“The region has a prospering and sustainable regional economy by supporting businesses and job creation, investing in all people and their health, sustaining environmental quality, and creating great central places, diverse communities, and high quality of life.”

-Puget Sound Regional Council Vision 2050

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the loss of jobs and businesses, especially in tourism, travel, hospitality, arts, and cultural businesses. The impacts are still felt today from the loss of businesses large and small. Economic development funding efforts are needed to help support business recovery from the pandemic.

8. Industry Resilience

The Puget Sound is home to major, historic industries that have built our communities and define the region, such as trade, maritime, aerospace, and manufacturing uses. New types of industries are needed to ensure resiliency to global market changes and enhance the Puget Sound's economic competitiveness.

Addressing these challenges is no easy task and requires cooperation on a regional level to develop an equitable landscape for economic growth. There are three primary strategies that PSRC utilizing to address current economic challenges that the City must plan for:

1. **Expanding Economic Opportunities**
2. **Becoming a Global Competitor**
3. **Sustaining Quality of Life**

These three strategic directions were developed with the input from municipalities and agencies, field professionals, and input from community engagement. Strategic directions are broken down into multiple goals and policies designed to guide municipalities to expanding economic opportunities within their communities while addressing regional economic concerns.

PSRC Regional Equity Strategy

The PSRC is developing a Regional Equity Strategy to create policies addressing systems of racial inequality. This strategy has been developed to address the unique barriers that marginalized groups encounter while creating strategies to meet the universal goals developed in VISION 2050. Similar to other PSRC efforts, this initiative looks to coordinate efforts from across jurisdictions in the Puget Sound. This strategy will create a suite of tools and resources to provide guidance to PSRC members on issues of racial equity.

The Regional Equity Strategy will lead with evaluating and creating tools addressing race, which not only has been a huge factor in marginalization, but also provides a method to develop a framework that could be approved for other marginalized groups. The strategy work plan



Kids of all ages gather together at the table for a watermelon eating contest at Algona Days 2022 festivities. Photo by Caitlin Hepworth.

involves of stakeholder input led by the PSRC Equity Advisory Committee to understand the context. Key findings, strategy components, implementation, and strategy refinement were due to be released in 2023 but have not yet been posted. Instead, PSRC has release a series of tools, data portals, and best practice guidance on integrating equity into the comprehensive planning process. Algona has developed a Racially Disparate Impacts report as part of the comprehensive plan, see *Appendix I*.

STATEMENT OF CONFORMITY – PSRC VISION 2050

Algona’s Plan is guided by the multi-county policies of Vision 2050 and other regional plans developed by the PSRC. Vision 2050 is an integrated, long-range vision for maintaining a healthy region – promoting the well- being of people and communities, economic vitality, and a healthy environment. It contains an environmental framework, regional growth strategies, policies guided by overarching goals, implementation actions, and measures to monitor progress.

Algona’s Plan achieves intended regional approach to growth while incorporating localized approaches and priorities to planning and decision-making that protect community values, enhance the livability and affordability of the community, and improves opportunities to live and work within the city. This plan is committed to meeting regional policies and the GMA while championing the community’s desires for more parks, protecting natural lands, and supporting local businesses. Algona’s plan shall ensure necessary provisions are in place to secure a robust economy, maintain a healthy environment, and support the longevity of residents who call Algona home.

The 2024 Comprehensive Plan has been updated based on current population, housing and job targets anticipated by 2044 while aligning with Vision 2050, multi-county planning policies, and King Countywide Planning Policies, and the GMA. The comprehensive plan addresses each of the policy areas in VISION 2050. Documentation of alignment with Vision 2050, regional policies, countywide policies, and the Growth Management Act are included in *Appendices B, C, K, L, and M*.



The Community Garden is full of life at John Matchett Memorial Park. Photo by Betty Padgett.

The comprehensive plan also addresses local implementation actions in VISION 2050, including identification of underutilized lands, higher density housing, and supporting transit and multimodal transportation. Through the growth targeting process and land capacity analysis, the City has identified the number of housing units needed to meet existing income-level gaps and overall future needs. The City acknowledges a high demand to support lower income groups by encouraging more middle and multifamily residential projects through development regulation changes, incentives, and collaboration

with adjacent jurisdictions. The City has established a number of goals and strategies to address housing affordability and inventory.

Another critical update to the 2015 Algona Comprehensive Plan is a greater emphasis on multimodal transportation, including transit. While Algona only has one transit stop within its boundaries, it is anticipated that with growth of employment and housing opportunities in the city, there will be a greater demand and need for transit and non-motorized forms of transportation. Multimodal transportation also addresses the City's need to begin tracking and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and roadway infrastructure demands. A greater emphasis on collaboration with adjacent jurisdictions, transportation authorities, and transit providers is described within the plan.

Beyond accommodating housing and planning for greater multimodal transportation, Algona continues to prioritize habitat protection, environmental health, and flood risks within the *Natural Environment* element. Algona calls for greater collaboration with partners, zoning changes for lands identified as heavily encumbered by critical areas and supporting more compact urban development within under-developed and partially developed lands.

Algona is a proud partner of PSRC and supports the implementation of the goals, policies, and actions outlined in Vision 2050 to ensure that the next generation of Puget Sound residents can continue to have high-quality of life while providing greater opportunities to live, work, shop, and enjoy the beauty of the northwest.



City staff update the community sign at Waffle Park to keep the community informed on key days and to share special messages like the one shown above. Photo by Cyrus Oswald.

