

ORDINANCE NO. 25-1312

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING A NEW CLIMATE ELEMENT WITH GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE SUB-ELEMENTS INTO THE “2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE” FOR THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Forest Park (“City”) is required to “fully plan” under the Washington State Growth Management Act (“GMA”) pursuant to section RCW 36.70A.040; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.130 of the GMA requires continuing review and evaluation of comprehensive plans and, for cities in King County, required review and adoption of revised comprehensive plans and development regulations compliant with the GMA (the “Periodic Update”) by December 12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council enacted Ordinance No. 1306 adopting the City’s “2024 Comprehensive Plan Update” (“Comprehensive Plan”) on December 12, 2024, as the required Periodic Update; and

WHEREAS, the City has established a process and criteria for making modifications to the City’s Comprehensive Plan in Chapter 18.01 of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code, Comprehensive Plan and Amendments, including text and map amendments in accordance with the GMA; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a Climate Element, with greenhouse gas reduction and resilience sub-elements, to the Comprehensive Plan is required under House Bill 1181, as adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 2023, and the City is required to adopt such a Climate Element by December 2029; and

WHEREAS, the City collaboratively developed a draft Climate Element with greenhouse gas reduction and resilience sub-elements, utilizing grant funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce (“Department of Commerce”) made possible by the Washington Climate Commitment Act; and through input from a Climate Policy Advisory Team (“CPAT”), public survey, public workshops, and public outreach at community events; and

WHEREAS, the CPAT, the City’s temporary task force specifically formed for the climate amendment effort, held public and open house meetings regarding amendments

to the Comprehensive Plan on December 18, 2024, and January 21, February 12, March 11, April 15, May 14, and June 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, public input and feedback were critical to the development of a Climate Element and to ensuring the plan and policies reflect the Lake Forest Park community, the City developed and implemented an engagement strategy to reach Lake Forest Park's community members to meaningfully hear feedback and integrate community input, and Findings from this process informed the development of actionable goals and policies; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Element, a new chapter in the Comprehensive Plan that builds on the 2024 Periodic Update effort, will strengthen the City's approach to climate resilience and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and will help Lake Forest Park to: prepare for climate-related risks such as extreme heat, flooding, wildfire smoke, and landslides; protect important community assets such as parks, neighborhoods, businesses, and infrastructure; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency; and look for climate strategies with co-benefits for the community, such as improved air quality, lower energy costs, safer transportation options, and healthier natural spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Element fulfills the requirements of RCW 36.70A.070(9) and RCW 36.70A.095 to plan for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and enhance community resiliency to the adverse impacts of climate change; the Climate Element also aligns with the Washington State Department of Commerce's Climate Planning Guidance; and

WHEREAS, the City's Planning Commission held regular public meetings regarding the Climate Element on June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, and October 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a properly noticed public hearing on October 14, 2025, taking testimony from the community regarding the proposed Climate Element; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2025, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend City Council adoption of the Climate Element; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held public meetings to review and analyze the Climate Element during regular and special meetings on October 23, November 13, and November 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing on November 13, 2025, taking testimony from community members regarding the Climate Element; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements set forth in RCW 36.70A.106, the City provided the Department of Commerce notice of the City's intent to adopt the proposed amendments on September 17, 2025 (Submittal ID 2025-S-9878); and

WHEREAS, the City received a comment email from Department of Commerce staff, considered the information, and incorporated changes to the Climate Element as applicable; and

WHEREAS, Department of Commerce comments included a statement that "Lake Forest Park's Climate Element includes a high level of consistency with RCW 36.70A.070(9) and with Commerce's Climate Element Intermediate Planning Guidance, including goals and policies that: protect and enhance natural areas, community resiliency, and address natural hazards to foster resiliency to climate impacts; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled; and, draw attention to the climate impacts such as heat and drought, which are consistent with climate resilience planning guidance; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), the City's Responsible Official issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) on October 20, 2025, pursuant to WAC 197-11-340; no comments were received and the local SEPA appeal period expired on November 12, 2025, with no local appeal filed; and

WHEREAS, the City has complied with all State procedural requirements of the GMA and SEPA, and desires to adopt the Climate Element into the City's Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF A NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CLIMATE ELEMENT. The City Council adopts a Climate Element with greenhouse gas reduction and resilience sub-elements as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference, as an amendment to the City of Lake Forest Park "2024 Comprehensive Plan Update".

Section 2. SEVERABILITY. Should any portion of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 3. CORRECTIONS. The City Clerk is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after passage and publication.

APPROVED BY A MAJORITY of the Lake Forest Park City Council this [click here](#) to enter day of month. day of [Click here to enter month.](#), 2025.

APPROVED:

Thomas French
Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Matthew McLean
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kim Adams Pratt
City Attorney

Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____
Posted: _____
Published: _____
Effective: _____