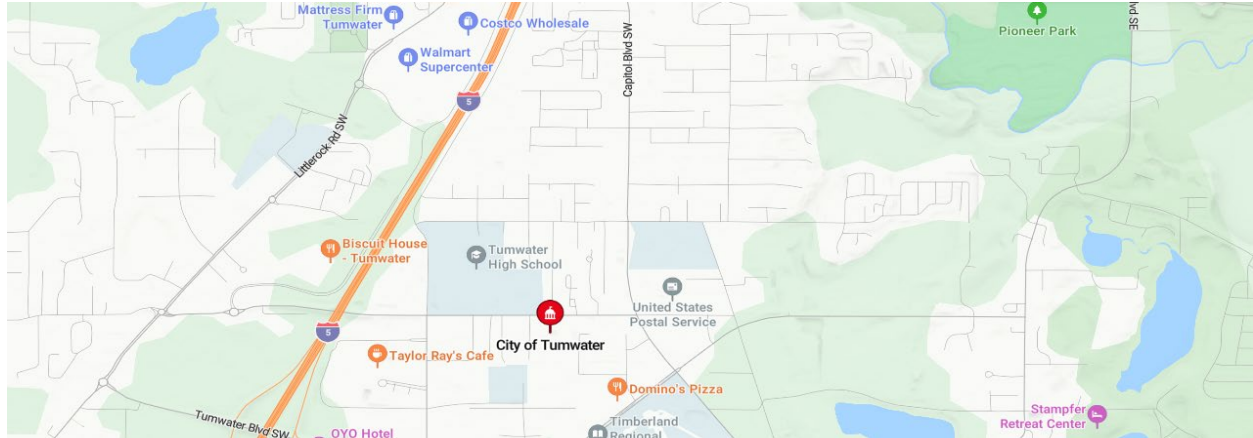


# DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Michael Matlock, Community Development Director



## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

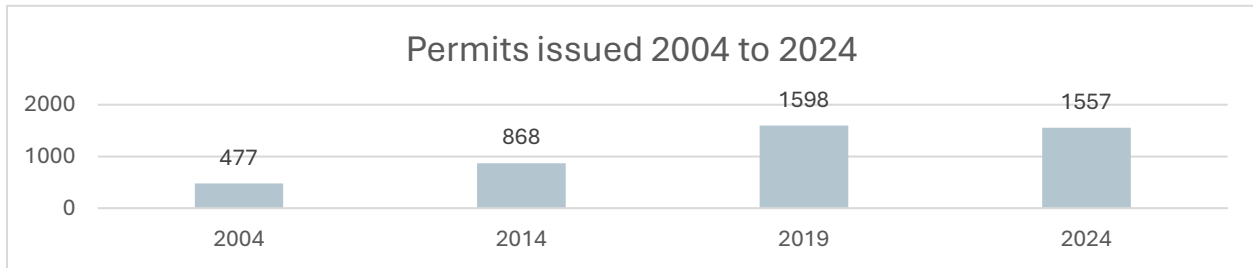
The Community Development Department supports the city mission and strategic priorities of Building a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion and Humanity and Be a Leader in Environmental Health and Sustainability by providing long-range comprehensive planning and development review. Long range planning supports the City Council and Planning Commission in addressing state and local requirements for researching, processing and staffing for policy and code development, comprehensive planning projects, and annexations. Development review includes reviewing and processing permit applications, environmental and critical area analysis, land division, and building, plumbing, mechanical and life safety inspections.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped the City Council to adopt a significant overhaul of the permitting process to comply with new state requirements for permit review.
- Made significant progress on the state required 10-year Comprehensive Plan and Development Code update addressing how the City will accommodate more than 21,000 new residents by 2045 through actions related to affordable housing, climate, transportation and capital facility needs, and conservation.
- Adopted updates to the Thurston County Hazards Mitigation Plan and floodplain regulations to protect the lives and property of the community.
- Led the way in responding to concerns of many problems with the proposed Wildland Urban Interface state building code amendments.
- Secured a \$2 million grant for the purchase of prairie land to support required mitigation of a federally listed species.

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## BY THE NUMBERS



### In 2024, there were:

- 1,557 permits issued.
- 87 single-family permits issued with a value of \$20,915,837.
- 8 commercial permits issued with a value of \$21,572,295.
- 540 Multi-family units currently in permit review.
- 8,115 building and planning inspections conducted.
- \$700,000 in state and federal grants awarded for brownfield environmental assessments for the brewery and WSDOT properties.
- \$620,000 in state grant funds awarded for the 10-year update of the Comprehensive Plan. We also processed over 100 building permits in a 2 week period in response to Energy Code Update in March 2024. Additionally, we had \$410,000 in state grant funds awarded for Phase 4 of the development of the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan.

## DIVISION NEWS

This has been a challenging environment for hiring planners, but we hired one after a full year of recruitment efforts, including three separate recruitments for the one position. A protracted hiring process also meant reduced staff capacity until the position could be filled. In December, we were finally able to secure the services of a great planner. We were also able to work with City Administrator Parks to reset and restart work on the Habitat Protection Plan for endangered species in Tumwater after a series of setbacks with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service centered around the federal recovery plan for the Olympia Pocket Gopher.

## GOALS FOR 2025-2026

- Implement a new permit processing system.
- Continue to support the Regional Housing Council.
- Complete the 10-year Comprehensive Plan and Development Code update.
- Prepare and adopt a food security plan.
- Prepare and adopt amendments to the tree and vegetation protection regulations.
- Prepare a public draft of the Bush Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan and start environmental review.