

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
Thursday, December 5, 2024 - 3:00 PM
Community Rooms

This meeting may also be accessed through Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/93216056382> or by calling (253) 215-8782 and entering Meeting ID 932 1605 6382.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update**
Principal Planner Robin Bolster-Grant
2. **SB 5290 Implementation Recommendations**
Interim Community Development Director Jeff Wilson

ADJOURN

PUBLIC COMMENT & DECORUM

Public comment will be not be accepted at this study session.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) ACCOMMODATIONS

ADA accommodations can be provided upon request. Those requiring special accommodations should contact the city clerk at cityclerk@gjgharborwa.gov or (253) 853-7613 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.



**City of Gig Harbor
City Council Agenda Bill**

Meeting Date: December 5, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

SUBMITTED BY: Principal Planner Robin Bolster-Grant

DEPARTMENT: Community Development

PHONE: (253) 853-7615

SUGGESTED MOTION: None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update (Update) is required under Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) to align with updated regional and state planning requirements. This process ensures that Gig Harbor's policies, priorities, and strategies remain relevant and actionable over the next 20 years.

The draft update was developed by BERK Consulting, Inc. with the transportation element prepared by Fehr & Peers and Transportation Solutions, Inc. (TSI). The expertise of our consultants has ensured alignment with GMA requirements and recently adopted state legislation.

Over the past eighteen months, the Gig Harbor Planning Commission has invested over 100 hours in review, public engagement, and deliberation. Their recommendations reflect community input as well as their own insights as dedicated community stewards shaping our shared future. Thirty-eight commission meetings were held, and community feedback gathered through surveys, open houses, workshops, focus groups, and other public forums. This public input has been integral in shaping the draft presented for discussion.

The purpose of the first two study sessions is to provide council with a broad overview of the substantive changes proposed for each of the existing elements as well as a new implementation section. The implementation piece includes strategies to help ensure effective administration and enforcement of the comprehensive plan and its implementing ordinances and programs as well as providing for regular updates.

The review and discussion at the first study session (December 4) will include the following elements:

- Transportation
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Capital Facilities
- Utilities
- Essential Facilities

At the December 5 study session, staff will introduce the following elements:

- Environment
- Shoreline Management
- The Harbor
- Community Design
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- Arts + Culture
- Implementation

Following the initial presentation of the draft, councilmembers will have the opportunity to read through the entirety of the plan in preparation for a deeper exploration of the proposed Update in January. During this time, staff respectfully requests the council provide comments and questions to planning staff and/or the Community Development Director. Staff will compile the comments and questions as well as any input from the community in preparation for the January 9 study session.

This timeline will also allow the new council appointee to prepare for the proposed February adoption process.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan - FULL DRAFT
2. Corrected Community Design Element
3. 11.21.2024 PC Hearing Minutes

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY: Strategic Plan Priority 3 - Maintain small town character and historic preservation while growing responsibly

Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan

WORKING VERSION | October 2024 DRAFT

[MAYOR'S LETTER]

Acknowledgements

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

The Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan provides a clear and comprehensive framework for managing the city's growth through 2044. Aligned with Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA), this plan establishes a vision for the city's future while ensuring that Gig Harbor retains its distinct small-town character and natural beauty. As the city continues to evolve, this plan addresses the challenges of growth while embracing opportunities that enhance the quality of life for its residents.

The development of the Comprehensive Plan has been a collaborative effort, with extensive input from residents, local businesses, and stakeholders. Through surveys, workshops, and public hearings, the City of Gig Harbor ensured that the Plan is rooted in the aspirations of the community. The feedback gathered through these engagement efforts shaped the goals, policies, and strategies that guide the city's growth. Public participation remains a cornerstone of this Plan, reflecting a shared vision for the future of Gig Harbor.

1.2 Vision and Purpose

Central to the Comprehensive Plan is a vision for a vibrant, livable city that balances sustainable growth with environmental stewardship and community values. The Plan lays out a strategy to manage population increases, housing demands, and economic development, while protecting the local environment and maintaining the unique qualities that make Gig Harbor a desirable place to live and work. It reflects the community's commitment to preserving its maritime heritage and scenic waterfront while planning for future generations.

The recent 2023–2024 Strategic Plan for the city defined this with the following vision statement:

The City of Gig Harbor leads the way in livability, environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and municipal services.

The Plan is also designed to meet the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA), which mandates coordinated planning between cities and counties to address key issues such as land use, transportation, housing, and environmental protection. It also aligns with the Puget Sound Regional Council's VISION 2050 and the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies, ensuring that Gig Harbor contributes to broader regional objectives, including sustainable development, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and equitable growth. By aligning local and regional planning efforts, Gig Harbor ensures a cohesive approach to managing urban growth.

1.3 Implementation and Interpretation

Implementation of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan relies on a range of regulatory tools, including the capital facilities plan, zoning codes, design review guidelines, and environmental protection policies. These tools guide land use, infrastructure investments, and development standards to ensure that growth is sustainable and consistent with the city's vision. By coordinating these efforts, Gig Harbor can manage new development while preserving its unique character and meeting the needs of residents.

In addition to providing a framework for guiding future action, the Plan highlights the importance of public engagement and intergovernmental coordination. Ongoing input from the community, local businesses, and regional agencies is crucial to refining the plan as conditions evolve. City staff and officials play key roles in interpreting and applying the plan's goals to individual projects, balancing immediate development impacts with long-term community benefits to ensure Gig Harbor's growth remains aligned with broader regional objectives.

1.4 Guide to the Document

The Comprehensive Plan is divided into key elements, each addressing a specific topic area for long-term planning in the city over the next 20 years. This includes the following elements:

- **Land Use (LU)** guides the city's future development, balancing urban growth with environmental stewardship, housing needs, and economic goals. It outlines land use categories, growth targets, and policies to ensure that development is sustainable, efficient, and aligned with regional plans while maintaining the city's character and quality of life.
- **The Harbor (HB)** focuses on preserving the historical, cultural, and maritime heritage of the downtown waterfront while promoting a vibrant, mixed-use center. Its policies support economic development through tourism, recreation, and marine industries, and maintain public access, protection of scenic views, and sustainable growth of local businesses and housing.
- **Community Design (CD)** provides policies that support vibrant, pedestrian-friendly spaces that reflect the city's small-town charm, natural beauty, and maritime heritage. It promotes well-designed public and private developments that preserve historical structures, enhance connectivity, and support sustainable growth while maintaining the community's unique character.
- **Environment (EN)** includes policies about protecting natural resources, conserving habitats, and promoting sustainable development practices to ensure long-term ecological health. It emphasizes climate resilience, water quality, and low-impact development to balance urban growth with environmental preservation.
- **Housing (HO)** gives policy direction on meeting future housing needs while preserving the city's small-town character. It emphasizes diverse housing options, affordable housing development, and strategies to prevent displacement, ensuring that residents across all income levels have access to adequate and affordable housing.
- **Economic Development (ED)** describes the city's approach to increasing local employment and entrepreneurial opportunities by supporting business attraction, retention, and expansion, as well as fostering workforce development. It emphasizes sustainable employment growth through the reuse of

older buildings, promotion of small businesses, and coordination of sufficient infrastructure to accommodate commercial and industrial development, all to build a stronger local economy.

- **Essential Public Facilities (EPF)** outlines the City's processes for identifying and siting facilities that provide critical public services, as required by GMA. This element includes policies for managing these difficult-to-site facilities, ensuring that both publicly and privately operated facilities are appropriately located to serve the community while minimizing negative impacts on local land use, environment, and neighborhoods.
- **Utilities (UT)** provides policies to ensure the provision of essential services such as water, wastewater, electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and solid waste. It emphasizes coordination with regional providers to support sustainable growth, maintain infrastructure, and ensure reliable service delivery as the city expands.
- **Shoreline Management (SM)** focuses on balancing ecological preservation with sustainable development along the city's waterfront. It aims to protect shoreline habitats, promote water-oriented uses, and ensure public access to the waterfront while supporting the city's historical, recreational, and commercial activities.
- **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PR)** provides the city's vision for a diverse and accessible park system that meets the recreational needs of all residents. It emphasizes the development of parks, trails, and open spaces that balance active and passive uses, preserve natural habitats, and promote connectivity, while supporting sustainability and enhancing the community's quality of life.
- **Transportation (TR)** presents policies to strive towards a safe, efficient, and multimodal transportation system that supports the city's growth. It emphasizes enhancing connectivity for walking, biking, and driving, while encouraging the development of infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing community.
- **Capital Facilities (CF)** ensures that essential infrastructure such as water, sewer, stormwater, and emergency services supports current development and future growth. This element outlines policies for managing and financing improvements aligning with the city's land use goals and GMA requirements.
- **Arts + Culture (AC)** emphasizes the importance of arts and cultural activities in enhancing the city's economic vitality, education, and community design. It promotes investment in the arts to foster creativity, preserve local history and traditions, and support a vibrant, inclusive community. The element outlines goals to integrate public art, support creative businesses, provide cultural spaces, and ensure that arts initiatives are accessible to all residents, reinforcing the unique character and identity of Gig Harbor.

Additionally, there is an **Implementation** element that outlines how the Plan will be put into action over time, including administrative aspects of engagement, amendments, and coordination with Tribal Nations. There is also a **Glossary** of terms included within the Comprehensive Plan for reference.

Each of these elements includes **goals** and **policies**:

- A **goal** is a broad statement about a longer-term aspiration that the city intends to achieve. Goals typically articulate the desired end state or the general policy direction over time, but do not dictate how to achieve the outcomes.

- A **policy** is a specific guideline to direct decision-making to achieve the goals outlined in the Plan. Policies provide the framework for actions and decisions that the city needs to implement and are typically actionable and more precise.

2 Land Use

2.1 Introduction

The Land Use Element is a comprehensive tool that is used by Gig Harbor to plan for the future. Its function is to coordinate urban development and expansion to achieve the right balance growth in housing, businesses, governmental services, recreational amenities, and other aspects of city life. This Element includes a detailed map that shows different land use categories across the city's Urban Growth Area, as defined under the framework of the Growth Management Act (GMA).

Most of the other components of the Comprehensive Plan overlap with the Land Use Element and provide additional details beyond what is provided here. Elements of relevance include:

- The Harbor, with respect to a vision for the city's downtown area that includes discussions of appropriate land use.
- Housing, which provides more details about residential needs and growth targets over time.
- Economic Development, which indicates the needs of businesses in the city, including areas for growth and expansion for business retention and recruitment programs.
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, which highlights facilities in the city used for active and passive recreation, environmental preservation, and other community purposes.

The land use goals and policies in this Element are strategies primarily focused on supporting sustainable, efficient, and desired development patterns within the City and serve as a guide for uses considered appropriate for the areas so designated. The implementation of the Comprehensive Plan is primarily through the development regulations adopted by the City of Gig Harbor, which provide the necessary and desired performance standards for the uses allowed within each respective zoning designation.

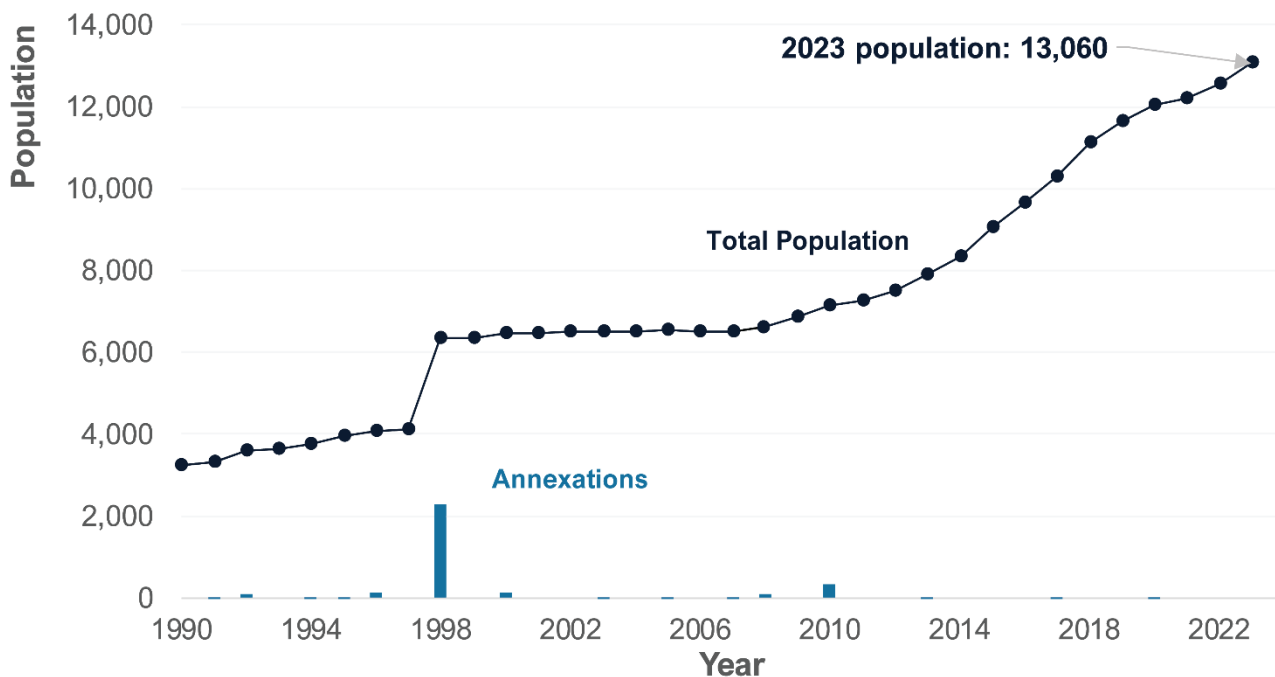
In addition to the policies, this Element includes discussions of distinct components of local land use planning:

- Land use targets for Gig Harbor, including detailed housing targets for the community overall.
- The Future Land Use Map and individual designations for land use areas under the Comprehensive Plan.
- Areas of interest for planning in the city.

2.2 Land Use Targets

The growth of Gig Harbor over time has been linked to progressive expansion of the incorporated areas of the city. Exhibit 2-1 provides a retrospective look at the historical population of the city, with notations regarding how population has increased with annexations over time.

Exhibit 2-1. Historical Population of Gig Harbor, 1990–2023.

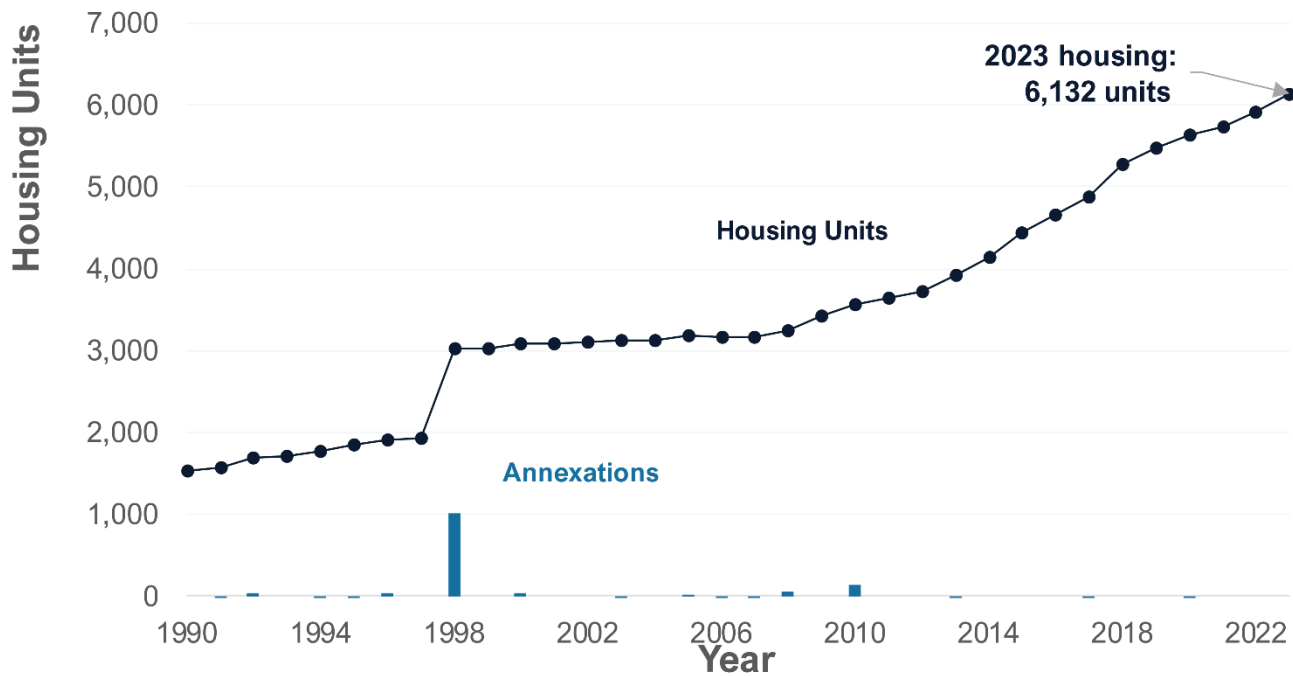


Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2024.

The population of the city as of April 1, 2023, was 13,060. This has experienced several changes, with major annexations occurring in the late 1990s which added a considerable amount of population within the city's corporate boundaries. While growth in the city in general into the early 2000s was minimal, recent population growth has significantly outpaced earlier trends: since 2015, the population has grown by over 44%, with an average growth rate of 4.5% per year.

Housing growth has also experienced similar increases. Exhibit 2-2 provides growth trends in housing over a similar period, with comparable increases in housing due to annexations and growth since the early 2010s. Total housing unit counts in Gig Harbor have a general increase of over 38% since 2015, with an average increase of about 4.1% per year. This suggests that the amount of housing is growing at a slightly slower pace than population, due in part to slight increases in household sizes in the community.

Exhibit 2-2. Historical Housing Unit Totals for Gig Harbor, 1990–2023.

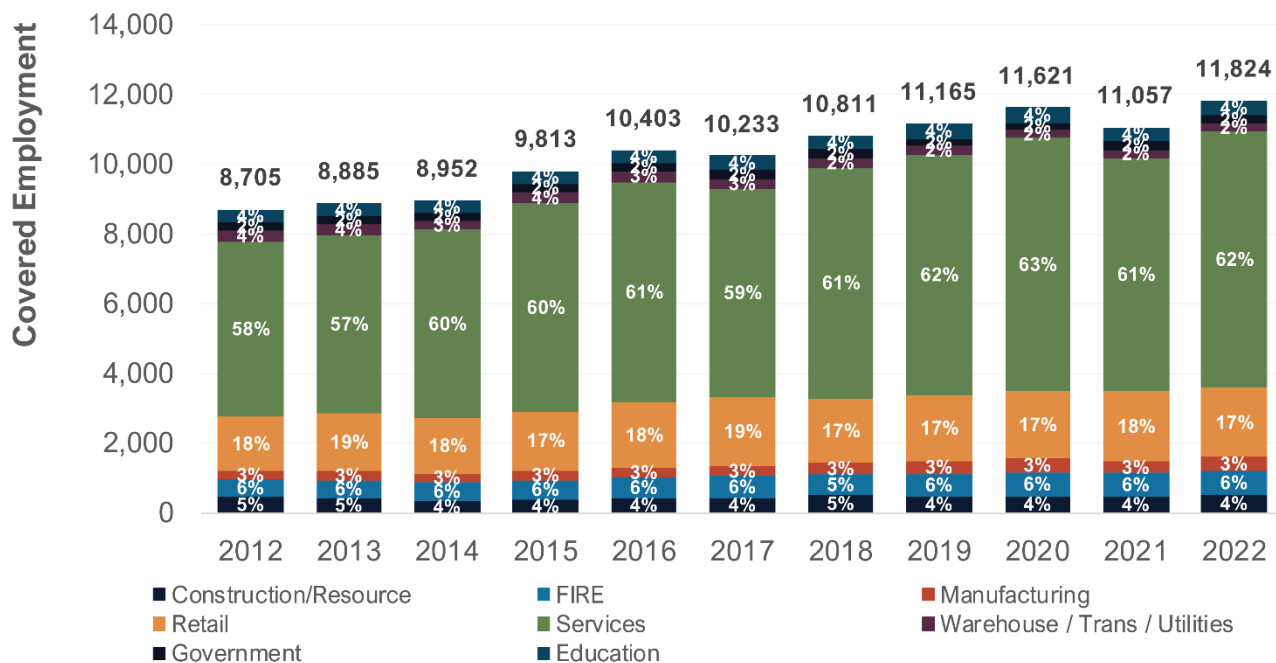


Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2024.

Local employment has also experienced significant targeted growth. Exhibit 2-3 provides statistics on “covered employment” from the PSRC from 2012 to 2022, which includes all workers in the city covered under unemployment insurance. While this measure does not include workers such as sole proprietors and railroad workers, this can still highlight several major trends.

According to these estimates, covered employment in Gig Harbor equaled 11,824 workers in 2022. It is important to note, however, that there has been a significant increase in local employment between 2012 and 2022, with an average increase of 3.2% per year on average. Services presents the largest proportion of local employment and absolute growth, with about 62% of total local employment in 2022 and a growth in employment of 2,320 workers between 2012 and 2022 for an average growth rate of 3.9% per year.

Exhibit 2-3. Covered Employment for Gig Harbor, 2012–2022.



FIRE = Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2024.

This context for population/housing and employment is explored in more depth in the Housing and Economic Development sections, respectively. However, these have been important in the development of growth targets for the city.

Targets for growth between 2020 and 2044 have been identified by Pierce County through Ordinances [2022-46s](#) and [2023-22s](#). These growth targets have been informed by two major policy considerations:

- Compliance with the [PSRC VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy](#), which specifies both broad targets for growth at the County level and specified targets by community type.
- Fulfillment of state requirements under RCW [36.70A.070\(2\)\(c\)](#) to provide sufficient capacity to meet housing needs for moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income households.

Under these requirements, Pierce County has provided the housing growth allocations shown in Exhibit 2-4 for Gig Harbor for the 2020–2044 period. These allocations are based on “area median income” for Pierce County, which is the projected median income assumed for a family of four that is typically used in housing affordability measures. This also includes the general types of housing that are assumed to meet the needs of these households over time.

In addition to these targets on housing, the city is also committed to accommodating an additional **2,200 residents** and **2,747 jobs** in the city based on the targets provided under Ordinance [2022-46s](#).

Exhibit 2-4. Gig Harbor Housing Growth Targets, 2020–2044.

Target Category	Target Units	Type of Housing
Extremely low-income (0–30% AMI)		
<i>Permanent supportive housing</i>	156	Low- and mid-rise apartments that include rental assistance and supportive services for residents, often serving as rapid re-housing for chronically homeless individuals.
<i>Other housing units</i>	115	Low- and mid-rise apartments, potentially with significant public support/subsidies.
Very low-income (30–50% AMI)	165	
Low-income (50–80% AMI)	131	Low- and mid-rise apartments and condos, including ADUs.
Moderate-income (80–100% AMI)	56	Moderate “middle” housing, including plex and townhome development
Moderate-income (100–120% AMI)	51	
Higher income (120% of more)	218	Low-density detached single-family homes
Total Housing Units	892	

Source: Pierce County, 2023; WA Department of Commerce, 2023.

2.3 Future Land Use Map

The Future Land Use Map for the City of Gig Harbor is intended to provide a vision for the expected land uses that will be found in the city over the next 20 years. The following Exhibits provide an understanding of the implications of this Map for future development:

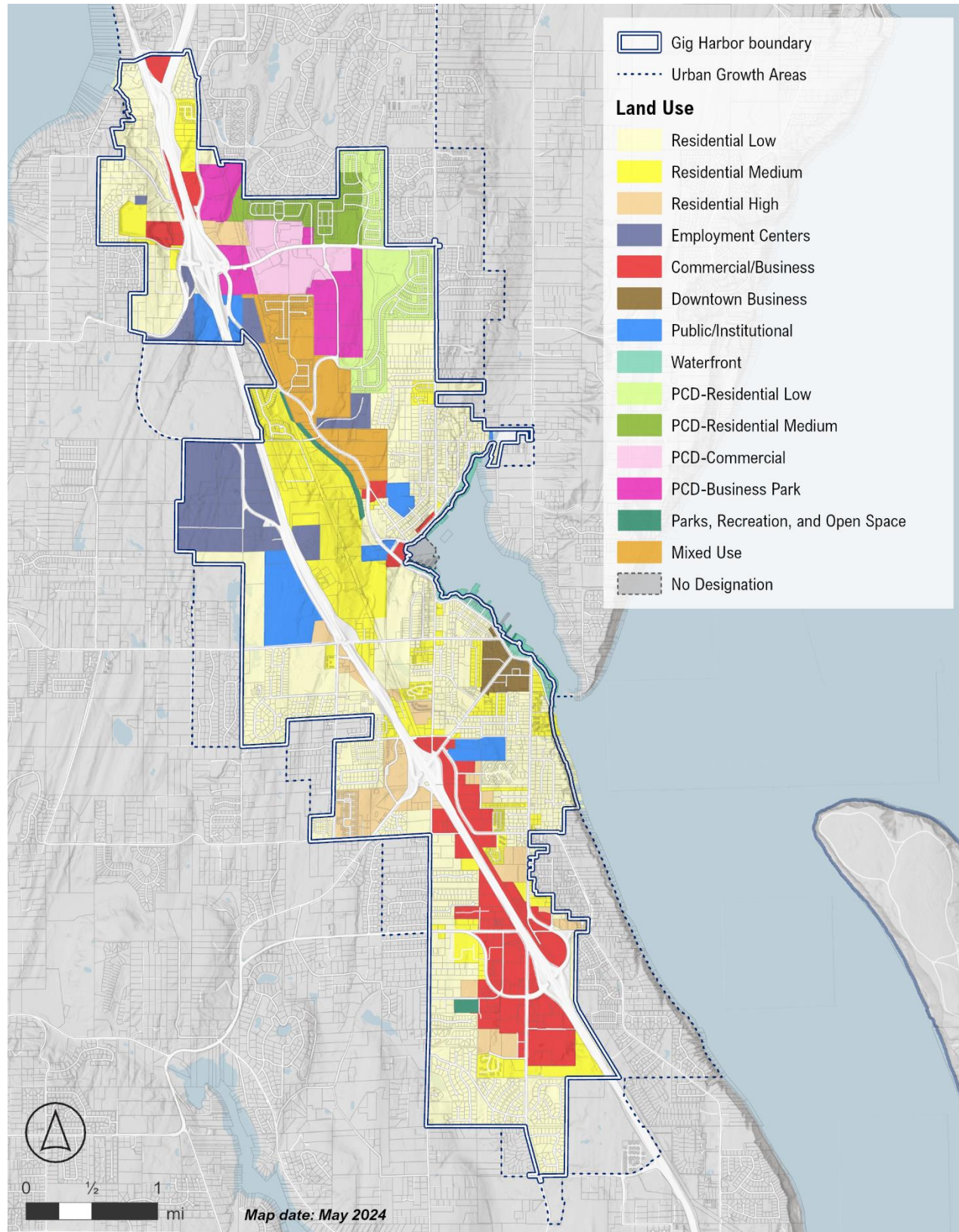
- **Exhibit 2-5** presents the Future Land Use Map, delineating major categories of land use in the city for future guidance in zoning, development regulations, and infrastructure investments.
- Exhibit 2-6 provides more guidance on the meanings of the Future Land Use Map Classifications. In addition to short explanations about each land use area, this includes both the corresponding zoning districts associated with each area, and the expected residential and employment densities for these areas.

- Exhibit 2-7 provides the estimated housing and employment yields expected from the designations under the Future Land Use Map. These yields have been evaluated based on previous work with the Buildable Lands reporting in Pierce County and provide a clear approach for meet targets identified in the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies.

Key elements to highlight as part of this map and the associated land use policies include the following:

- **Meeting lower-income housing targets.** Based on the estimates updated from the Buildable Lands calculation sheets and the summary in Exhibit 2-7, additional capacity for housing will be provided to meet the identified targets for lower-income housing options. However, this will be complicated by the significant remaining capacity in the city for single-family detached residential formats, as well as ongoing needs for financial support of lower-income projects.
- **Upzoning from the previous Plan.** The major consideration for policy updates to this Land Use Map from the previous Comprehensive Plan has been associated with meeting recent targets under the GMA. Although the previous Plan provided sufficient capacity overall to meet County targets, there is a need to incorporate more affordable, denser housing formats to meet needs at lower income bands in the market. This resulted in areas that were unchanged but incorporated more density to provide associated capacity.
- **The role of accessory dwelling units.** The use of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to achieve regional and countywide housing goals can be complex, which a topic elaborated on further in the Housing Element. Recent adjustments in state regulations about local ADU development as well as other housing types have potentially reshaped the ADU market and their viability to homeowners. However, it is challenging to predict the exact impact these units will have on meeting the city's housing objectives, especially as ADUs offer alternatives for home offices/workspaces, short-term rental arrangements, and housing options for children and seniors who would otherwise occupy the primary residence. As such, this Plan identifies that ADUs will be an important part of addressing housing needs, but that they may not be as reliable in meeting requirements for housing by household income level.

Exhibit 2-5. Future Land Use Areas Map for Gig Harbor.



Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

Exhibit 2-6. Future Land Use Area Classifications.

Land Use Area and Description	Zoning Districts	Target Residential Density (units/acre)	Target Employment Density (employees/acre)
Residential Low. This area includes existing lower-density residential uses, primarily single-family detached and plex housing, on larger lots in areas where additional density may not be able to be supported with cost-effective infrastructure. Supportive community services such as schools and parks are allowed in these areas to serve the community at large.	R-1	4 (single-detached, duplex)	N/A
Residential Medium. Medium-density residential uses are included in these areas, primarily single-family, townhomes, and plex residential. These areas are built up at higher densities with support for new infill to build convenient and walkable neighborhoods with access to key neighborhood centers. These areas may include limited business, personal and professional services and businesses which support these residential neighborhoods.	RB-1 R-2	6–12 (single-detached, plex, townhomes)	N/A
Residential High. This area includes higher-density residential uses in areas that can support this level of development due to increased availability of infrastructure. These areas may include supportive personal and professional services and businesses, and envisioned to have good transportation access.	RB-2 R-3	12–32 (plex, garden apartments)	N/A
Public/Institutional. This designation denotes Public facilities located on dedicated campuses or larger sites. These can include schools, government facilities, correction centers, and essential public facilities.	PI	N/A	20
Employment Centers. Larger-scale employment uses are found in these areas, including major warehousing, industrial, commercial, and institutional activities, as well as supportive retail commercial. These areas are expected to provide a regional draw for employment.	ED	N/A	9

Land Use Area and Description	Zoning Districts	Target Residential Density (units/acre)	Target Employment Density (employees/acre)
Commercial/Business. These areas include retail and wholesale commercial, office, and mini-warehousing uses. Where appropriate, mixed-use residential may also be permitted. These areas should have good transportation connections with surrounding neighborhoods.	C-1 B-1 B-2	32 (mixed-use and apartments)	20
Downtown Business. This area primarily includes moderate-intensity retail and office uses that support the traditional scale and character of downtown Gig Harbor. This area is also part of The Harbor and should be considered under the vision for that area.	DB	12 (mixed-use and limited townhomes/apartments)	20
Waterfront. This area includes a mix of uses along the waterfront which are allowed under the City of Gig Harbor Shoreline Master Program. This may include targeted residential, marina, and commercial/retail uses.	WM WC WR	4 (limited single-detached and plex)	20
Planned Community Development: This category of uses represents a larger planned development in Gig Harbor under previous regulations and policy. These designations are maintained for consistency with the land use policies included in these areas.			
PCD Residential Low (PCD-RLD). This area includes residential development at 4–7 units per acre that allows for unique and innovative residential development concepts; supports integration with both the broader community and important natural features and amenities; and encourages efficient patterns of development.	PCD Neighborhood Business District, LCD Low Density Residential	4–7 (single-detached, plex)	10
PCD Residential Medium (PCD-RMD). Moderate-density residential development at 8–16 units per acre that supports high-quality affordable housing; a greater range of lifestyles and income levels; the efficient delivery of public services; and greater access to employment, transportation options, and shopping.	PCD Neighborhood Business District, LCD Medium Density Residential	8–16 (single-detached, plex, townhomes)	10

Land Use Area and Description	Zoning Districts	Target Residential Density (units/acre)	Target Employment Density (employees/acre)
PCD Commercial (PCD-C). These areas accommodate commercial development supporting service and retail uses with a focus on city-wide and regional consumers. They are intended to be focused on high-quality design and integration with the natural environment. These areas may include residential uses as part of vertical mixed-use development.	PCD Commercial	N/A	20–30
PCD Business Park (PCD-BP). This area includes commercial development supporting major employment uses such as technology research and development facilities, light assembly, and warehousing, business and professional office uses, corporate headquarters and other supporting enterprises. This may also include associated support service and retail uses.	PCD Business Park District	N/A	20–30
Mixed Use. These areas include a mix of commercial / employment, office, and multifamily uses. These areas are located along principal collector routes and serve a broader area, but are intended to support complete, walkable communities with housing, services, employment, and transportation and transit access.	MUD Overlay	24–32 (mixed-use, apartments)	20
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space. These areas provide passive and active recreation opportunities through parks, recreation facilities, sports facilities, conservation areas, open space, and other city-owned property with comparable uses. These areas do not include private facilities. While these locations may include ancillary commercial uses such as snack bars, they are not envisioned as a substantial location for new growth.	-	N/A	N/A

Exhibit 2-7. City of Gig Harbor 2044 Growth Targets and Available Capacity

Target Category	Type	Combined 2044 Target	Capacity + Pipeline*	Surplus/ Shortfall
Extremely low-income (0–30% AMI)				
<i>Permanent supportive housing</i>	Higher density multifamily housing	567	574	+7
<i>Other housing units</i>				
Very low-income (30–50% AMI)				
Low-income (50–80% AMI)				
Moderate-income (80–100% AMI)	Moderate density attached housing (plex/townhomes)	107	134	+27
Moderate-income (100–120% AMI)				
Higher income (120% of more)	Low density single- family detached	218	2,082	+1,864
Total Housing Units		892	2,790	+1,898
Employment		2,747	3,692	+945

* Note: “Capacity + Pipeline” includes development which has occurred since 2020.

Source: Pierce County, 2024

2.4 Urban Growth Areas

A map of the Urban Growth Area for Gig Harbor is provided in Exhibit 2-8, and divided into individual subareas for more detailed assessments as part of the recent 2023 annexation study. This map also provides current zoning for parcels within and outside of the city for context.

These subareas within the UGA include the following locations:

38th Avenue

The 38th Avenue UGA is located to the southwest of the city and is about 78 total acres. The area is developed with single-family homes and a church. There may be stormwater and septic concerns in this area that would need to be addressed for future development.

Bujacich

This area is about 176 acres, with most of the UGA incorporating the Washington Corrections Center for Women (operated by the state) and McCormick Forest Park (managed by PenMet). The primary reason for including this area in the UGA is to allow for servicing of the Corrections Center, although there are some minor commercial uses close to Bujacich Rd and 54th Ave. The area is built out, however, with few opportunities to accommodate additional growth.

Burnham Drive

The Burnham Drive UGA is the smallest of the UGAs surrounding Gig Harbor. It includes about 18 acres across five parcels and includes an auto repair garage and some single-family housing. Note that this unincorporated area is largely surrounded by the city and has no access points managed by the county, which challenges service delivery on these sites.

Canterwood

The Canterwood UGA includes about 753 total acres, with most of the area consisting of a master-planned community anchored by the Canterwood Golf & Country Club. This area represents the largest UGA, both in terms of area and number of housing units. The master-planned community is largely built out, although there is a small amount of vacant land located just outside of the planned community.

Madrona Links

The Madrona Links UGA includes a total of about 119 acres, with 95 acres consisting of the Madrona Links public golf course run by PenMet. The southeast corner of the UGA includes 55 townhomes adjacent to the golf course. This area is completely built out, with no developable sites in the UGA.

Peacock Hill

The Peacock Hill UGA is located to the northeast of the city, and includes two smaller disconnected portions to the south close to Vernhardson St. This area is about 483 acres and includes two churches, the Canterwood Homeowners Association facilities, and residential development in other locations. This area

also includes a considerable amount of vacant and underutilized land that could be used for future development.

Point Fosdick

The Point Fosdick UGA contains approximately 41 acres and is located south of the city along Point Fosdick Drive. This area is split between two non-adjacent portions, with the northwest area consisting of a built-out low-density residential area of around 23 acres, and about 13 acres to the southeast consisting of vacant land currently zoned as “Neighborhood Center” by Pierce County. Note that this vacant land is not provided with a land use designation under the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan.

Purdy

The Purdy UGA is approximately 338 acres, and it includes Peninsula High School and Purdy Elementary, managed by the Peninsula School District. The city’s primary interest in this area is providing sewer services. There is a utility facility found here (Peninsula Light Co.), as well as a mix of commercial and residential uses. While there are some vacant lands that could be developed, challenges with stormwater drainage and fire flows would make it difficult to use these areas.

Reid Road

The Reid Road UGA is approximately 339 acres, with a neighborhood that consists mostly of single-family housing, with a small amount of multi-family housing. While there are some remaining parcels, the area is built out. This area is not currently serviced by sewer and lift stations would be required to extend services out to the neighborhood.

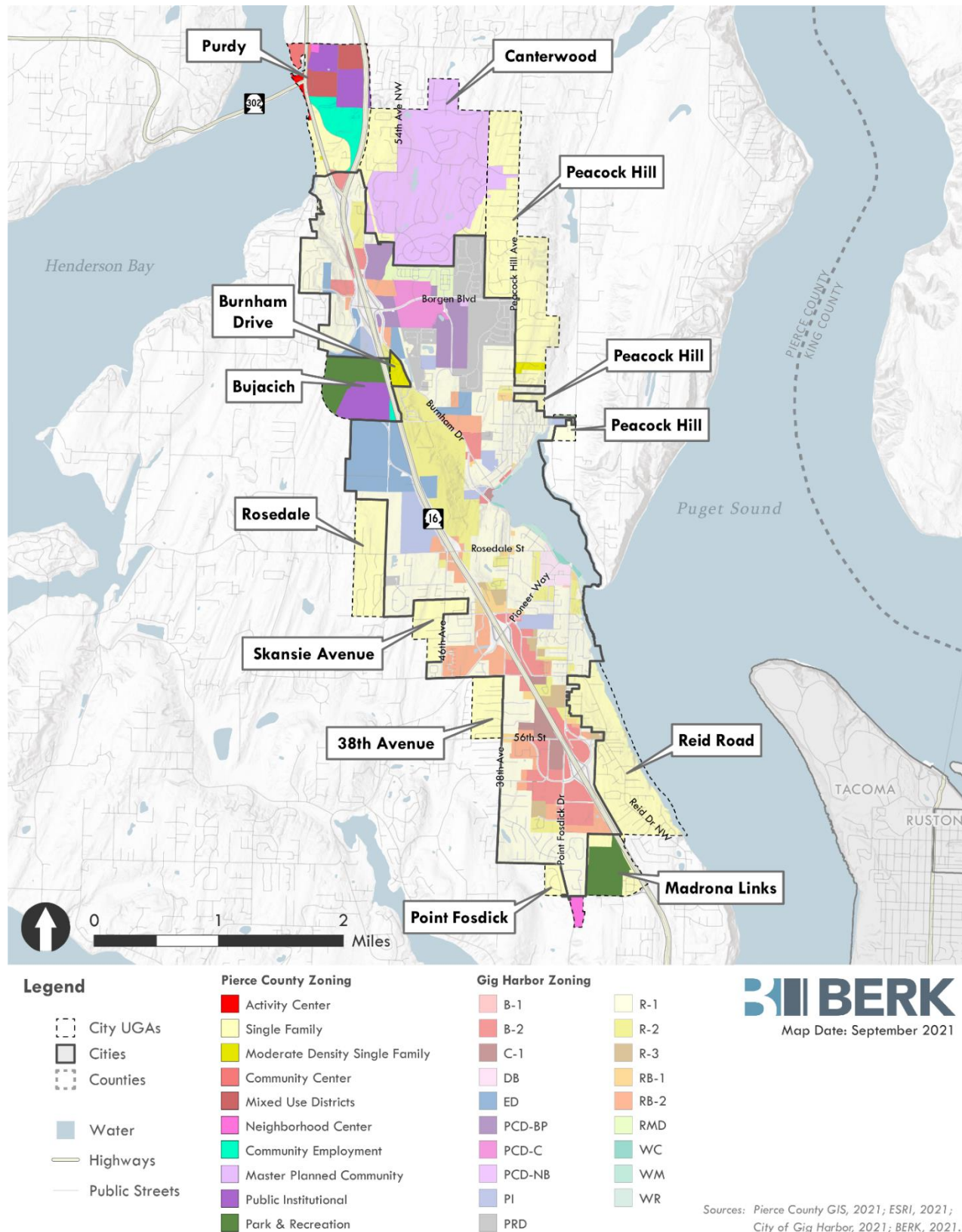
Rosedale

The Rosedale UGA is found on the western boundary of the city. It includes about 153 acres of single-family housing development. There are some sites for infill and development within this UGA, although wetlands and critical areas may complicate further development in many locations.

Skansie Avenue

The Skansie Avenue UGA is located on the southwestern edge of the city, and separates the administration of Skansie Ave. It is about 78 acres and includes mostly single-family homes. There may be opportunities for infill development, but the potential for new construction in this area is low due to the current lot layout. Additionally, portions of this area may not currently be serviced by city sewer.

Exhibit 2-8. Gig Harbor Urban Growth Areas.



Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2023.

2.5 Centers of Local Importance

Centers of Local Importance (CoLI) in the city provide local centers that can encourage compact, pedestrian-oriented development with a mix of uses that can both support a neighborhood and encourage visitors to come to the neighborhoods to enjoy local amenities.

At present, the city has five CoLIs in place in local policy (see Exhibit 2-9):

Westside

Westside functions as a focal point for both local and regional retail, being the area zoned for the most intense commercial activities within Gig Harbor. Thoughtful in-fill development paired with pedestrian and bicycle-friendly amenities can continue to elevate the existing compact, walkable environment in this area.

The integration of mixed-use projects and multi-family residential housing within and near this center should be an ongoing focus, as it provides a smooth transition to the less densely populated single-family residences beyond the center's boundaries. The center already offers pedestrian and bicycle routes which should be enhanced, encouraging people to comfortably choose walking or cycling as their preferred mode of commute.

Gig Harbor North

Gig Harbor North addresses the large-scale retail demands of the surrounding area through power center / “big box” retail development. It also includes St. Anthony's Hospital and the YMCA, both major local employers and service providers within this center and in the city as a whole. Pocket parks serving as amenities for pedestrians are integral to the area's identity and must be preserved as part of its character as development progresses.

Gig Harbor North also supports higher density single-family residential development, leveraging pedestrian pathways for easy access between central activities and homes. The area also features the Cushman Trail, a regional trail that cuts through the center. This trail provides pedestrian and non-motorized connectivity to the Westside CoLI and enhances the area's connectedness and accessibility.

Downtown

Downtown includes the Downtown Business area, which is adjacent to the Waterfront land use area and incorporates a single plot with an RB-1 zone designation. It serves as a community hub, hosting weekly community events at Jerisich Park mainly during the summer and autumn months, and provides some local retail and services for residents and visitors. Pedestrian accessibility and seasonal transit options enhance both the role of this area to attract tourism and the ability to provide a defined center for city culture. This area is discussed further in The Harbor Element.

Finholm District

The Finholm District is a smaller community hub with a variety of dining options, convenience retail, personal services, and other small-scale shopping options. It is bordered by the Bay on one side, and low-

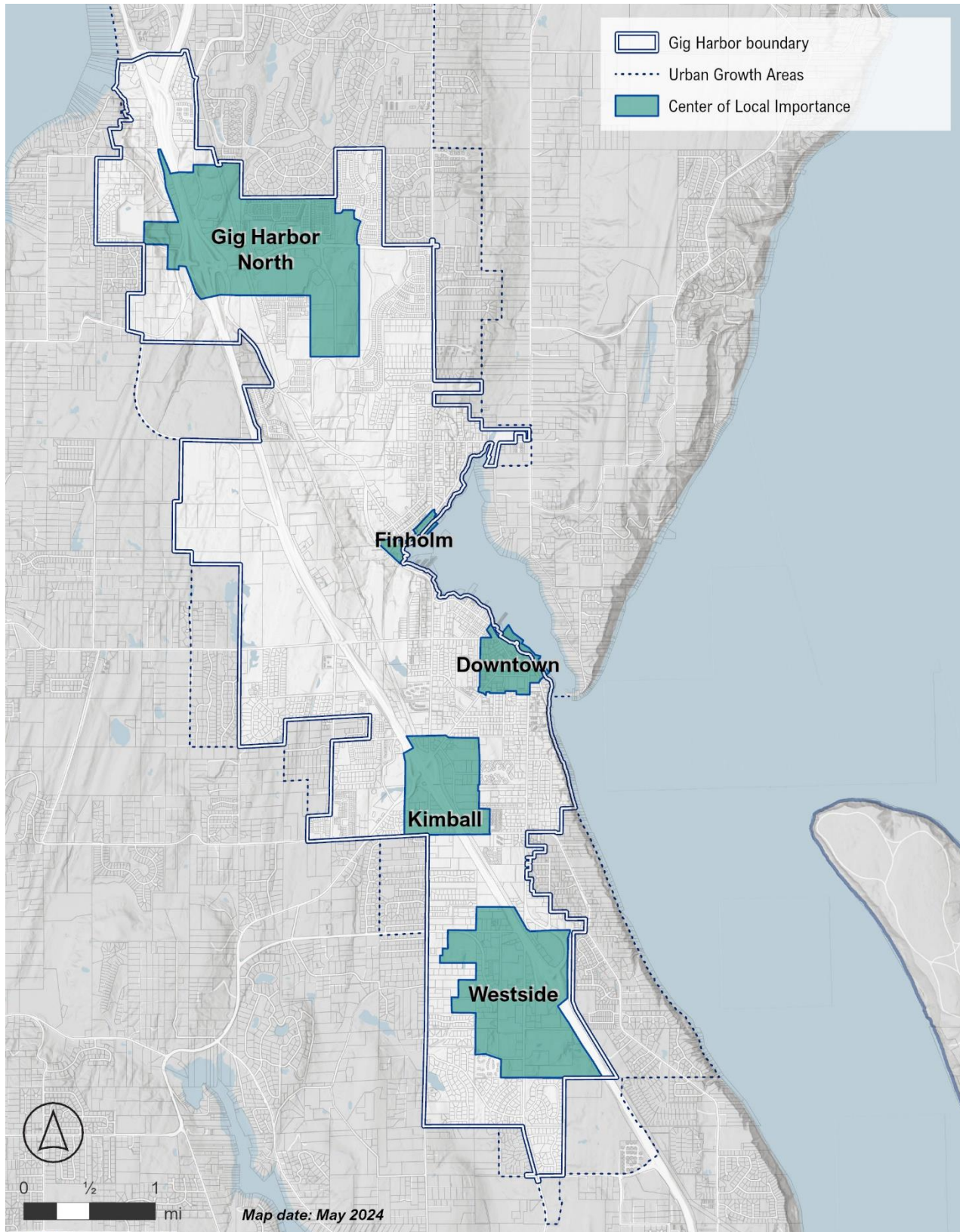
density residential on other areas surrounding Finholm. Important features of this area include the Harbor History Museum and the daylighted Donkey Creek. Note that The Harbor Element covers the Finholm District as well as the Downtown CoLI.

Kimball

Kimball includes several major features in the community that make it a distinctive neighborhood: a mix of high-density residences, affordable housing options, senior living facilities, a campus of Tacoma Community College, the Gig Harbor Civic Center, a Pierce Transit park-and-ride facility, and a hotel. These public amenities also support significant pedestrian activity in the area. As most of the commercial services are in strip malls, this neighborhood also has the potential for new redevelopment projects to increase density and activity.

In addition to its land uses, Kimball plays a pivotal role as a transportation hub and connection for car traffic and public transit for the wider Gig Harbor Peninsula. The central park-and-ride facility, located near State Route 16, positions this CoLI with potential to be a major multi-modal service hub. The proximity of SR-16 may also pose future challenges associated with traffic congestion, however, including for vehicles bound for unincorporated communities in Pierce and Kitsap Counties. Future transportation investment may be required in the area to address these considerations.

Exhibit 2-9. Gig Harbor Centers of Local Importance.



Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

2.6 Goals and Policies

- ▶ **LU-1 Ensure sufficient supplies of developable land to meet identified growth targets through efficient development, maintaining a balance between land's suitability and the ability to provide urban services.**
 - LU-1.1 Allocate high density/intensity urban development to lands capable of efficiently supporting urban uses while presenting the fewest environmental risks.
 - LU-1.2 Where possible, allocate urban development onto lands which are suitable and do not provide substantial value to the community if left undeveloped.
 - LU-1.3 Where possible, locate high-intensity urban uses away from sensitive sites with significant archaeological, historical, cultural or special social significance.
 - LU-1.4 Allocate urban uses to areas that can be effectively serviced by roads, sewer, water, storm drainage and other basic urban utilities and transportation facilities.
 - LU-1.5 Consider existing urban growth areas capable of being supported by urban levels of services within the next 20 years when planning for long-term strategies for growth.
 - LU-1.6 Review the urban growth areas and associated policies at least once every five years, considering:
 - a) projected populations,
 - b) infrastructure capacity,
 - c) patterns of development,
 - d) land suitability,
 - e) possible benefits of city-regulated development,
 - f) potential impacts on environmentally sensitive areas, and
 - g) climate change
 - LU-1.7 Monitor developable land capacity within the city using methods consistent with the Pierce County Buildable Land Program.
 - LU-1.8 Ensure sufficient capacity within the city to accommodate the following resulting growth by 2044:
 - a) 6,642 housing units
 - b) 14,229 residents, and
 - c) 15,602 jobs.
 - LU-1.9 Ensure the consistency of city policies with PSRC VISION 2050 and Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies.

LU-1.10 Establish priorities to manage the phasing of growth, plan for and provide orderly and reasonable extension of services, and ensure the proper timing of acceptable development.

LU-1.11 Manage Centers of Local Importance (CoLIs) as designated local centers that support:

- a) Compact, pedestrian-oriented development with a mix of uses.
- b) Diverse amenities and service offerings.
- c) A variety of high- and medium-density housing options.
- d) Focal points and gathering spaces for the community and region. and
- e) Connectivity between transportation corridors.

Each of the City's identified CoLIs may serve a specific purpose to the City residents as well as residents of the greater Gig Harbor Peninsula.

LU-1.12 Provide annual reports regarding the progress made on development goals identified in this Plan.

► **LU-2 Define a pattern of urban development which is recognizable, provides community identity, and supports local values and opportunity.**

Urban Form

LU-2.1 Support a harmonious relationship between the natural environment and urban and rural land uses.

LU-2.2 Emphasize and protect area differences in architecture, visual character and physical features which make each part of the urban form unique and valuable.

LU-2.3 Maintain the older, historical development pattern of the downtown area, and integrate the downtown with newer developments outside the downtown.

Neighborhood Planning

LU-2.4 Coordinate the planning of transitional land uses, buffers, and open space to define and protect neighborhoods and other planning areas.

LU-2.5 Encourage and promote local participation in neighborhood planning for public improvements, land use, and other planning concerns.

Generalized Land Use Categories

LU-2.6 Maintain a Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map showing city limits, urban growth areas, and generalized land use classifications that establish various uses within the city. These land use designations include the following:

- a) **Residential Low.** Lower-density residential uses, primarily single-family detached housing on larger lots. Supportive community services such as schools and parks are allowed in these areas, and natural buffers and innovative site design are used to retain natural site character.

- b) **Residential Medium.** Medium-density residential uses, primarily single-family and duplex residential. These areas may provide a transition to higher density from Residential Low areas, and may include limited business, personal and professional services or businesses which would not significantly impact the character of residential neighborhoods. The intensity of non-residential uses should be compatible with adjacent residential uses.
- c) **Residential High.** Higher-density residential uses, including both multifamily and single-family options. These areas can provide a transition between Residential Low and Medium areas and higher-intensity mixed use and commercial. These areas may include certain supportive personal and professional services or businesses which would not significantly impact the character of the neighborhood. The intensity of non-residential uses should be compatible with adjacent residential areas.
- d) **Public/Institutional.** Public facilities located on dedicated campuses or larger sites. These can include schools, government facilities, correction centers, and essential public facilities.
- e) **Employment Centers.** Larger-scale employment uses that include major warehousing, industrial, commercial, and institutional activities, as well as supportive retail commercial.
- f) **Commercial/Business.** Retail and wholesale commercial, office, and mini-warehousing uses. Where appropriate, mixed-use residential may be permitted through a planned unit development process. Natural features such as critical areas and buffers should be maintained in these areas to the greatest extent possible.
- g) **Downtown Business.** Moderate-intensity retail and office uses that support the traditional scale and character of downtown Gig Harbor. (Note that this area should be compatible with The Harbor Element in Chapter 3.)
- h) **Waterfront.** Mixed uses along the waterfront which are allowed under the City of Gig Harbor Shoreline Master Program which may include residential, marina, and commercial/retail uses.
- i) **Planned Community Development.** Neighborhood uses that are defined through more flexible planning that is responsive to site development options and compatible with the community's planning goals and interests. This designation includes several individual subcategories based on the uses within this area.
- j) **Mixed Use.** Areas that include a mix of commercial / employment, office and multifamily uses. These areas are generally located along principal collector routes and serve a broader area, but are intended to support complete, walkable communities.
- k) **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.** Locations that provide passive and active recreation opportunities with parkland, recreation facilities, sports fields, conservation areas, open space, and other city-owned property with comparable uses. While these locations may include ancillary commercial uses such as snack bars, they are not envisioned as a substantial location for new growth. These areas do not include private facilities.

LU-2.7 Ensure that ordinances, programs, proposals, and projects conform to the intention of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map.

- LU-2.8 Consider uses which have been approved by Pierce County prior to the adoption of this plan as legitimate conforming uses.
- LU-2.9 Minimize the negative impacts of public and private developments on overburdened communities.

Planned Community Development

- LU-2.10 Development under the Planned Community Development (PCD) designation is intended to support efficient long-term site development compatible with the community's planning goals and interests. These areas should generally meet the following requirements:
- a) A minimum gross area of at least 100 acres, largely in an undeveloped state with long-term potential for balanced growth.
 - b) Allocations of land uses that balance residential, service commercial, and employment-oriented commercial uses in a reasonable and harmonious development plan that is sensitive to natural systems.
 - c) Adequate provisions for parks, open spaces, schools, and other neighborhoods and regional amenities.
 - d) Retention and conservation of historical and natural features, and integration of innovative protections into site design and development.
 - e) Compatibility with the scale and uses of surrounding neighborhoods.
 - f) Provision of a range of housing types and tenures that consider the expected housing needs resulting from new employment uses in the project.
- LU-2.11 Provide regulatory flexibility for PCD areas which have:
- a) long-term development plans,
 - b) suitability for a variety of intensities and densities of developments, and
 - c) a commitment to incorporating innovative design concepts in site and building design and development.
- LU-2.12 Land use sub-designations currently defined under PCDs include the following areas:
- a) **PCD Residential Low.** Residential development at 4–7 units per acre that allows unique and innovative residential development concepts; supports integration with both the broader community and important natural features and amenities; and encourages efficient patterns of development.
 - b) **PCD Residential Medium.** Moderate-density residential development at 8–16 units per acre that supports high-quality affordable housing; a greater range of lifestyles and income levels; the efficient delivery of public services; and greater access to employment, transportation options, and shopping.

- c) **PCD Commercial.** Commercial development supporting service and retail uses with a focus on city-wide and regional consumers. These areas are intended to be focused on high-quality design and integration with the natural environment. These areas may include residential uses as part of vertical mixed-use development.
- d) **PCD Business Park.** Commercial development supporting major employment uses such as technology research and development facilities, light assembly, and warehousing, business and professional office uses, corporate headquarters and other supporting enterprises. These areas may also include associated support service and retail uses.

Special Districts and Overlays

- LU-2.13 Establish special zoning districts, overlays, and other provisions as needed to manage areas with unique land use concerns such as pedestrian access, preservation of historical or cultural resources, or environmental sensitivity.
- LU-2.14 **Airport Overlay.** Areas that may be detrimentally affected by airport activities are designated under the Airport Overlay and regulated to limit nuisances and risk. These regulations shall balance the interests of residents and property owners with public safety considerations.
- LU-2.15 **Height Overlay.** Areas where buildings or structures may cross the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 77 “Imaginary Surfaces” map are included in the Height Overlay to ensure that airport operations are protected from height hazards.

► LU-3 **Coordinate land use planning to support the Tacoma Narrows Airport and reduce the impacts of airport operations on the community.**

- LU-3.1 Support the continued growth and development of the general aviation airport facilities at Tacoma Narrows Airport as consistent with the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan and state and federal requirements.
- LU-3.2 Minimize incompatible land uses or the potential for incompatible development and consult with the Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation Division and Tacoma Narrows Airport on land use decisions that may impact the airport.
- LU-3.3 Ensure that zoning regulations consider federal and state requirements regarding those land uses and activities that may impede safe flight operations or contribute to public safety risks related to the airport.

► LU-4 **Provide for the development of high-quality residential neighborhoods with supporting amenities and public services.**

- LU-4.1 Promote a broad choice of housing types, locations, sizes, and tenures to meet local housing needs.
- LU-4.2 Encourage housing options that meet the needs of different household types and ages.

- LU-4.3 Promote and provide public services that meet the needs of the local community in a neighborhood.
- LU-4.4 Ensure that there is a minimum density of four dwelling units per acre in residential areas of the city.
- LU-4.5. Support residential densities across the city that can help meet identified housing targets.
- LU-4.6 Provide incentives such as increased residential development density in exchange for neighborhood public amenities or other public benefits.
- LU-4.7 Preferentially locate higher residential densities in areas that can provide greater local amenities.
- LU-4.8 Manage neighborhood development regulations to optimize the efficient use of land, sustainability of public services, and protection of natural features.
- **LU-5 Coordinate with the Peninsula School District to locate and develop new schools and provide existing schools with essential public services.**
 - LU-5.1 Coordinate joint planning processes with the Peninsula School District to consider:
 - a) capital facilities needs and requirements for school development and expansion,
 - b) school site location decisions,
 - c) joint use of playgrounds/recreational facilities,
 - d) development of facility siting criteria, and
 - e) information sharing about planning needs.
 - LU-5.2 Coordinate with the Peninsula School District about planning for new and expanded educational facilities within the urban growth area.
 - LU-5.3 Promote the fiscal sustainability of school budgets by protecting existing revenue sources such as property taxes and impact fees and exploring new revenue sources and grant funding.
 - LU-5.4 Plan safe pedestrian linkages and routes to schools from residential neighborhoods.
- **LU-6 Protect and enhance groundwater availability and quality through land use protections.**
 - LU-6.1 Avoid siting industrial uses that pose a risk of groundwater contamination, particularly in critical aquifer recharge areas.
 - LU-6.2 Provide incentives for innovative development that reduces impervious coverage to maintain and enhance groundwater recharge.
 - LU-6.3 Address the impacts of on-site septic systems on groundwater quality and minimize or avoid new sources of contamination.

► **LU-7 Protect and enhance surface water quality through land use protections.**

- LU-7.1 Adopt the City Stormwater Comprehensive Plan by reference and implement its provisions as part of land use policy to:
- a) ensure consistency with State and federal clean water guidelines,
 - b) preserve and enhance existing surface water resources,
 - c) eliminate localized flooding, and
 - d) protect the health of Puget Sound.
- LU-7.2 Support Low Impact Development (LID) methods to reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff on-site, and provide a review process and informational materials to promote these options for local development.
- LU-7.3 Allow and encourage alternative site and facility design and surface water management approaches to implement the intent of LID.

► **LU-8 Define and designate suitable open space and preservation areas to meet local environmental and recreational needs.**

- LU-8.1 Restrict or limit development within designated open space/preservation areas using best available science.
- LU-8.2 Encourage land preservation trusts as a long-term approach to manage private areas as open space.
- LU-8.3 Provide bonus density incentives, transfers of development rights, and flexible site development requirements to help preserve private open space while supporting the ability to use the property where possible.
- LU-8.4 Explore the acquisition of high-quality natural areas that can help to achieve the city's environmental and recreational goals.

► **LU-9 Organize effective land use and development planning review processes and coordinate across different city departments and with external government agencies.**

- LU-9.1 Support ongoing improvements to permitting processing times and coordination and information sharing with potential applicants.
- LU-9.2 Encourage coordination across city departments and with outside utility districts and other agencies to reduce challenges with land use and development planning review processes.
- LU-9.3 Resolve land use conflicts and compatibility issues through robust neighborhood planning and engagement processes.
- LU-9.4 Coordinate with Pierce County on the management and processing of land use development applications within the Gig Harbor urban growth areas.

► **LU-10 Develop urban plans and policies that promote public health and encourage physical activity.**

- LU-10.1 Support the development of non-motorized connections between residential neighborhoods, community destinations, and other compatible uses with sidewalks, paths, bike lanes, and other facilities.
- LU-10.2 Require internal pedestrian circulation systems for new and existing commercial, multifamily and single-family developments, and other activity centers.
- LU-10.3 Ensure connections between non-motorized transportation systems and current and future transit facilities.
- LU-10.4 Coordinate non-motorized transportation infrastructure improvements to promote a continuous network for the city.
- LU-10.5 Collaborate with other agencies to promote the safe use of non-motorized transportation.
- LU-10.6 Support smaller-scale neighborhood convenience retail in neighborhoods to meet the daily needs of nearby residents and provide gathering places for the community.
- LU-10.7 Encourage higher-density residential areas close to commercial centers, shops, parks and services.
- LU-10.8 Require a Health Impact Assessment for projects that may result in significant effects on community health.

3 The Harbor

3.1 Introduction

Downtown Gig Harbor is quaint, charming, and historic, and the historical structures and landmarks included in this district represent an important cultural identity that continues to draw visitors, shoppers, and residents to the area. Historically, this draw from the amenities of the downtown has created development pressures on the city and has required the city to grow in the North and Westside of town to accommodate the needs of the new residents while preserving downtown character and form.

Over the last 30 years, Gig Harbor has held multiple public forums and sought public input regarding the future of the waterfront downtown areas and compiled an inventory of historic structures in The Harbor. The following goals and policies reflect the extensive public outreach and input to provide a framework for future growth and vitality that maintains The Harbor's historical context and character.

3.2 Vision for The Harbor

The boundaries of The Harbor are provided below in Exhibit 3-1.

Rooted in the rich cultural heritage of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Squaxin Island and Nisqually Tribes, alongside our maritime traditions, The Harbor reflects the deep connections to our past and serves as a foundation for our future. The Harbor is:

- A vibrant place where residents, visitors and boaters enjoy a walkable waterfront, picturesque views, and the natural environment.
- A place that celebrates and perpetuates the character and traditions of a working waterfront and preserves historic neighborhoods.
- A place that supports and values local retail shops and services.
- A place that provides services for recreational and commercial boating.
- The Harbor is a place where people live, work, play, shop and explore.

Exhibit 3-1. Boundaries of The Harbor.



Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

3.3 Goals and Policies

The goals and policies of this element support a mix of uses along the waterfront in Gig Harbor. These uses include commercial fishing, boating, marine shops, and services, restaurants, and retail shops, as well as residential uses that support this location as a unique community. Over the long term, this area will continue to develop in ways to enhance the recreation, tourism, and marine industries in Gig Harbor, support the waterfront as a local economic asset, and maintain and improve community enjoyment and public access to the water.

- ▶ **HB-1 Promote multimodal transportation opportunities to encourage equitable non-motorized travel through The Harbor and reduce the need for parking in the historic Harbor overlay district while maintaining or improving connections for pedestrians, cyclists, and boaters.**
 - HB-1.1 Support pedestrian access throughout The Harbor using linkages to the public park system.
 - HB-1.2 Support and plan for public transportation opportunities in The Harbor and between The Harbor and the Centers of Local Importance.
 - HB-1.3 Work with public transit agencies to establish and maintain “around town” paratransit and microtransit service throughout the year, allowing residents, visitors and boaters accessibility to and from The Harbor.
- ▶ **HB-2 Create and maintain a pedestrian-friendly environment throughout The Harbor by emphasizing safety, maintenance, and comfort.**
 - HB-2.1 Coordinate traffic calming efforts throughout The Harbor to reduce vehicle speed and enhance roadway safety.
 - HB-2.2 Maintain and enhance an efficient transportation network in The Harbor that balances vehicular mobility with safe, accessible, and integrated non-motorized transportation options, ensuring equitable service levels for all users.
 - HB-2.3 Incorporate features that facilitate pedestrian crossings and improve visibility for drivers and pedestrians.
 - HB-2.4 Provide streetscape amenities such as landscaping, common areas, seating areas, lighting, waste containers and signage that keep with the character and scale of The Harbor.
 - HB-2.5 Promote a safe, inclusive and walkable environment.
 - HB-2.6 Pursue opportunities to widen sidewalks and remove obstacles.
- ▶ **HB-3 Protect the views of the bay from within The Harbor area and from the bay toward The Harbor.**
 - HB-3.1 Require waterfront developments to provide for additional docks, paths, walkways, overlooks, picnic and seating areas, fishing piers or areas, overlooks, and viewpoints as outlined in the Shoreline Management Program.

- HB-3.2 Provide incentives for the protection of view corridors.
- HB-3.3 Explore opportunities to place utility lines underground throughout The Harbor.
- HB-3.4 Maintain and promote trees and vegetation as assets for views, and ensure that sufficient tree protections are in place to prevent unnecessary removal, preserve the natural character of The Harbor, and enhance environmental sustainability.
- HB-3.5 Establish landscape standards to support views of the bay along Harborview and North Harborview Drive throughout The Harbor area, and promote the use of native vegetation wherever feasible.

► **HB-4 Protect the natural and built environment from degradation and pollution.**

- HB-4.1 Encourage sustainable, low-impact land development and building practices in new development and construction, ensuring that The Harbor is free from significant obstruction, pollution or intensive development.
- HB-4.2 Conserve native vegetation along shorelines.
- HB-4.3 Promote well-vegetated shorelines as preferred over vegetation clearance for views or lawns. Allow limited and selective clearing for views and lawns where slope stability and ecological functions are not compromised.
- HB-4.4 Establish incentives for environmental protection to improve the ecological functions in the area.
- HB-4.5 Preserve and protect habitats and associated ecosystems, including the Crescent Creek and Donkey Creek estuaries and critical saltwater habitats. Key habitats include, but are not limited to kelp beds, eelgrass beds and mud flats.
- HB-4.6 Manage the location, construction, operation, and maintenance of shoreline uses and developments to maintain and enhance the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater.

► **HB-5 Establish and manage a well-balanced system of public properties along the waterfront of The Harbor that meet the needs and desires of the community.**

- HB-5.1 Create complementary parks and uses throughout The Harbor. Balance services and active recreational uses for all users of the park system.
- HB-5.2 Develop existing publicly owned shoreline properties to provide additional public access where appropriate.
- HB-5.3 Create a mixture of active and passive recreational uses that do not intrude on the natural features of the shoreline or the residential neighborhoods.
- HB-5.4 Coordinate with outside public and private agencies and organizations to acquire and preserve additional public shoreline and open water access.

HB-5.5 Ensure that publicly owned parks are available for public use and uses that provide the greatest public benefit of residents and visitors alike.

► **HB-6 Retain and protect the unique character of historic business and residential neighborhoods within The Harbor.**

HB-6.1 Define and designate distinct historic neighborhoods within The Harbor, each reflecting its unique character, to address specific concerns, such as appropriate transitions or buffers, while promoting cohesive development that honors the area's cultural heritage.

HB-6.2 Promote design standards and development regulations that respect and enhance the unique character and historical patterns of neighborhoods in The Harbor, ensuring new development complements traditional building features and integrates with the surrounding community. Note that these should be in alignment with the guidelines contained in the **Design Manual**.

HB-6.3 Improve public spaces, streetscapes, and waterfront access with designs that reflect the historic and cultural identity of The Harbor, creating welcoming and vibrant community spaces.

► **HB-7 Maintain the form and design of existing structures through maintenance, adaptive reuse, and design standards that complement the historical form and scale.**

HB-7.1 Preserve the existing heights, setbacks, and massing of historic structures while maintaining an appropriate scale and relationship between buildings in residential and commercial neighborhoods.

HB-7.4 Encourage residential designs that promote interactions with the neighborhood, such as front porches, windows, and other treatments.

HB-7.5 Promote the use of durable and compatible materials that enhance and respect the integrity of historic structures.

HB-7.6 Support architectural designs that align with the historical and cultural aspects of The Harbor.

HB-7.7 Promote the preservation of properties eligible for the city's historic register in forms as close to original as possible.

HB-7.8 Provide incentives and streamlined permitting to encourage the preservation of historical properties eligible for or listed on the city's historic register.

HB-7.9 Consider the needs of adaptive reuse as part of the design standards included in the city's Design Manual.

HB-7.10 Refine the historical district zoning boundaries to acknowledge both the preservation of historic distinctions and the dynamic nature of communities.

► **HB-8 Promote high-quality design and construction for future development that considers the unique historic character and structures of The Harbor.**

- HB-8.1 Emphasize active public orientation of structures by providing common areas and direct access from surrounding public areas (street and waterward), and discouraging blank walls and privacy fences.
- HB-8.2 Develop incentives for mixed-use structures in commercial areas and nodes.
- HB-8.3 Incorporate visual points of interest into building and landscape design that is viewable from the public street.
- HB-8.4 Minimize asphalt coverage along waterfront parcels.
- HB-8.5 Develop a balanced parking strategy for The Harbor that supports economic development by providing adequate visitor and commercial parking while ensuring residents have accessible and convenient parking options to foster a vibrant community atmosphere.
- HB-8.6 Ensure that individual developments complement current and future uses with respect to form, massing, and on- and off-site impacts.
- HB-8.7 Support human-scale development that aligns with existing development and does not deviate significantly from surrounding development in terms of size, location or appearance.

► **HB-9 Support and enhance the cultural heritage of the Tribal Nations and commercial maritime history within The Harbor and its recognition in the community.**

- HB-9.1 Identify, preserve, enhance, and promote Gig Harbor's multicultural heritage, emphasizing both that of the local Tribal Nations and maritime fishing traditions as integral to the community's evolution. This encompasses the historical narratives of the city and its neighborhoods, along with traditions and cultural features, including significant historical sites, buildings, artworks, objects, views, and monuments that reflect the contributions of the First People and the maritime fishing community.
- HB-9.2 Support the commercial fishing fleet as a significant historical and cultural resource.
- HB-9.3 Identify and incorporate significant historical and cultural lands, sites, artifacts, and facilities into the design and development of the public waterfront.
- HB-9.4 Promote educational initiatives that raise awareness of the cultural heritage Tribal Nations within Gig Harbor, highlighting the history, traditions, and contributions of local Tribal communities to enrich community understanding and appreciation.
- HB-9.5 Support organizations that provide cultural programs and activities to the public.
- HB-9.6 Provide incentives for preservation and increased public access to historic sites and structures.

- HB-9.7 Support the installation of public art and informational signage that celebrate and reflect the heritage of Tribal communities within Gig Harbor, fostering a deeper connection to the land and its original inhabitants.
- HB-9.8 Engage with local Tribal partners in the planning and development of cultural heritage projects, ensuring their voices are heard and their perspectives are integrated into community events and initiatives.

► **HB-10 Support a mix of uses in The Harbor, including fishing, boating, retail, commercial, and residential uses.**

- HB-10.1 Promote a balance of jobs and housing in The Harbor to encourage a balanced neighborhood.
- HB-10.2 Encourage street-level commercial and retail uses to support pedestrian experience.
- HB-10.3 Increase the number of residential units in mixed-use commercial nodes.
- HB-10.4 Balance services, amenities, and other uses within The Harbor to promote necessary access by residents, workers, and visitors.

► **HB-11 Encourage a diverse mix of housing types, sizes, and densities compatible with the neighborhoods within The Harbor.**

- HB-11.1 Support development of a mix of attached and detached housing units in The Harbor.
- HB-11.2 Ensure that residential development standards for attached and detached accessory dwelling units on a single family lot enhance the character of the established neighborhood.
- HB-11.3 Promote fair and equal access to housing for all persons and prohibit any activity that results in discrimination in housing.

► **HB-12 Encourage a strong, diversified, and sustainable economy for Gig Harbor that respects the natural and cultural environment and supports a high quality of life in the community.**

- HB-12.1 Regularly review regulations and procedures to encourage economic vitality within The Harbor.
- HB-12.2 Coordinate with the downtown businesses, property owners and community groups on efforts to establish a stronger economic base in The Harbor.
- HB-12.3 Support innovative solutions for parking issues that would not impact the historical structures or waterfront, such as the development of shared parking programs and shuttle services,.
- HB-12.4 Encourage historical and cultural preservation that can support economic development.

► **HB-13 Support business retention, attraction, and expansion in The Harbor to provide the jobs, products and services that support and enhance the vibrant, historic, and culturally diverse Harbor.**

- HB-13.1 Identify and implement local business attraction, retention, and expansion strategies targeted to economic sectors that could support additional local employment.
- HB-13.2 Promote small businesses, especially startup businesses owned by or employing local residents.
- HB-13.3 Collaborate with local organizations to enhance and ensure the viability and vitality of The Harbor business community.
- HB-13.4 Provide home occupation guidelines and standards for home-based businesses in residential neighborhoods that encourage entrepreneurship while minimizing impacts to of the surrounding neighborhoods.
- HB-13.5 Encourage community activities in commercial districts that can attract potential customers to local businesses.
- HB-13.6 Support small-scale entertainment venues for theater and musical performances.

► **HB-14 Increase economic opportunities through new investment.**

- HB-14.1 Support the reuse or revitalization of older buildings and redevelopment of vacant properties in areas requiring additional investment.
- HB-14.2 Provide incentives to encourage the revitalization of commercial areas, when appropriate, such as:
 - a) Reduced fees for permits or utility connections;
 - b) Waivers from height, bulk, and density requirements;
 - c) Expedited permit processing;
 - d) Property tax incentive programs, including, but not limited to Multi-Family Tax Exemptions; and
 - e) Reduced parking standards.
- HB-14.3 Encourage special improvement districts and other programs necessary for revitalization of older business and commercial areas of The Harbor that can also provide public benefits and are appropriate to the long-range goals of the city.

► **HB-15 Promote The Harbor, bay and related waterfront lands with improvements and features that support uses related to commercial and recreational boating and water activities.**

- HB-15.1 Promote innovative concepts such as mixed-use developments, buffer zone setbacks, and common shoreline or dock improvements that can help conserve and improve valuable fishing and recreational water activities within The Harbor.

HB-15.2 Support temporary docking facilities for visiting vessels that retain open surface water area for watercraft circulation.

HB-15.3 Explore the appropriateness and viability of the development of a fuel dock for boating needs.

HB-15.4 Allow supportive uses and services for boaters, commercial crews, and residents.

HB-15.5 Protect adequate navigation corridors and access within the bay.

► **HB-16 Promote and preserve the Gig Harbor commercial fishing fleet as a significant cultural and economic resource.**

HB-16.1 Allow over-water, water-dependent development that directly supports the commercial fishing industry, such as net sheds and load/unloading docks.

HB-16.2 Allow and encourage supporting sales and services related to the commercial fishing industry, such as marine fueling facilities or direct dock sales of sea food products.

HB-16.3 Encourage the development of facilities that support the commercial fishing industry while ensuring that such advancements are balanced with the historic scale of existing development in The Harbor. This includes the retention and thoughtful redevelopment or reuse of waterfront properties that facilitate commercial fishing activities.

HB-16.4 Promote local commercial fishing as an important component of the economic, cultural, and community life of Gig Harbor through educational opportunities and community events.

HB-16.5 Encourage the development of additional moorage and docking facilities consistent with local commercial fishing needs.

4 Community Design

4.1 Introduction

The way our community looks and feels affects how we experience it and interact with each other. A vibrant community invites people to engage, sparks curiosity, and fosters connections. It promotes people to gather in various centers and open spaces, promotes economic vitality for local businesses, and provides unique experiences for residents, workers, and visitors. Overall, a community focused on people-centered design enhances our experience of being in a place where we want to live, work, and play.

We have defined the unique aesthetic of Gig Harbor to include design features and characteristics such as:

- Connectivity for all people between destinations in the city;
- The beauty of the natural landscape and the views and vistas of the landscape from the community;
- Historical and cultural resources within the city which are supported and preserved for future generations;
- Architectural styles and built form that provide for a human-scaled environment that reflects the city's history and the distinctiveness of local neighborhoods;
- Natural conditions and features integrated into the built environment, such as native trees and forest communities; and
- A working waterfront which is the focus of outdoor activity and coordinates compatible uses and the preservation of views.

To these ends, the Community Design Element of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan guides the urban form in the city and defines the relationship between the built environment and the natural environment. It identifies goals and policies with a focus on visual and functional people-centered design to foster a cohesive and vibrant community and create a sense of place throughout the city. With an approach that integrates planning, architecture, and landscape architecture, the Community Design Element strengthens Gig Harbor's unique identity and ensures that future growth enhances the city's overall quality of life.

These goals and policies serve as guidelines for development, aiming to preserve and enhance Gig Harbor's character. These will be supported by specific guidelines and considerations in development regulations to help shape our community's future.

4.2 Goals and Policies

► CD-1 Strengthen connectivity between people and places.

- CD-1.1 Require new commercial development to incorporate outdoor people-oriented common spaces for public use.

- CD-1.2 Encourage structures, entry ways, landscaping, and common areas to be oriented to the public right-of-way with parking uses to the side or rear.
- CD-1.3 Encourage facades that face the neighborhood and provide engagement with public rights-of-way and public spaces.
- CD-1.4 Promote people-centered building and streetscape design that minimizes the impacts of parking.
- CD-1.5 Encourage outdoor vending in common areas to provide color, activity, and a sense of vibrancy to commercial areas.
- CD-1.6 Provide for displays of public art and space for temporary uses as part of common areas.

► **CD-2 Provide for pedestrian and non-motorized transportation connections in the city.**

- CD-2.1 Support connections between new developments and existing uses with connecting paths and sidewalks.
- CD-2.2 Promote pedestrian access through corridors and gateways that address barriers to movement.
- CD-2.3 Minimize impervious areas designed exclusively for motor vehicles.
- CD-2.4 Coordinate with Pierce Transit on providing user-friendly bus stops in the city with regular service, supporting amenities, and consistent wayfinding.
- CD-2.5 Develop a master trails plan for the City to support a pedestrian and non-motorized transportation network between recreational, commercial, and residential areas.

► **CD-3 Enhance the local sense of place by maintaining and enhancing historically significant structures, views, and cultural resources.**

- CD-3.1 Identify significant vistas, view corridors, and view termination points.
- CD-3.2 Preserve the visual quality of corner lots and view terminal points by discouraging asphalt-intensive uses on these parcels without screening or landscaping.
- CD-3.3 Designate visually sensitive areas for highly visible or prominent sites that would require increased landscaping and screening of visually distracting.
- CD-3.4 Encourage larger areas of greenery to provide a greater visual impact.

► **CD-4 Encourage a sense of arrival into the city and specific neighborhoods.**

- CD-4.1 Limit freeway exposure and visibility of development.
- CD-4.2 Develop city gateways with formal landscaping, information kiosks, public art or civic structures at intersections near freeway off-ramps and arterials entering the city.
- CD-4.3 Identify and develop gateways for neighborhoods to distinguish and highlight these areas.

► **CD-5 Promote architectural styles that reflect the city’s historical and natural context and human-scale design.**

- CD-5.1 Encourage pitched, varied roof lines for new structures and discourage boxy, single-mass buildings in lower-density neighborhoods.
- CD-5.2 Encourage building designs with a visual and functional distinction between the ground floor and higher levels.
- CD-5.3 Encourage mixed-use structures that provide good form, neighborhood character, and public benefits.
- CD-5.4 Promote the use of primary structures as focal points on a site through distinctive design and higher building heights.

► **CD-6 Encourage distinctive building and site designs to distinguish and enhance neighborhoods.**

- CD-6.1 Develop neighborhood design standards and guidelines that reflect the existing characteristics of these neighborhoods and enhance local neighborhood quality.
- CD-6.2 Consider the following individual neighborhood design areas for detailed design standards or guidelines, as designated on the Neighborhood Design Areas Map:
 - a) View Basin.
 - b) Soundview.
 - c) Gig Harbor North.
 - d) Peacock Hill.
 - e) Rosedale/Hunt.
 - f) Westside.
 - g) Bujacich Road / NW Industrial.
- CD-6.3 Consider the following elements as part of neighborhood design standards and guidelines:
 - a) Natural Vegetation and Topography
 - b) Trails, Parks and Open Space
 - c) Sidewalks and Circulation
 - d) Parking and Building Orientation
 - e) Historical Buildings and Uses
 - f) Building to Building Relationships

- g) Housing Patterns
- h) Architectural Quality and Character
- i) Site Amenities

► **CD-7 Maintain and incorporate local natural conditions into design.**

- CD-7.1 Incorporate existing vegetation into new residential developments and encourage site designs that preserve high-quality vegetation currently on the site.
- CD-7.2 Retain high-quality native trees and understory where feasible.
- CD-7.3 Encourage native vegetation plantings.
- CD-7.4 Provide for buffers and clustered open spaces that are consistent with the scale of development and needs for screening.
- CD-7.5 Encourage property owners to preserve native forest communities and tree canopies and maintain the health of trees and vegetation on their land.
- CD-7.6 Maximize opportunities for creating usable, attractive, and well-integrated open space in new developments.
- CD-7.7 Respect existing topography and minimize visual impacts of site grading.

► **CD-8 Residential developments should be designed to support and enhance local quality of life in Gig Harbor.**

- CD-8.1 Provide for the parking necessary for residents and visitors while minimizing impacts to safety, aesthetics, and the environment.
- CD-8.2 Consider changes to lot and building orientation, yard size, and setbacks in areas with increasing residential density to support existing character and maintain high quality in the local built environment.
- CD-8.3 Encourage sustainable land development and building practices in new residential projects.

► **CD-9 Preserve views to the waterfront.**

- CD-9.1 Identify associated visual points of interest and their point of reference from prominent public places and from individual parcels.
- CD-9.2 Incorporate points of interest associated with waterfront views into building and landscape design.

► **CD-10 Establish design standards for the waterfront to ensure compatible land uses, architecture, and neighborhood design.**

- CD-10.1 Preserve historical structures along the waterfront related to the city's rich history in the fishing industry.
- CD-10.2 Encourage modern interpretations of historical building designs in new construction.
- CD-10.3 Ensure compatibility in form and scale with historical structures and landmarks along the waterfront.
- CD-10.4 Encourage building materials that complement Gig Harbor's historical structures.

► **CD-11 Develop the waterfront as a place of outdoor activity.**

- CD-11.1 Encourage outdoor activities along the commercial waterfront zones with outdoor dining locations, play areas, spaces for civic events, and other public spaces.
- CD-11.2 Develop public art displays at the waterfront.
- CD-11.3 Design protective features to improve the comfort of outdoor public spaces and allow them to be used year-round.
- CD-11.4 Minimize asphalt coverage and hard surfaces along waterfront, especially with respect to parking.
- CD-11.5 Use treatments and materials such as colored, textured or grass-block pavers to break up hard surfaces along the waterfront.
- CD-11.6 Encourage human-scale development with ground-level uses and designs that complement the streetscape.

► **CD-12 Preserve structures with important historical, architectural, and/or cultural significance.**

- CD-12.1 Encourage retention and adaptive reuse of older buildings with development incentives.
- CD-12.2 Provide financial incentives such as low-interest loans, tax credits or grants for historical preservation.
- CD-12.3 Provide design assistance and resources to support historical preservation and restoration projects.
- CD-12.4 Recognize outstanding preservation efforts through public awareness programs.

► **CD-13 Preserve neighborhood character in areas that include building styles reflective of historical development.**

- CD-13.1 Establish a Historic Conservation Area to encourage local preservation and maintain the character of historical areas of the city.
- CD-13.2 Provide design assistance for restoration, renovation or expansion of historic structures.

CD-13.3 Incorporate considerations of historical preservation and reuse into administrative design review processes.

CD-13.4 Minimize impacts of city projects on the integrity and use of historical structures and neighborhoods.

► **CD-14 Consider historical preservation and reuse in the development of zoning regulations.**

CD-14.1 Adopt setback standards which reflect historic development patterns. CD-14.2 Allow housing clusters consistent with historical densities.

CD-14.3 Encourage building forms, designs, and materials that are consistent with historical buildings.

CD-14.4 Retain desirable design characteristics of historical districts.

CD-14.5 Provide parking design standards to address needs while avoiding significant aesthetic and environmental impacts.

CD-14.6. Explore the use of facade and/or streetscape improvement programs.

5 Environment

5.1 Introduction

The Environment Element of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan is integral to ensuring long-term ecological health and resilience for the city by addressing these requirements through detailed, coordinated goals and policies. The overall intent is to support the well-being of current residents and future generations and incorporate a systems approach to planning and decision-making that can protect natural resources, conserve key habitats, and restore ecosystems.

To these ends, this element sets forth detailed goals and policies to be implemented through development regulations, environmental programs, and partnerships with community environmental groups. It emphasizes the importance of respecting the natural environment by maintaining harmonious relationships between urban development and ecological systems. Key strategies include protecting tributary drainage systems, enforcing buffer zones along streams, safeguarding floodplains, and preserving wetlands. The element sets expectations to mitigate the impacts of urban development on environmental quality or public health. This element will also work in conjunction with the future Climate Element to coordinate environmental protection with climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Gig Harbor shall engage in regular consultation and collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Nisqually Indian Tribe to protect and restore natural resources, including water, fish habitats, and forested areas, which hold cultural, ecological, and economic significance to these Tribal Nations. The City shall work to integrate Tribal resource management practices into local conservation efforts, ensuring that Tribal knowledge and traditions are considered in environmental protection plans.

5.2 Goals and Policies

- **EN-1 Respect the natural environment and maintain a harmonious relationship with the built environment.**
 - EN-1.1 Implement and enforce performance and development standards in areas which are subject to moderate and severe environmental hazards.
 - EN-1.2 Enhance water and wetland resources through the promotion of state and local programs to enhance the Puget Sound watershed.
 - EN-1.3 Protect perennial streams, ponds, springs, marshes, swamps, wet spots, bogs and other surface tributary collection areas from development or alterations which would alter or impede natural drainage capabilities or contaminate surface water.

- EN-1.4 Maintain and restore riparian buffer zones for all streams and wetlands to allow for the free flow of surface water and to protect surface water quality.
- EN-1.5 Protect alluvial soils, tidal pools, retention ponds, and other floodplains or flooded areas from development which would alter the pattern or capacity of the floodway, or interfere with the natural drainage process by prioritizing Low Impact Development for stormwater control and soft armoring over hard armoring on shorelines.
- EN-1.6 Provide control zones and performance standards for development around retention pond dams and along the tidal beaches to protect against dam breaches, severe storms, and other natural hazards or failures.
- EN-1.7 Protect soils with extremely poor permeability from development to prevent surface and groundwater contamination erosion of natural drainage channels, overflow of natural drainage systems, and other hazards.
- EN-1.8 Maintain performance standards for existing septic sewage drainage fields, especially in areas which are prone to septic field failure, and evaluate long-term strategy for incentivizing property owners on septic systems to connect to the city's sewer system.
- EN-1.9 Protect areas with high water tables from uses which contaminate ground water.
- EN-1.10 Limit development on soils with very poor compressive strengths, like muck, peat bogs and some clay and silt deposits.
- EN-1.11 Maintain performance standards for development in areas with shallow depths to bedrock or bedrock escarpments, particularly in areas with landslide hazards.
- EN-1.12 Protect soils with poor compressive strengths on steep slopes with shallow depths to bedrock, impermeable subsurface deposits, or other characteristics which are susceptible to landslide or land slumps.
- EN-1.13 Enforce performance standards governing development on moderate to steep slopes with soils, ground covers, surface drainage features, or other characteristics susceptible to erosion.
- EN-1.14 Preserve, protect, and restore wetlands to achieve no net loss of wetland area and wetland functions, enhance habitat for anadromous fisheries, and promote restoring and protecting the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem.
- EN-1.15 Protect, maintain and enhance fish and wildlife conservation areas to promote their natural geographic distribution and avoid the fragmentation of a species' population into smaller, isolated groups.
- EN-1.16 Conserve and restore native shoreline vegetation where new development or uses are proposed to maintain and enhance shoreline ecological functions and processes.

► **EN-2 Conserve natural resources and preserve and enhance wildlife habitat to maintain our ecological heritage and steward a healthy future for coming generations.**

- EN-2.1 Rural agricultural lands should not be included within the Urban Growth Area.
- EN-2.2 Forest lands of long-term commercial significance should be excluded from the Urban Growth Area, with lands containing commercially valuable timber considered for conversion to non-forestry uses in accordance with the Forest Practices Act (Chapter 76.09 RCW), while prioritizing sustainable land management practices and mitigating environmental impacts during conversion.
- EN-2.3 The City should continue to recognize mineral extraction operations on limited sites and allow their continued operation while managing their compatibility with urban land uses.
- EN-2.4 Maintain standards for the development and conservation of natural open space areas and wildlife habitat, using clustered development patterns and other land use mechanisms.
- EN-2.5 Protect wetland areas with prime wildlife habitat characteristics through the use of site retention ponds, natural drainage methods and other site improvements.
- EN-2.6 Protect wooded areas with prime woodland habitat characteristics using buffer zones, common areas, trails and paths, and other innovative concepts to conserve and increase woodland habitats.

► **EN-3 Incorporate environmental suitability and the protection of ecological functions into land use management.**

- EN-3.1 Allocate high-density urban development to lands suitable for supporting urban uses that minimize environmental risks and impacts from severe environmental hazards.
- EN-3.2 Incorporate environmental concerns into performance standards, with requirements for project approvals that minimize environmental hazards and public nuisances.

► **EN-4 Establish performance standards governing noise, air, light, glare and other operating characteristics of uses that may impact the public.**

- EN-4.1 Require new development to minimize or mitigate noise impacts, particularly along major highways like State Route 16, airport approach areas, and other essential public facilities, and adopt regulations for achieving and maintaining acceptable noise levels.
- EN-4.2 Support development, land uses and management practices which reduce air pollution, increase the use of renewable energy, and discourage wasteful use of fossil fuels.
- EN-4.3 Maintain stormwater performance standards to prevent water contamination and erosion of surface water drainage channels and reduce stormwater volumes and velocities.
- EN-4.4 Coordinate with local and state agencies in promoting public education on the proper use of fertilizers and pesticides.

- EN-4.5 Maintain performance standards for the dumping of wastes, trapping of greases and other byproducts which can be carried into the stormwater drainage system.
- EN-4.6 Maintain performance standards governing the emission of carbons, gases and particulates, and the creation of smoke, dust and other polluting byproducts that degrade air quality.
- EN 4.7 Promote the use of Low-Impact Development (LID) practices in all new construction and redevelopment to minimize stormwater runoff, protect water quality, and preserve natural hydrological systems, while supporting sustainable growth and resilient infrastructure.
- **EN-5 Implement and regularly update the adopted Climate Action Plan, ensuring alignment with community goals, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing climate resilience through measureable actions and ongoing monitoring**
 - EN-5.1 Develop and maintain an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled to support climate action strategies.
 - EN-5.2 Implement energy-efficiency improvements for city-owned properties.
 - EN-5.3 Work to transition from fossil fuel use to renewable energy sources for city assets, including the city fleet.
 - EN-5.4 Promote energy-efficiency improvements and use of renewable energy sources for new and existing commercial and residential buildings and private vehicles in the community.
 - EN-5.5 Coordinate climate change planning with future planning and development processes to prepare for impacts that could threaten public safety or property and degrade the environment.
 - EN-5.6 Collaborate and share information with local, regional, state organizations and business groups, and participate in regional efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
 - EN-5.7 Provide community education and outreach on the causes and potential impacts of climate change and initiatives coordinated by the city to address these issues.
 - EN-5.8 Ensure that efforts to alleviate climate change impacts address the equity and social justice implications of climate change.
 - EN-5.9 Encourage consolidation of alternative renewable energy opportunities by promoting shared installations, streamlining permitting processes, and fostering partnerships between public and private sectors to maximize access on municipal properties, public buildings, and community spaces.

6 Housing

6.1 Introduction

Housing is an important component of the community in Gig Harbor and is impacted both by historical development and future growth needs. The city originated as a small town devoted to fishing and boat building, and as such Gig Harbor's housing initially developed to support these local industries and fostered a close-knit, small-town atmosphere. This character remains evident in The Harbor area today, where our maritime heritage continues to influence the local housing landscape.

As Gig Harbor has transitioned into a bedroom community within the growing Puget Sound region the challenge now is to manage new development while preserving the unique small-town feel that residents value. The growing population has led to more suburban-style development on the city's outskirts, including more sprawling housing developments and intensive developments near economic centers. This shift has broadened housing options in the city but also reflects a move away from the historical patterns of development. Balancing growth pressures with the desire to retain Gig Harbor's distinctive character is a primary policy concern, so that ongoing growth can respect and celebrate the city's heritage and community values.

To address these changes in need, the Housing Element of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan outlines strategies to accommodate future growth while maintaining and enhancing the city's livability and character. As per the requirements under RCW [36.70A.070\(2\)](#), this Element must include the following:

- An inventory and analysis of existing and projected housing needs, including units for moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income households, emergency housing, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing.
- Provisions for housing preservation, improvement, and development, including middle housing options.
- The identification of sufficient land capacity for various housing types, including housing needs of all economic segments.
- Programs and actions needed for housing availability, including funding gaps and regulatory barriers.
- Actions to address and undo current and historical issues with racially disparate impacts, displacement, and exclusion in housing.
- Anti-displacement policies that consider historical and cultural communities and low-income households.

This Element includes the following discussions on the housing context in Gig Harbor:

- Historical growth and housing targets.
- Characteristics of the current housing stock in the city.
- Historical production trends for housing and expected capacity to meet future needs.

- A discussion of racial equity and the potential for housing displacement.

This section provides a summary of this information, with more details included in the Appendix to the Comprehensive Plan.

6.2 Housing in Gig Harbor

6.2.1 Historical Growth and Housing Targets

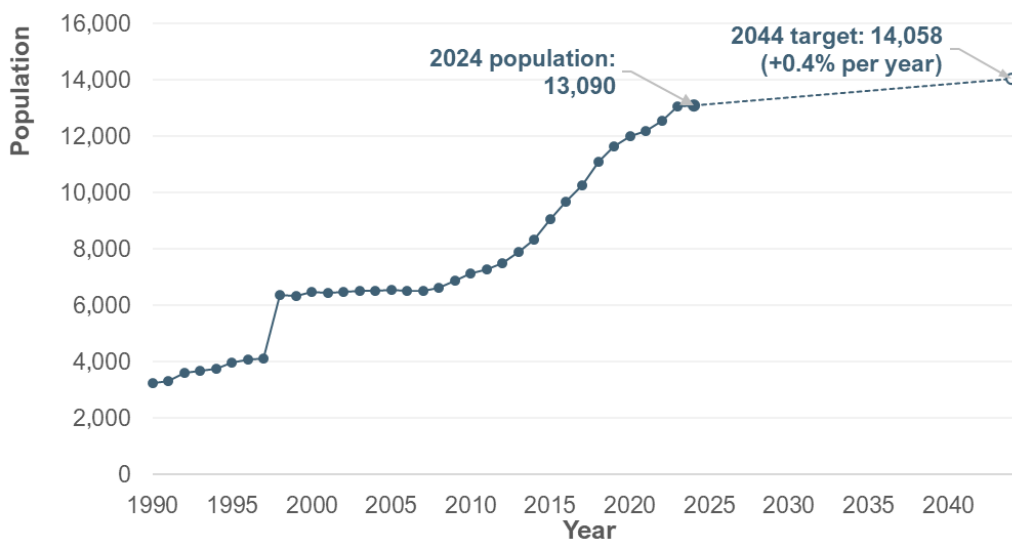
Under the Growth Management Act, the city is required to plan to the housing targets necessary to address projected growth over the next 20 years. These targets include the following:

- Overall growth targets to meet general needs for population growth.
- Housing to meet the needs of different economic segments of the population, as determined through the Pierce County CPPs.
- Housing to meet special needs in the city for households and individuals that are usually housing insecure, including permanent supportive housing (PSH) and emergency housing capacity.

These targets are drawn from the Pierce County CPPs for Pierce County, with the specific housing targets provided as part of Pierce County [Ordinance 2023-22s](#).

The following exhibits describe the housing targets and historical trends for the population and housing in Gig Harbor. provides the historical population of the city and expected growth to 2044 under the current targets.

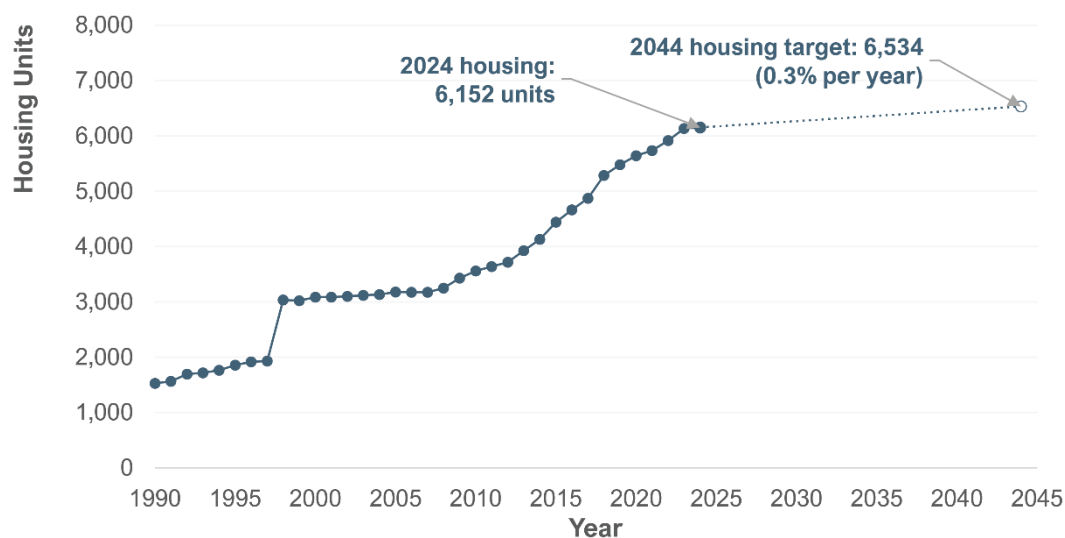
Exhibit 6-1. Current and Projected Gig Harbor Population, 1990–2044.



Sources: WA Office of Financial Management, 2024; Pierce County, 2023.

Exhibit 6-2 includes similar historical information but provides this for the number of homes in Gig Harbor and the expected construction necessary to meet growth targets by 2044.

Exhibit 6-2. Current and Projected Gig Harbor Housing Units, 1990–2044.



Sources: WA Office of Financial Management, 2024; Pierce County, 2023.

provides a breakdown of 2044 housing targets by household income based on Area Median Income (AMI) for Pierce County, and includes details on targets by housing types. provides a chart that highlights these targets and includes additional targets for emergency and permanent supportive housing.

These charts break down the goal for new housing as shown in Exhibit 6-2 above, and include different classifications by household income categories:

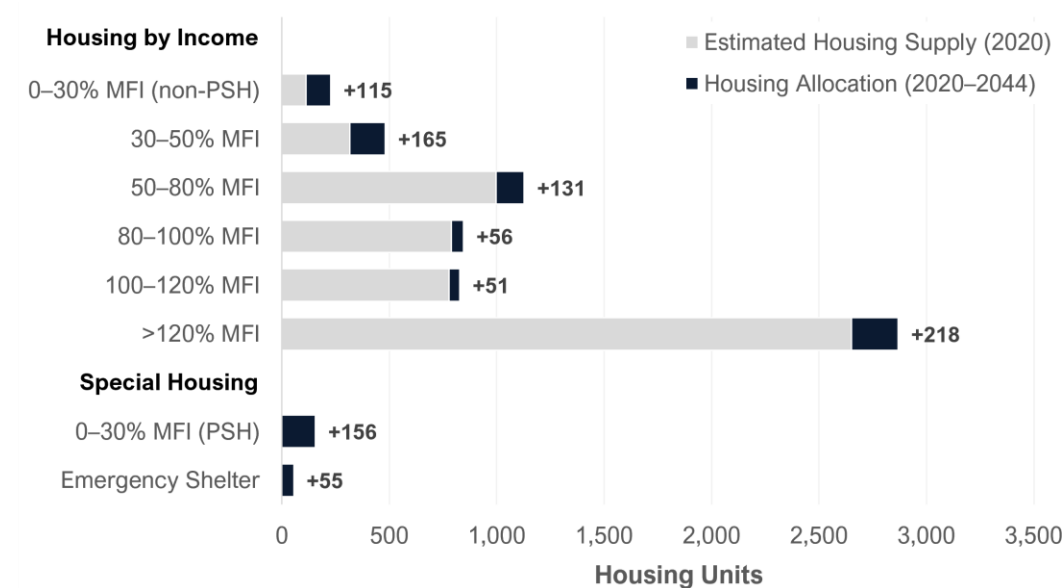
- **Extremely low income**, making 30% or less of Area Median Income (AMI);
- **Very low income**, making 30–50% of AMI;
- **Low income**, making 50–80% of AMI;
- **Moderate income**, making 80–120% of AMI (divided between above and below median; and
- **Higher income** households making above 120% AMI.

In this context, “area median income” (also known as “median family income”) represents the projected median income for a family of four in Pierce County. This is adjusted by household size and is the typical measure of income used for housing policy in the US. Under guidelines for compliance with the GMA, the city needs to demonstrate that it can meet the needs of different income levels in the community with different types of housing that will likely be affordable for households.

Exhibit 6-3. Gig Harbor Housing Growth Targets with Housing Types Needed, 2020–2044.

Target Category	Target Increase	Net Change, 2020–2024	Remaining, 2024–2044	Type of Housing
Extremely low-income (0–30% AMI)				
<i>Permanent supportive housing</i>	+156	+2	+565	Low- and mid-rise apartments that include rental assistance and supportive services for residents, often serving as rapid re-housing for chronically homeless individuals.
<i>Other housing units</i>	+115			Low- and mid-rise apartments, potentially with significant public support/subsidies.
Very low-income (30–50% AMI)	+165			Low- and mid-rise apartments and condos, including ADUs.
Low-income (50–80% AMI)	+131	+10	+97	Moderate “middle” housing, including plex and townhome development
Moderate-income (80–100% AMI)	+56			
Moderate-income (100–120% AMI)	+51			
Higher income (120% of more)	+218	+500	-	Low-density detached single-family homes
Total Housing Units	+892	+512	+662	

Sources: Pierce County, 2023; WA Department of Commerce, 2023; WA Office of Financial Management, 2024.

Exhibit 6-4. Gig Harbor Housing Needs by Income Level and Allocation, 2020–2044.

Source: Pierce County, 2023.

Based on this information about housing needs, we can reach the following conclusions to guide policy:

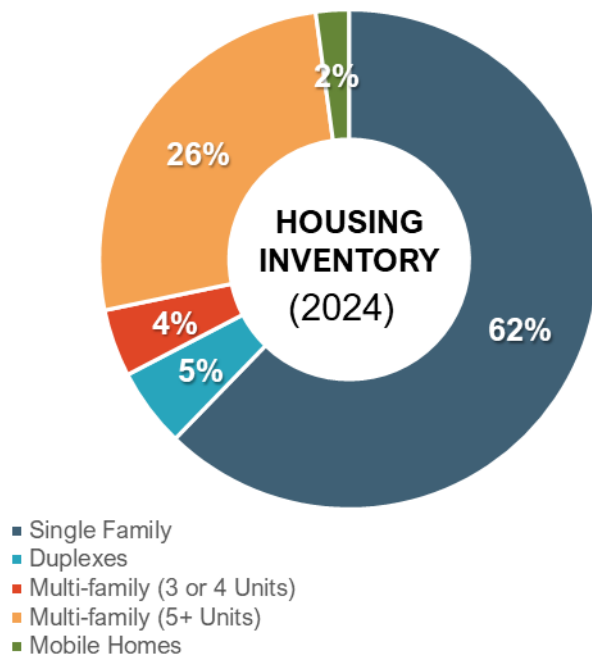
- **Modest population growth is expected for Gig Harbor under identified targets.** Under the housing targets adopted by Pierce County, a net increase of 892 housing units is required to meet housing growth targets within the 2020–2044 period. As statistics from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) have suggested that about 510 housing units were built between 2020 and 2024, this leaves around 382 housing units over the next 20 years (about 19 units per year) to meet the base targets alone (without considering the distribution according to affordability).
- **Additional residential development will be needed to achieve housing to provide for the needs of lower-income households.** While the absolute target for housing growth will be easily achieved based on trends, a concern is that middle housing and especially multifamily housing targets will also need to be met. Based on OFM calculations, meeting the requirements of housing types by income categories will require the development of an additional net 662 units of middle and multifamily housing types. This may require discussions with the County regarding changes to the overall housing allocations, as achieving these targets strategically could exceed current growth targets for the city.
- **Coordination will be necessary to identify how to achieve special housing targets.** Aside from the general targets, action will also be needed to address emergency shelters, transitional housing, emergency housing, and permanent supportive housing (“STEP” housing) and supportive services. This is important as this type of housing is not well represented in the city in 2024 and will need to be planned to mitigate the issue of homelessness in Gig Harbor.

6.2.2

6.2.2 Current Stock and Development Trends

Characteristics of current housing stock and recent development in Gig Harbor are summarized in this section. Exhibit 6-5 provides a breakdown of the current housing stock in Gig Harbor as of 2024:

Exhibit 6-5. Gig Harbor Housing Inventory by Type, 2024.

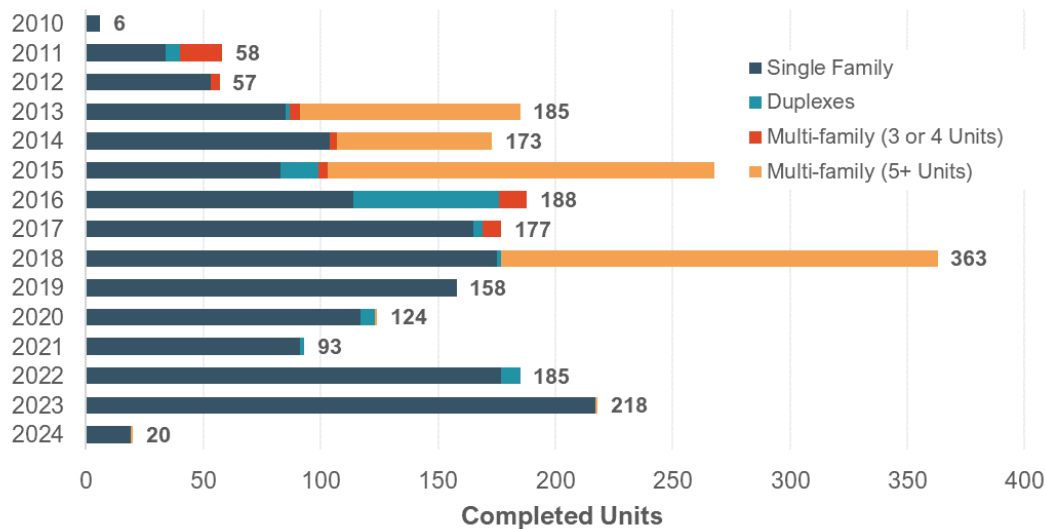


Sources: WA Office of Financial Management, 2024; Pierce County, 2023.

For the city's current stock of housing, single-family housing comprises the majority of homes, including about 62% of the housing stock. Smaller middle housing such as plexes amount to about 9% of this total, with multifamily housing consisting of 26%. Note that mobile homes are found in the city as well and include about 2% of the total housing; this can be important as these housing types are often a source of affordable housing and can require protection.

Exhibit 6-6 presents new housing developed in Gig Harbor each year from 2014 to 2024:

Exhibit 6-6. Gig Harbor Housing Completed by Type, 2010–2024.

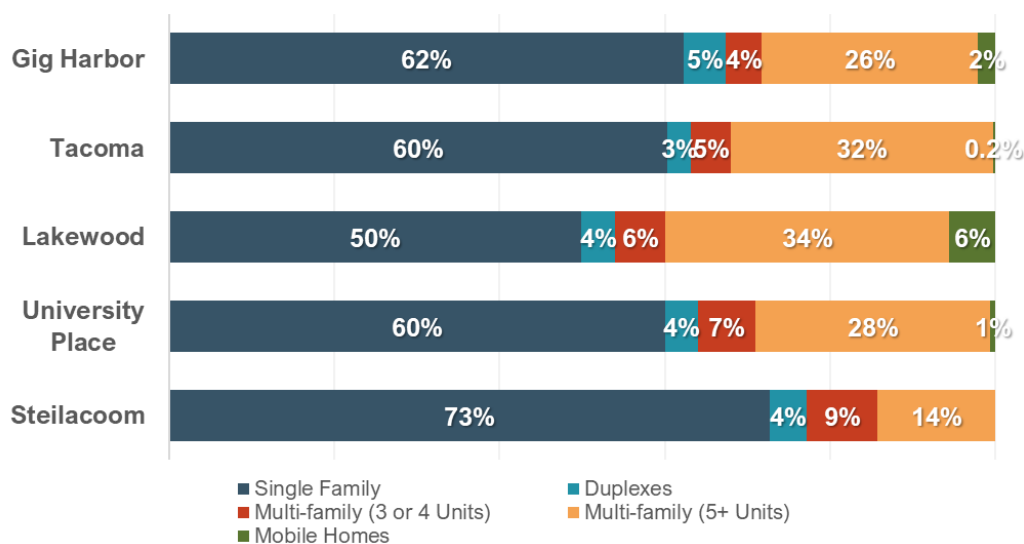


Source: WA Office of Financial Management, 2024; Pierce County, 2023.

Although there were some significant completions of multifamily housing between 2013 and 2018 in Gig Harbor, about 70% of housing developed since 2010 has been single-family housing, with housing developed after 2019 consisting of single-family with a small amount of duplex development.

Exhibit 6-7 compares the breakdown by type to proportions found in other communities in Pierce County:

Exhibit 6-7. Proportion of Housing Stock by Type, Gig Harbor and Nearby Communities, 2024.

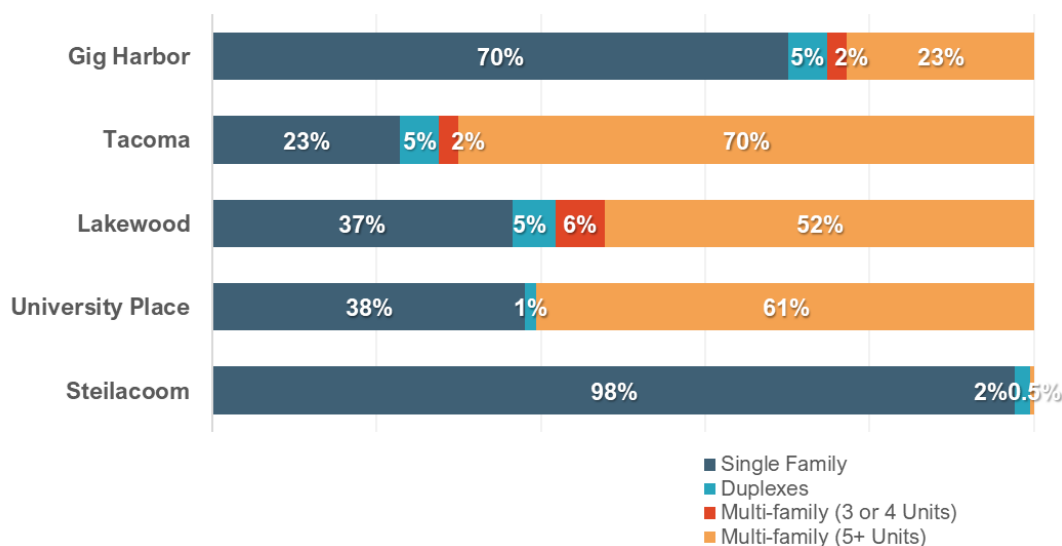


Sources: WA Office of Financial Management, 2024; Pierce County, 2023.

As noted above, about 62% of Gig Harbor's housing stock is comprised of single-family housing. This is comparable to Tacoma and University Place (60% of total housing). However, Steilacoom has a greater proportion of single-family housing (73%), while Gig Harbor has less housing as single-family (50%). While the proportion of multifamily housing with five or more units is smaller than most communities, middle housing with two to four units is comparable to the 8–13% of total housing found in other communities.

Exhibit 6-8 compares the proportion of total housing developed over this period for other communities in Pierce County.

Exhibit 6-8. Housing Completed by Type, Gig Harbor and Nearby Communities, 2010–2024.



Source: WA Office of Financial Management, 2024; Pierce County, 2023.

This highlights that much of the recent growth in housing in Gig Harbor has been with single-family housing types. For communities such as Lakewood and University Place, new multifamily development has amounted to 50–60% of new units since 2010, while only 23% of new units in Gig Harbor have been multifamily. Additional residential development targeting lower household incomes will be necessary for meeting future growth targets, as highlighted previously. However, as indicated from recent development trends, this will require a significant change from construction that has occurred since 2019.

6.2.3 Market Trends and Affordability

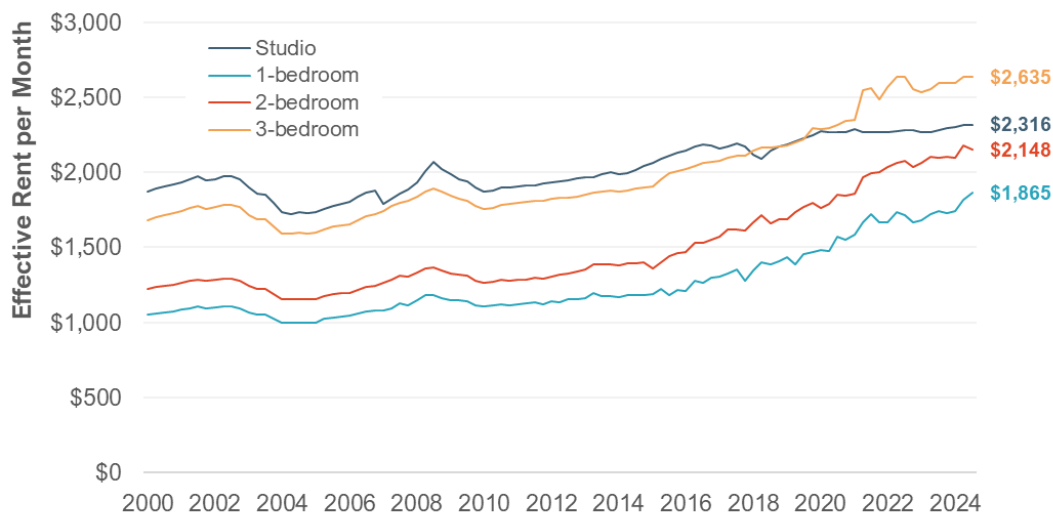
In addition to housing production, a greater understanding of the trends involved with the prices and affordability of housing can be important to determine policy needs and potential areas of concern in both the short and long term.

Exhibit 6-9 provides a breakdown of rents in Gig Harbor by unit size from 2000 to 2024, and Exhibit 6-10 describes the trends of the ratio between rents and local median family income adjusted by household size from 2012 to 2024 (with estimated values used for 2023 and 2024). includes estimates of rent growth for Gig Harbor and Pierce County since 2000.

According to these statistics, studio apartments have seen much higher rents, both in absolute dollars and as a proportion of median family income for Pierce County. This is due to the newer vintage of these units, although rents for these units have declined over time. Conversely, other units with one to three bedrooms have remained constant with some recent estimated declines in the ratio between rent and income. This suggests that generally these units are becoming more affordable in aggregate when compared to previous years, but note that this does not show the full distribution of households.

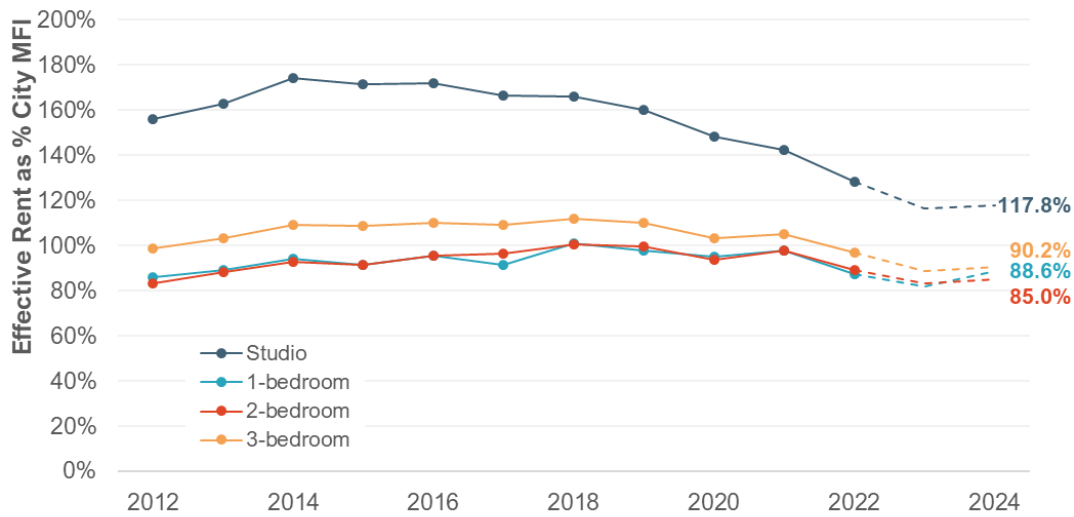
Rent increases year over year are also informative to review. Major decreases in rents have not taken place since 2009/2010. With the exception of peaks in 2021 and declines in 2023, rents over the past nine years have generally increased at about 2–5% per year.

Exhibit 6-9. Gig Harbor Effective Rents by Unit Size, 2000–2024.



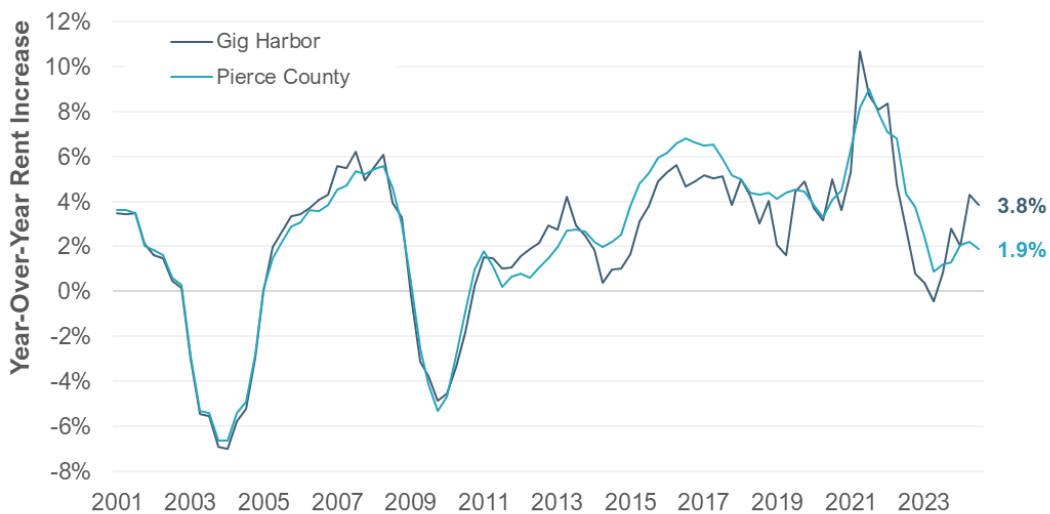
Source: CoStar, 2024.

Exhibit 6-10. Ratio of Gig Harbor Effective Rents to County Median Income, 2012–2024.



Source: CoStar, 2024; US HUD AMI estimates, 2024.

Exhibit 6-11. Year-Over-Year Rent Increases, Gig Harbor and Pierce County, 2001–2024.

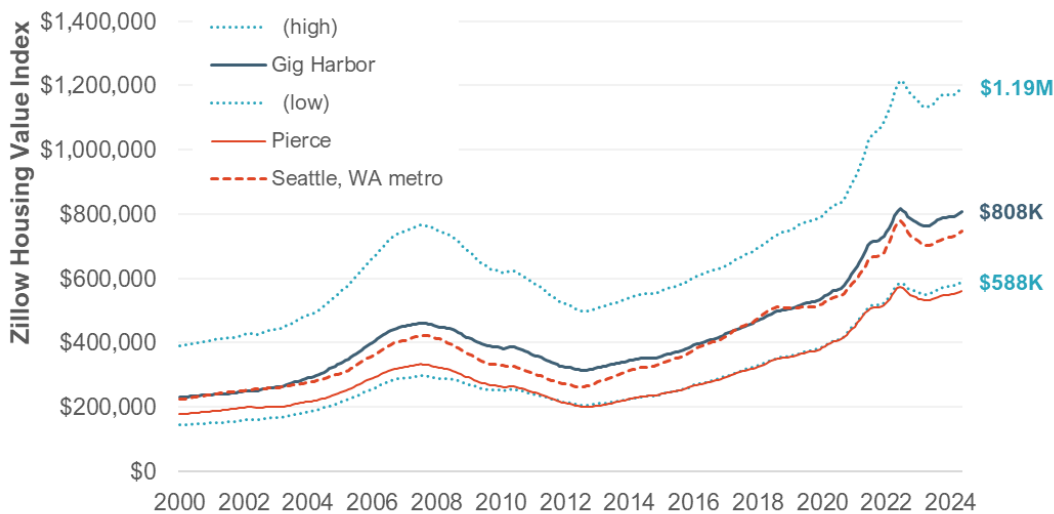


Source: CoStar, 2024.

According to data from the US American Community Survey and HUD, the total percentage of renting households that are housing cost burdened in Gig Harbor (paying at least 30% of their income on housing) increased from 44% to 52%. This included an increase in the proportion of households that are cost burdened, although the proportion of severely cost-burdened households paying over half their income on housing remained at around 25% of all renters.

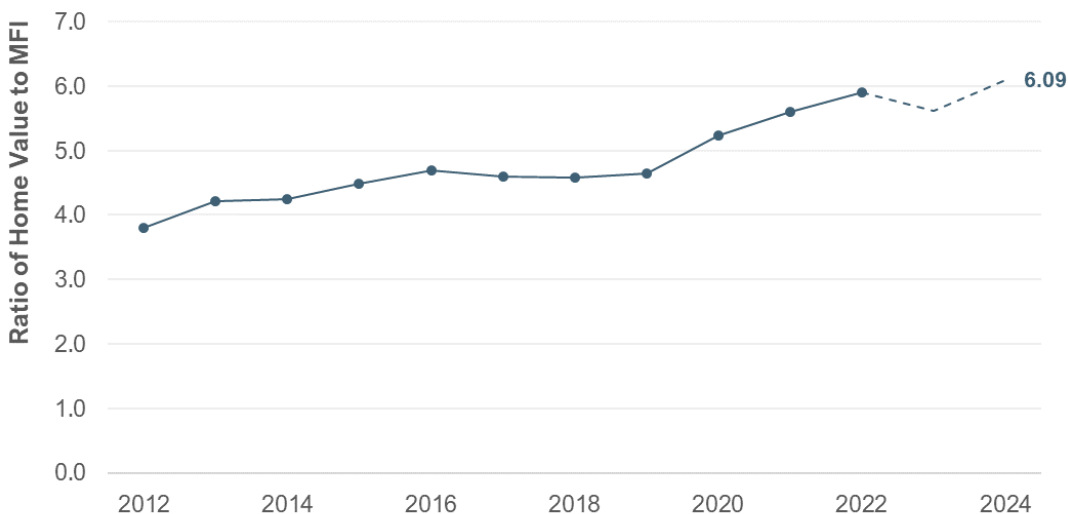
For owner-occupied housing, Exhibit 6-12 presents estimates of prices indexes for housing in Gig Harbor and Pierce County, and Exhibit 6-13 provides the trends for the ratio between median home prices and area median income:

Exhibit 6-12. Zillow Housing Value Index (ZHVI), Gig Harbor, 2000–2024.



Source: CoStar, 2024; US HUD AMI estimates, 2024.

Exhibit 6-13. Ratio of ZHVI to County Median Family Income, Gig Harbor, 2012–2024.



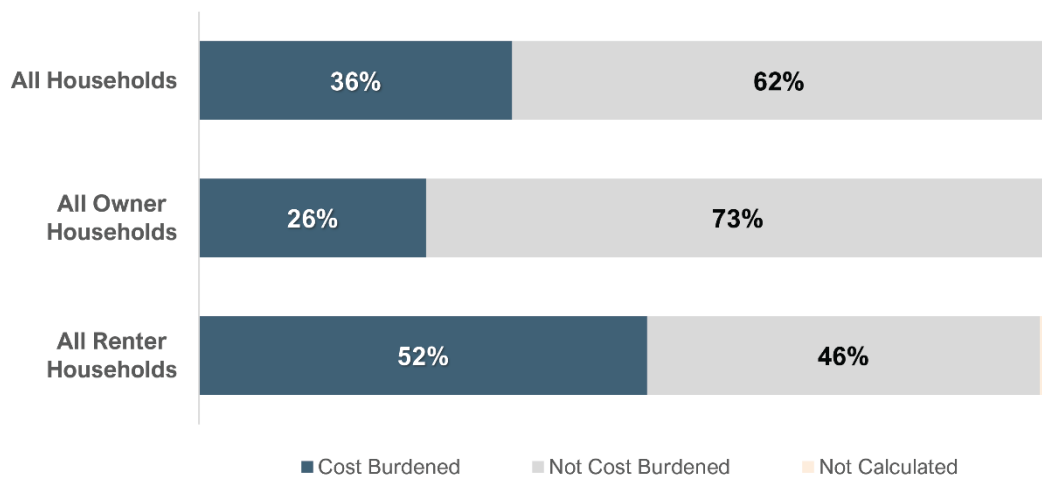
Source: CoStar, 2024; US HUD AMI estimates, 2024.

As shown with the Zillow Housing Value Index (ZHVI), median housing prices in Gig Harbor have increased since 2012–2013 after property prices recovered post-recession. This has consistently been higher than the county median, but close to the median for the Seattle metro area. Overall, median housing prices have increased by 160% from the low in prices seen in October 2012, and the ratio between value and median family income has increased from below 4 in 2012 to over 6 times income by 2024. This highlights both a rapid increase in housing prices overall, as well as a significant increase when compared to household incomes.

But what does this mean for housing affordability for populations at risk of housing instability? Exhibit 6-14 provides the proportion of households in Gig Harbor in 2020 that are considered “housing cost burdened”, where they are paying more than 30% of their income on housing. As indicated below, this includes 36% of all households, with over half of renters experiencing high housing costs relative to their income.

This can mean different things, depending on whether households rent or own. For those that own their own homes, this can mean that some households are “house poor” – they are paying a substantive amount of their income for a mortgage and associated housing costs at the beginning of ownership, with the expectation that they will accumulate housing wealth over time and through increases in income and refinancing their costs may go down. In other cases, households with retirees and fixed incomes may own their own homes, but may be faced with substantive costs associated with utility rate increases, home repairs, and other expenses.

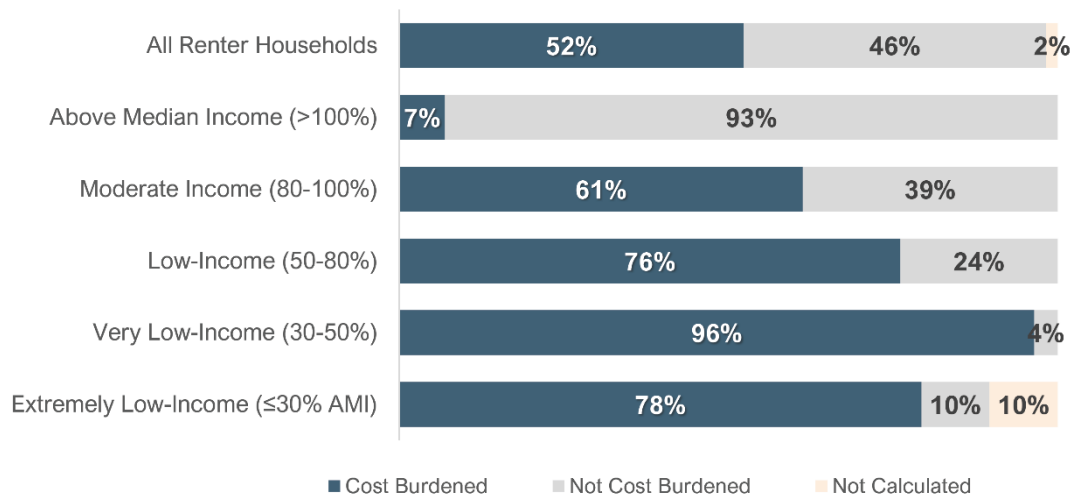
Exhibit 6-14. Housing Cost Burden by Tenure, Gig Harbor, 2020.



Source: US HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 2016–2020.

While renters may be affected by higher utility costs (which are considered part of housing expenses), many lower-income households will also be faced with higher costs for renting related to their incomes. Exhibit 6-15 provides estimates of housing cost burdens for renters based on their household income:

Exhibit 6-15. Rental Housing Cost Burden by Household Income Category, Gig Harbor, 2020.



Source: US HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 2016–2020.

This information highlights that for lower-income households, finding appropriate and affordable housing is challenging. While only 7% of households making above median family income are cost-burdened, almost all households considered “very low-income” (earning between 30 and 50% of AMI) are paying high housing costs related to their income. This is strongly related to outcomes in mental and physical health outcomes, and many of these households may be older on fixed incomes that do not own their own homes, or disabled and are unable to work. Addressing these needs through housing policy is an important concern.

6.2.4 Racially Disparate Impacts and Displacement

Racially disparate impacts in housing in Washington State are typically rooted in a historical context of discriminatory practices, such as redlining and restrictive covenants, which have led to persistent inequities in housing access. Many of these practices have denied minorities and low-income households' opportunities for homeownership, resulting in economic and racial disparities even beyond disparities found with household wealth and income.

Washington has made changes to the Growth Management Act under [HB 1220](#) to require local governments to address racially disparate impacts in housing. In part, this has been focused on requirements that mandate Comprehensive Plans to actively plan for and accommodate affordable housing for all income levels. However, cities must also shift from a passive to an active approach to identify and address any policies and regulations that continue to contribute to racially disparate impacts, displacement, and exclusion. This may include considerations of plan elements and components of city code that limit affordable housing development in certain areas.

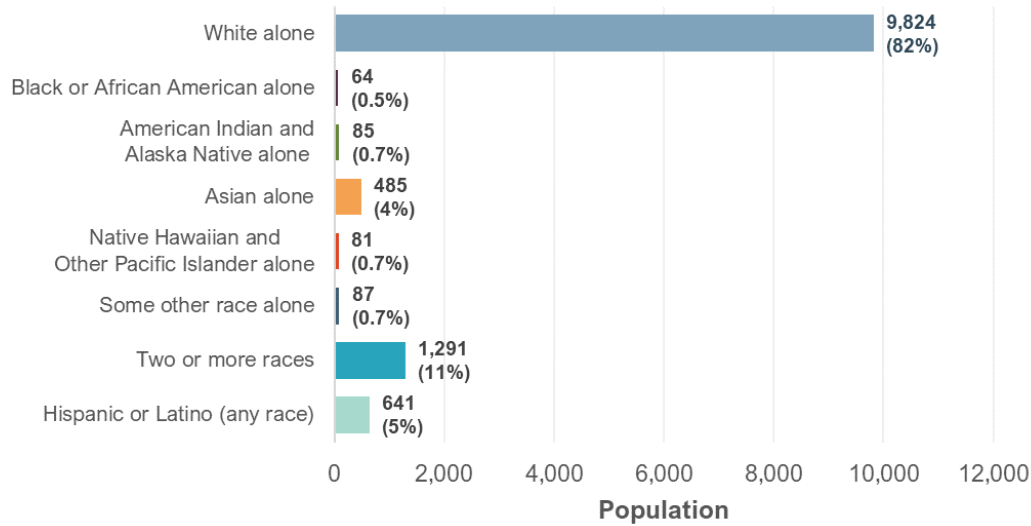
In addition to historical patterns of exclusion, there are also concerns that people may be forced out of their homes and neighborhoods or pressured to move by different trends. Displacement often takes three different general forms:

- **Economic displacement** occurs when households can no longer afford to live in their homes due to rising housing costs, such as rent increases or higher property taxes. For example, a family may have to move because their rent has doubled over the past year, or a homeowner might sell their house because they cannot afford the increased property taxes. This type of displacement is driven primarily by economic forces and can disproportionately affect low-income households.
- **Physical displacement** happens when residents are forced to move due to actions like eviction, property acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition. An example of physical displacement is tenants being evicted because the building is being converted into luxury apartments, or a community being displaced due to the construction of a new highway. This form of displacement is often a direct result of development projects or changes in property ownership and use.
- **Cultural displacement** occurs when residents feel compelled to leave because the cultural or social fabric of their community has changed, making them feel out of place. For instance, long-term residents might move out of a neighborhood that has become gentrified and now caters to a different demographic, or a cultural community might disperse due to the closure of local businesses and institutions that served as cultural hubs. This type of displacement affects the social and cultural dynamics of a community, leading to a loss of cultural identity and support networks.

These types of displacement can have profound and lasting impacts on individuals and communities, disrupting social networks, access to resources, and cultural continuity. Addressing and mitigating displacement is a key focus of equitable housing policies.

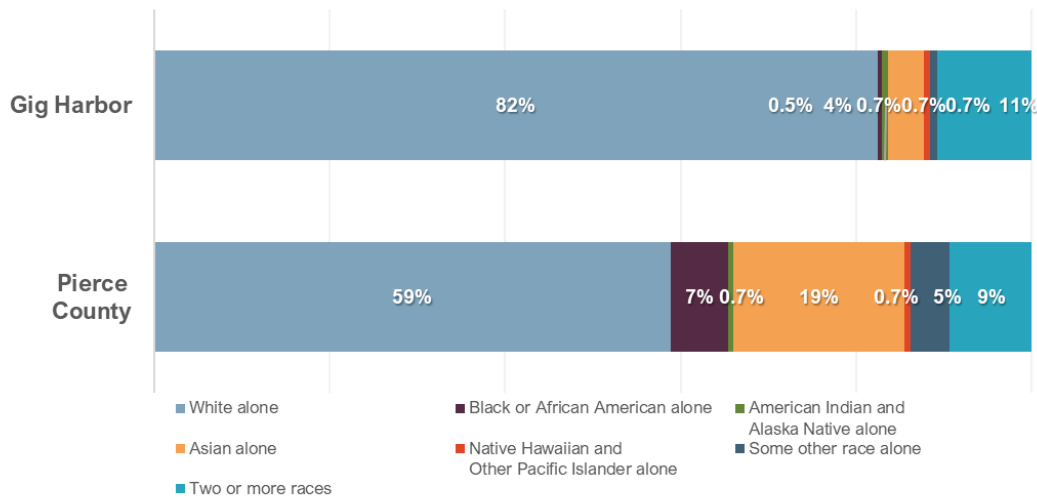
The following data provides a summary of major considerations with racially disparate impacts, displacement, and other patterns of exclusion. Exhibit 6-16 provides a breakdown of the race and ethnicity of individuals in Gig Harbor in 2022, and Exhibit 6-17 compares this breakdown by race with Pierce County as a whole. Exhibit 6-18 presents a dot density map of population by race/ethnicity from the 2020 Census to indicate the distribution of residents.

Exhibit 6-16. Race/Ethnicity of Individuals in Gig Harbor, 2022.

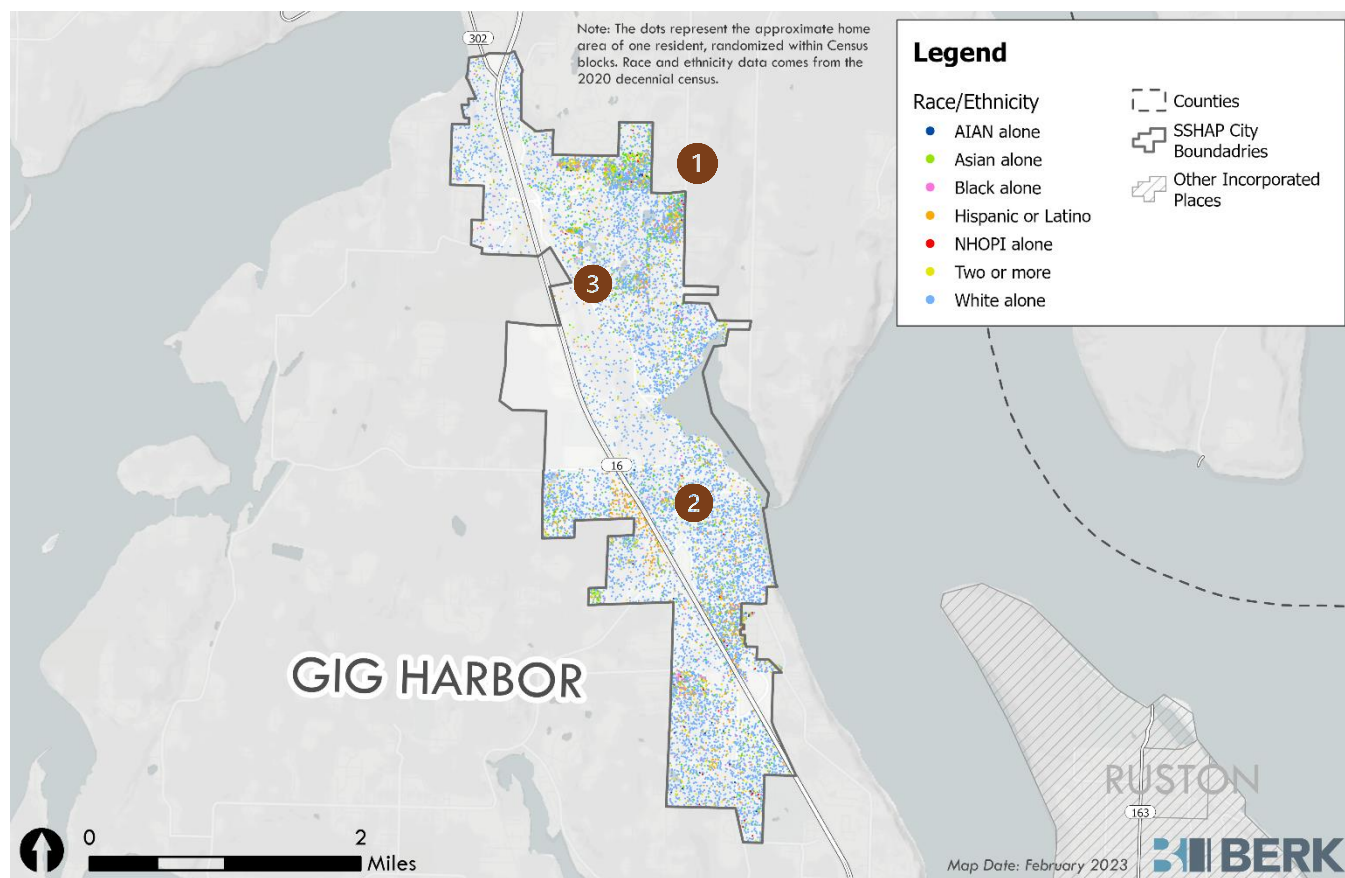


Source: US Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Exhibit 6-17. Race of Individuals in Gig Harbor and Pierce County, 2022.



Source: US Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

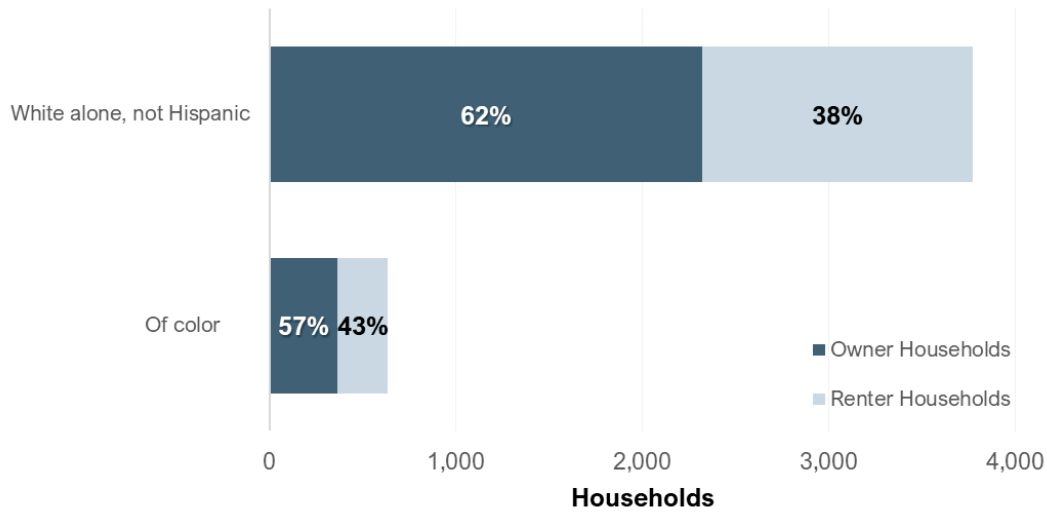
Exhibit 6-18. Density Map of Race and Ethnicity, 2020.

Note: AIAN = American Indian or Alaskan Native; NHOPI = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Census-defined categories).

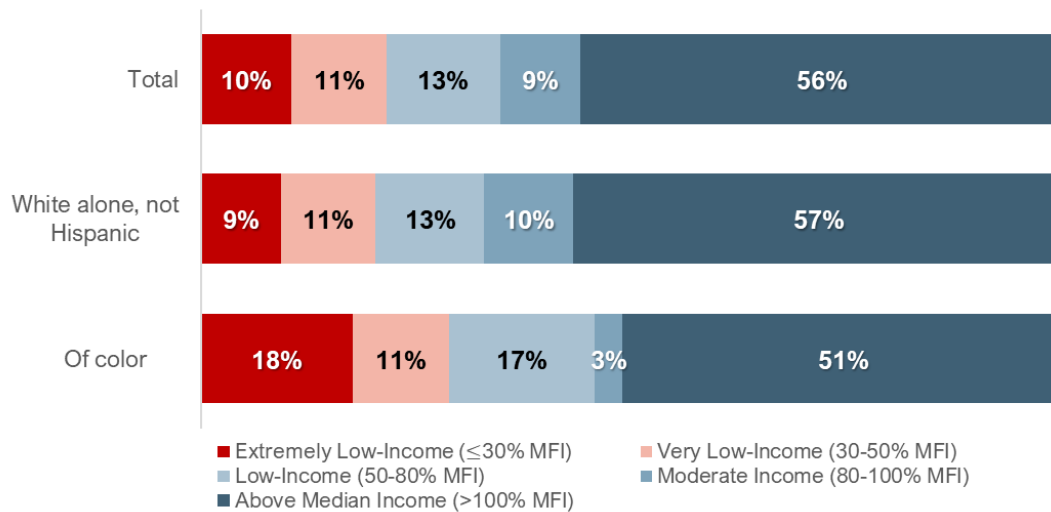
Source: U.S. Decennial Census, 2020; SSHAP Racial Equity Analysis, 2023.

Although only 59% of Pierce County identifies as white, around 82% of the population of Gig Harbor identifies in this way. While there is a much higher proportion of “two or more races” in Gig Harbor than the county (11% versus 5%), these proportions plus the small size of the city mean that identifying trends with exclusion and potential displacement within the city can be challenging. The distribution provided in the map also highlights that there are differences in where households are located by race in the city.

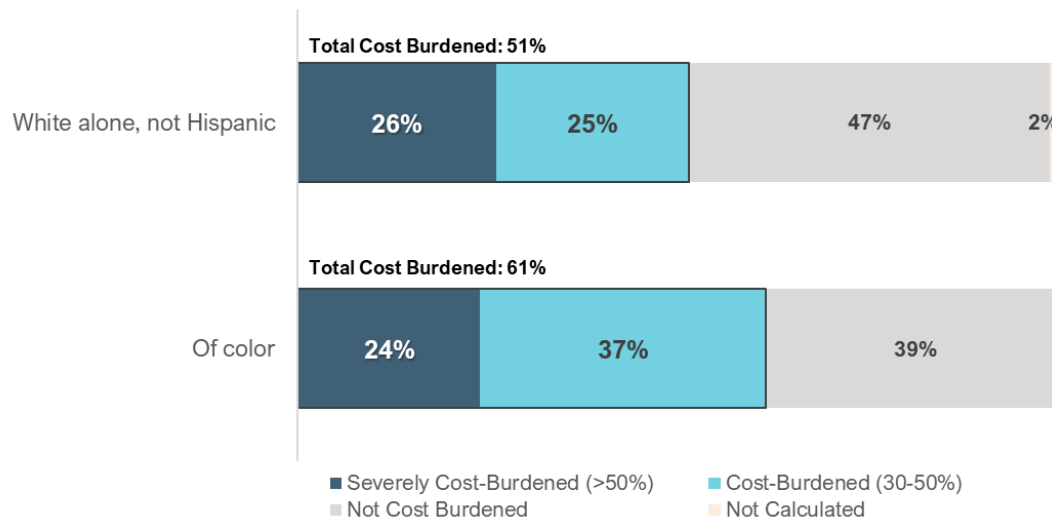
When examining the housing market, there are some notable differences by race. Exhibit 6-19 presents the breakdown of white households versus households of color by tenure (renter/owner) in 2020, and Exhibit 6-20 includes the proportion of white households versus households of color by income category in 2020. Exhibit 6-21 includes the proportion of white renter households versus renting households of color by cost burden in 2020.

Exhibit 6-19. Households by Tenure and White/POC, 2020.

Source: US HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 2016–2020.

Exhibit 6-20. Households by Income Category and White/POC, 2020.

Source: US HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 2016–2020.

Exhibit 6-21. Renter Households by Housing Cost Burden and White/POC, 2020.

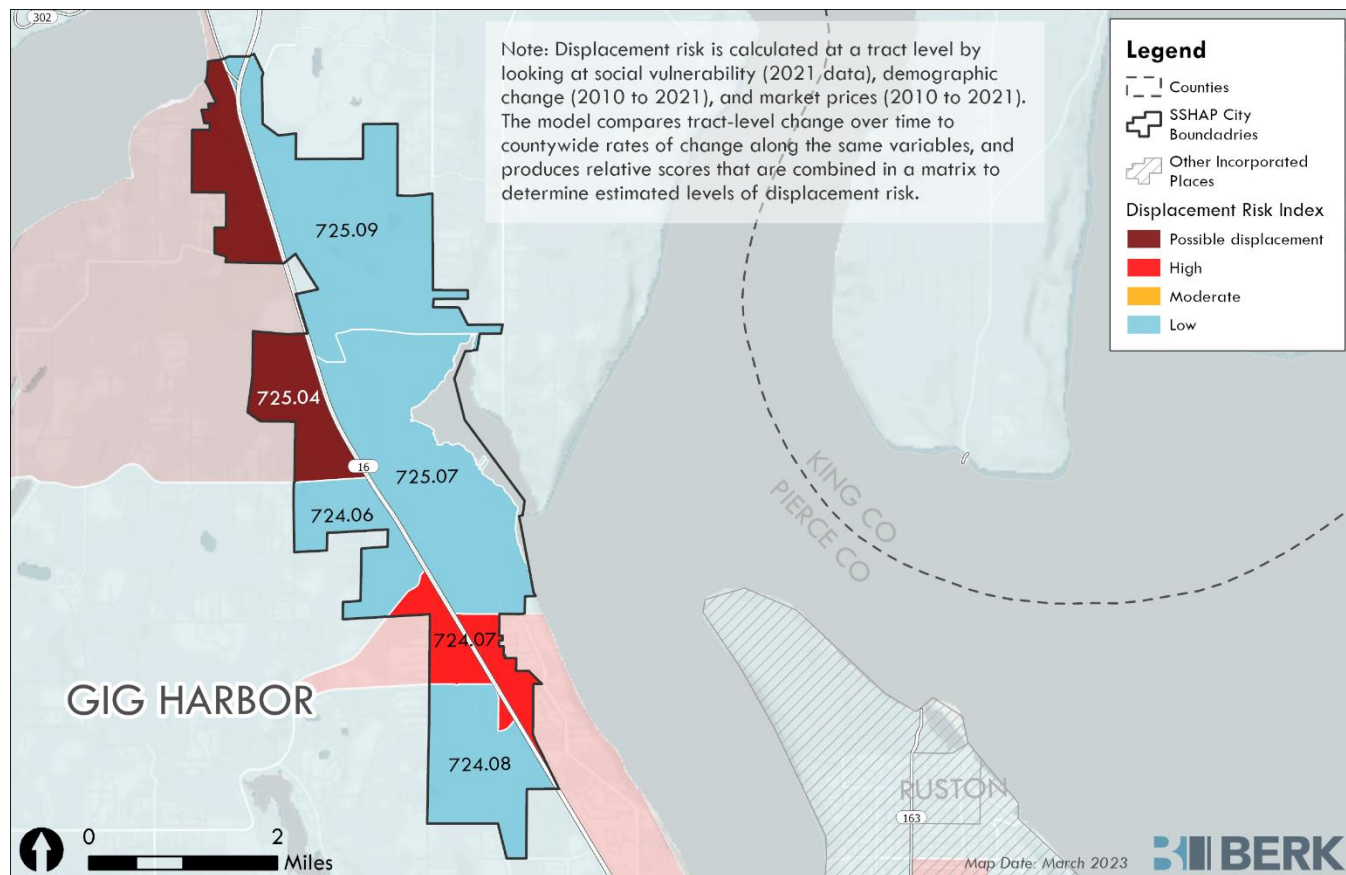
Source: US HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 2016–2020.

From the data provided below, households of color are more likely to be renters than white households (43% versus 38%), are more likely to be extremely low-income (18% versus 9%), and are more likely to be paying more than 30% of their income on rent (61% versus 51%). Because of the small number of households of color, this is subject to some uncertainty, but there are signs that some issues in housing may need to consider racial disparities in their solutions.

One of the concerns with racial disparities is that groups of people that have experienced historical inequities in the housing market over time may now be vulnerable to different negative impacts in the housing market. In particular, one major concern is with displacement, where people are priced out of the city as the costs of housing increase, and are often forced to live further away from their employment and social connections or to live in housing that may not be appropriate for their situation.

Exhibit 6-22 provides the results of a Displacement Risk Index calculation for Gig Harbor developed by the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHA3P). This is intended to highlight by census tract where major risk factors for displacement exist in the city and may need to be addressed, and includes several types of data to evaluate displacement risk:

- The overlap between displacement risk and areas with larger concentrations of BIPOC households;
- Social vulnerability indices that highlight several factors associated with vulnerability to displacement, defined as quintiles for target populations;
- Socio-demographic factors associated with changes in BIPOC populations and households under 80% of AMI; and
- Market factors, including rent levels and property appreciation rates.

Exhibit 6-22. Displacement Risk Index, Gig Harbor, 2021.

Gig Harbor Tracts	Social Vulnerability					Demographic Change			Market Prices			Final Displacement Risk
	Percent Overlap	Renter Quintile	BIPOC Quintile	Median Income Score	Social Vulnerability Score	BIPOC Change	Under 80% AMI Change	Demographic Change Score	High or Low Rent Area - 2015	Appreciation Rate	Market Price Score	
53053072406	18%	1	1	1	3	Increasing BIPOC	Increasing Low Income HHs	Disinvestment	High rent area	High appreciation	Appreciated	Low
53053072407	21%	4	1	2	7	Tracking county change	Decreasing Low Income HHs	Gentrification	Low rent area	High appreciation	Accelerating	High
53053072408	31%	3	1	1	5	Tracking county change	Tracking county change	No	High rent area	Low or mod appreciation	Appreciated	Low
53053072504	8%	2	1	1	4	Tracking county change	Decreasing Low Income HHs	Gentrification	High rent area	High appreciation	Appreciated	Possible displacement
53053072507	100%	4	1	2	7	Increasing BIPOC	Increasing Low Income HHs	Disinvestment	Low rent area	High appreciation	Accelerating	Low
53053072509	64%	2	1	1	4	Increasing BIPOC	Increasing Low Income HHs	Disinvestment	High rent area	High appreciation	Appreciated	Low

Source: SSHAP Racial Equity Analysis, 2023.

According to this analysis, there are two primary areas where displacement may be occurring in the city, as per information from the displacement index. As shown in , northwest Gig Harbor may be experiencing displacement from existing low-density housing because of an influx of higher-income households and gentrification resulting from new development such as a new subdivision on 61st Ave Ct. Another higher risk area for displacement is south of downtown along Highway 16 and near the Tacoma Narrows, which includes a higher proportion of renters and a decrease in in households earning below 80% of AMI from 2010 to 2020, potentially related to rising rent costs.

Additionally, an assessment of the distribution of population indicated three areas labeled on Exhibit 6-18. This included a cluster of residents reported as “Asian alone”, associated with the northeast portion of the city (labelled as “1”), a higher concentration of Hispanic/Latino residents along Highway 16 (“2”), and the Hillcrest Mobile Home Park (“3”). These areas may be sensitive to potential impacts from development pressures, and city policies and programs should work to address any impacts to these locations that may disproportionately impact the residents in these locations.

6.3 Goals and Policies

► HO-1 **Provide for an overall housing supply that supports all economic segments of the population.**

- HO-1.1 Plan for a minimum net increase of 892 housing units between 2024 and 2044.
- HO-1.2 Accommodate the following minimum net housing development targets by household income for 2020–2044, based on area median income (AMI) for Pierce County (adjusted for household size):
 - a) 30% AMI or less: 115 units,
 - b) 30–50% AMI: 165 units,
 - c) 50–80% AMI: 131 units,
 - d) 80–100% AMI: 56 units, and
 - e) 100–120% AMI: 51 units.
- HO-1.3 Plan for the development of 156 units of permanent supportive housing affordable to households earning 30% AMI or less.
- HO-1.4 Support the development of an additional 55 spaces in emergency shelters.

► HO-2 **Encourage higher density development that respects the scale and qualities of existing neighborhoods.**

- HO-2.1 Encourage infill to provide a range of housing types, designs, and sizes, including accessory dwelling units.
- HO-2.2 In collaboration with the city's Design Review Board, maintain design guidelines that encourage larger residential developments that complement the massing and scale of existing structures in a neighborhood while maintaining the city's distinctive historical and aesthetic characteristics.
- HO-2.3 Support the availability of lots of varying sizes that can accommodate different housing formats.
- HO-2.4 Encourage designs which prioritize private open spaces through zero lot line development, clustered development, cottage housing, and other designs.
- HO-2.5 Promote the distribution of multifamily housing types across the city, focusing on areas where infrastructure and services can adequately support them, such as Centers of Local Importance.
- HO-2.6 Encourage gradual shifts in residential density to support compatibility in housing development.
- HO-2.7 Support higher-density residential areas which incorporate open space and other public amenities.

► **HO-3 Encourage maintenance and adaptive reuse to meet housing needs and improve neighborhood quality.**

- HO-3.1 Provide development and financial incentives for the renovation of historical structures for residential use.
- HO-3.2 Provide financial incentives such as fee reductions or waivers for the maintenance and renovation of existing housing stock, with an emphasis on lower-income housing (80% AMI or below) and affordable housing for seniors and people with disabilities.
- HO-3.3 Encourage and support community initiatives focused on neighborhood beautification and clean-up projects to maintain and improve local aesthetics.

► **HO-4 Ensure Gig Harbor is a place for people of all occupations, incomes, abilities, and backgrounds.**

- HO-4.1 Promote the preservation of existing housing units that provide affordable options for households through loans, grants, and other programs.
- HO-4.2 Provide incentives to encourage the development of income-restricted affordable housing options. This may include:
 - a) Multifamily housing property tax exemptions,
 - b) Permit fee reductions or waivers,
 - c) Impact fee reductions or waivers,
 - d) Density bonuses
 - e) Reductions to parking requirements, and
 - f) Expedited permit review.
- HO-4.3 Reduce the risks of displacement from the community by promoting a range of housing types that can provide affordable options to households at risk.
- HO-4.4 Adopt tenant protections that support access to safe, affordable, and appropriate housing in the community, and coordinate services to assist displaced residents find alternative housing options.
- HO-4.5 Monitor and assess achievements towards affordable housing goals as identified in this Element, the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies, and the PSRC VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy, and provide regular reporting to Council.
- HO-4.6 Prioritize the use of external funding sources such as the Housing Trust Fund, the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, and other programs to implement housing preservation and development programs.

- HO-4.7 Provide development standards that accommodate housing for seniors and others with special needs, including group housing formats.
- HO-4.8 Allow for flexibility with provisions of development regulations for senior and special needs housing, including but not limited to height, density, setbacks, and parking. This may include temporary or emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, etc.
- HO-4.9 Encourage the development of accessory units through incentives such as fee waivers, reductions, pre-approved plans, and external funding sources.
- HO-4.10 Promote the use of surplus city property for affordable housing development and encourage the use of surplus land from other government agencies, non-profit organizations and other local institutions for affordable housing.
- HO-4.11 Partner with affordable housing organizations to encourage the development of long-term affordable housing options in the community.
- HO-4.12 Reduce charges and fees for services, such as utility connections, to affordable housing where practical and feasible to address ongoing housing costs and affordability.
- HO-4.13 Support and partner with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Nisqually Indian Tribes in their efforts to provide adequate, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing for Tribal members, both on Tribal lands and within the broader community.
- HO-4.14 Collaborate with regional partners to prevent and reduce homelessness by increasing the availability of affordable housing options and supportive services, including emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent supporting housing, while addressing the root causes of homelessness through coordinated outreach and assistance programs.
- HO-4.15 Explore the use of inclusionary zoning to include income-restricted affordable units as part of new residential development projects.
- **HO-5 Reduce the costs of housing construction to promote new development and meet housing targets.**
 - HO-5.1 Allow for flexible zoning standards that can encourage innovative development, especially for the development of affordable housing options.
 - HO-5.2 Encourage condominium development and unit lot subdivisions, which promote affordable homeownership options.
 - HO-5.3 Explore form-based and performance-based codes as potential options to encourage flexibility with development.
 - HO-5.4 Manage manufactured housing under the same standards as other single-family housing units under development regulations.
 - HO-5.5 Promote mixed-use development with residential units above ground-floor retail and service uses in CoLIs and other neighborhood service centers.

- HO-5.6 Facilitate the construction of affordable housing units by implementing regulations and standards that allow for flexibility and the optimal use of resources, space, and infrastructure to lower costs, improve functionality, and reduce environmental impact.
- HO-5.7 Provide support for property owners and developers building in the city through policy advocacy, permitting support, and regular coordination on emerging trends and issues.
- HO-5.8 Encourage the use of alternative ownership models, such as cohousing and community land trusts.
- HO-5.9 Minimize infrastructure costs associated with housing development through innovative site design, compact development patterns, and efficient servicing.
- HO-5.10 Review and streamline permit processes and coordinate with other service providers to shorten approval timelines.
- HO-5.11 Explore planned actions and changes in regulatory thresholds for housing development under the State Environmental Policy Act to streamline environmental approvals.
- HO-5.12 Explore the use of a Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption program to incentivize market-rate and affordable housing production.

7 Economic Development

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Overview

The Economic Development Element of the Comprehensive Plan outlines a strategic framework designed to enhance the economic vitality of the city as the cornerstone of a vibrant community while preserving the unique character and quality of life that define Gig Harbor. This element is aligned with the goals of the GMA and is intended to encourage economic growth in a way that benefits all community members.

Historically rooted in resource extraction industries, the Gig Harbor economy has evolved over recent decades, transitioning towards a more diversified local service economy characterized by retail, healthcare, and specialty businesses. As the city continues to grow, city policies will aim to attract appropriate employment opportunities that reduce transportation impacts and support localized job creation to strengthening the local economy and ensuring long-term prosperity for all residents.

7.1.2 Listening to Our Community

In May 2023, our community took part in six focus group conversations to discuss their perspectives and priorities for economic development. These revealed several key challenges and opportunities:

- **Durability of retail.** The city's retail sector, especially tourist-focused and waterfront businesses, faces challenges with storefront turnover in visible areas even though businesses are not closing down at higher rates in the city.
- **Vacancy and obsolescence of building stock.** Aging building stock is becoming outdated and difficult to retrofit to meet evolving market and resident needs, which affects both older residential and commercial properties in the city.
- **Barriers to reinvestment.** High costs for redevelopment—including parcel consolidation, demolition, contamination cleanup, and permitting—can stall projects, and City requirements can add further complexity and delays.
- **Interconnection of three business districts.** Gig Harbor's Uptown, Downtown, and North Gig Harbor districts are viewed as complementary, with the community supporting interconnected commercial identities for these areas.
- **Local employment.** Many residents work outside Gig Harbor in higher-paying urban centers; and increasing local employment opportunities is a community priority.
- **Transition to infill.** With much of the vacant land in the city developed in the past decade, future growth will need to focus on redeveloping parcels and coordinating infill projects within the existing city to support new households and jobs.

- **Regional collaboration in planning.** Planning in land use, transportation, and economic development relies on regional partnerships, and there is a community interest in effective City advocacy within the broader regional economic development context.
- **Location of urban density.** The Comprehensive Plan directs higher density to “centers of local importance,” aiming to support a sustainable economy and meet local needs.

7.1.3 City Vision

The City’s most recent vision, as articulated during community focus groups and workshops for economic development in Gig Harbor reads as follows:

Gig Harbor prioritizes the establishment and success of local small businesses by increasing walkability and lessening dependence on cars in the downtown. Gig Harbor makes use of underutilized commercial space by providing incentives for small local businesses to fill those spaces.

7.2 Local Context

The Gig Harbor economy has experienced significant growth and changes over the past two decades. Understanding this local context is essential to developing effective economic development strategies.

Overall, the economy of Gig Harbor has been characterized by a mix of industries and key trends, including:

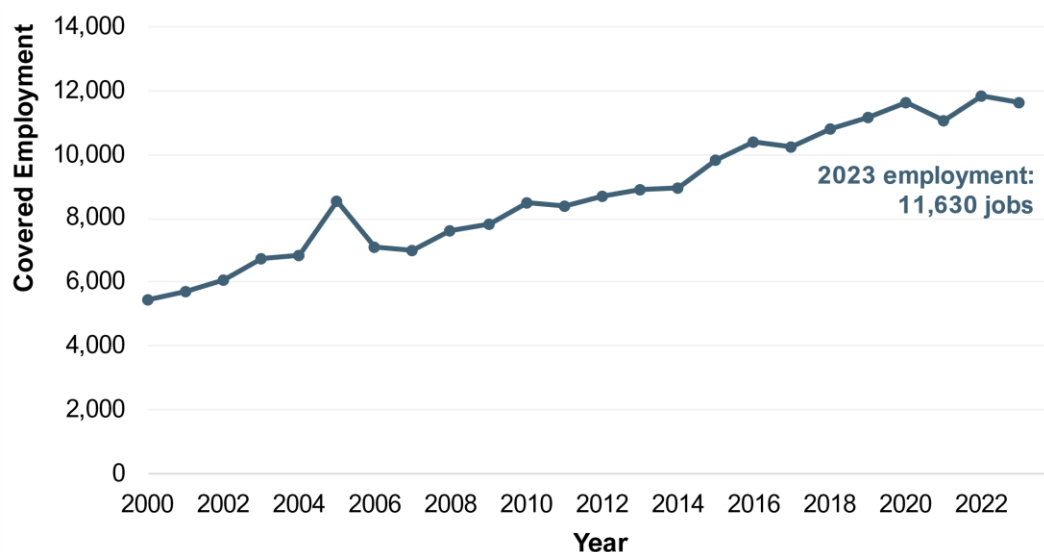
- A strong presence of small businesses and entrepreneurs,
- A growing healthcare and social services sector,
- A significant retail and tourism industry, and
- A mix of light industrial and manufacturing businesses.

As the population has grown from approximately 7,000 in 2000 to over 10,000 in 2023, the city’s economy has diversified, with a decrease in reliance on traditional industries like manufacturing, and an increase in services and healthcare. Gig Harbor has also seen a significant increase in new businesses and startups, particularly in the downtown area.

7.2.1 Employment Trends

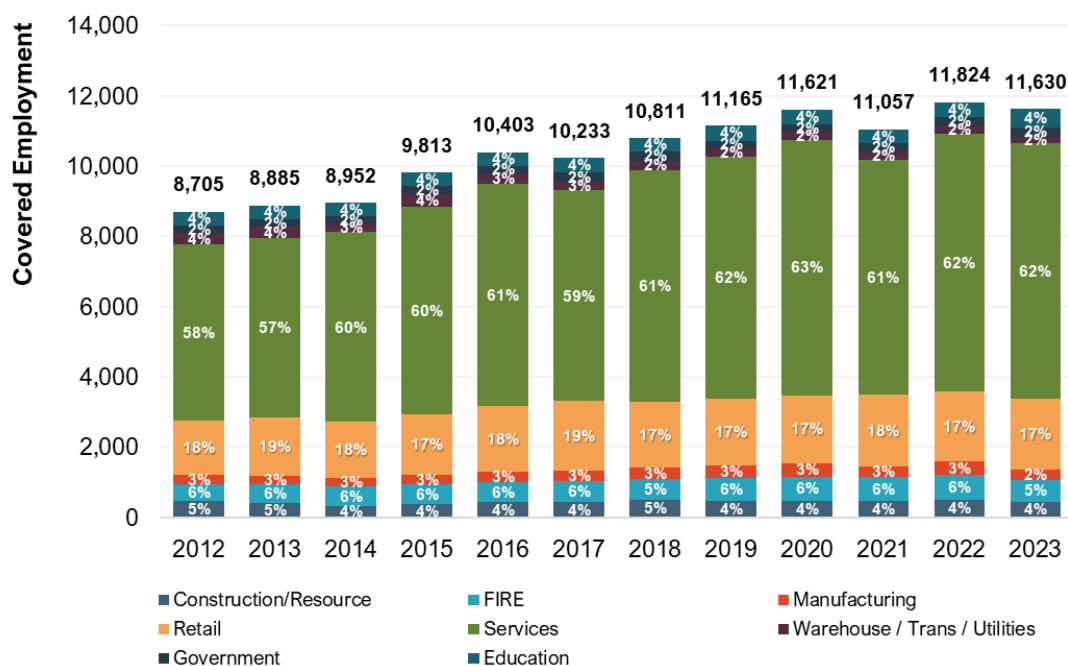
Estimates from the PSRC indicate that covered employment¹ in Gig Harbor amounted to 11,630 jobs in 2023. As shown in Exhibit 7-1, the city has experienced a notable increase in employment with a 33.6% increase in jobs from 2012–2023 (averaging about 3% employment growth per year).

¹ Covered employment is defined as those positions covered by the *Washington Unemployment Insurance Act*. Because the Act exempts the self-employed, proprietors and corporate officers, military personnel, and railroad workers, these categories exclude some employment types. However, this information is typically the most accessible source of data about employment and job growth available at a local level. See

Exhibit 7-1. Gig Harbor Covered Employment, 2000–2023.

Sources: PSRC, 2024; BERK, 2024.

Exhibit 7-2 breaks down covered employment by major sectors from 2012 to 2023. This highlights that the largest component of the city's economy is Services, amounting to 62% of total covered employment. Overall, growth in employment has been in higher-paying jobs, particularly in healthcare and professional services industries.

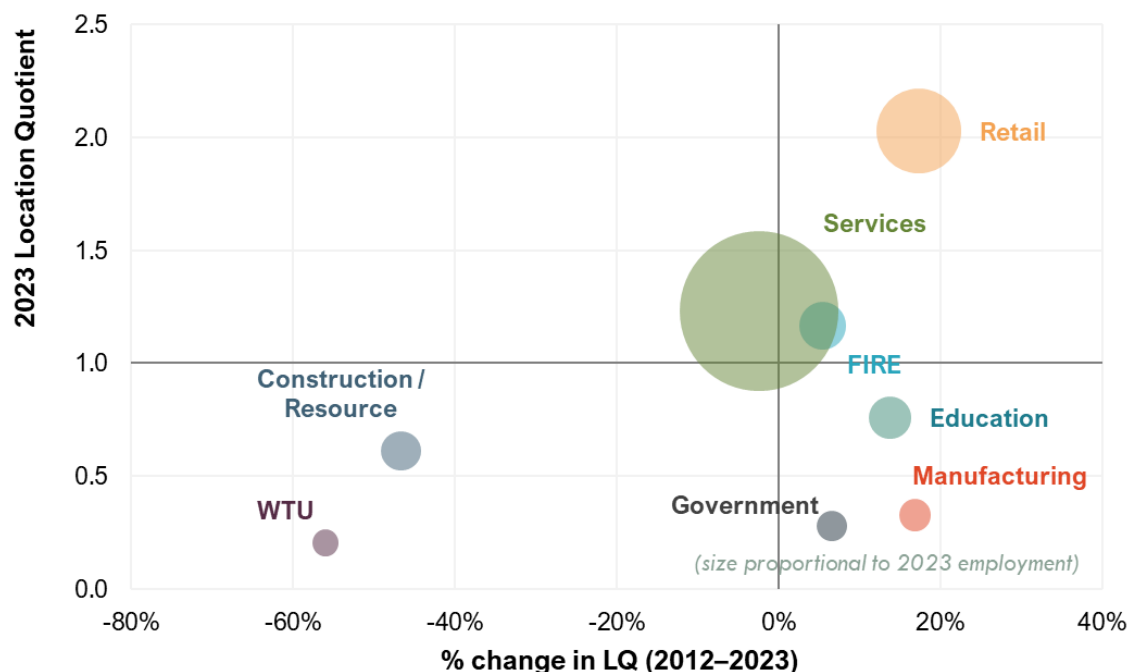
Exhibit 7-2. Gig Harbor Covered Employment by Major Sector, 2012–2023

FIRE: Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Sources: PSRC, 2024; BERK, 2024.

When examining how this distribution of employment compares to regional averages, the location quotient analysis presented below in Exhibit 7-3 can provide a basis for comparison. Location quotients compare the percentage of local employment in each category with the percentage of regional employment in the same category. Values greater than one indicate where local employment in a category is found at a greater concentration than the regional average, suggesting that it plays a more important role in the local economy. In the figure below, the size of the markers are proportional to the amount of local employment in that particular sector.

Exhibit 7-3. Location Quotient Analysis, Gig Harbor Employment, 2012–2023



FIRE: Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

WTU: Warehousing, Transportation, and Utilities

Sources: PSRC, 2024; BERK, 2024.

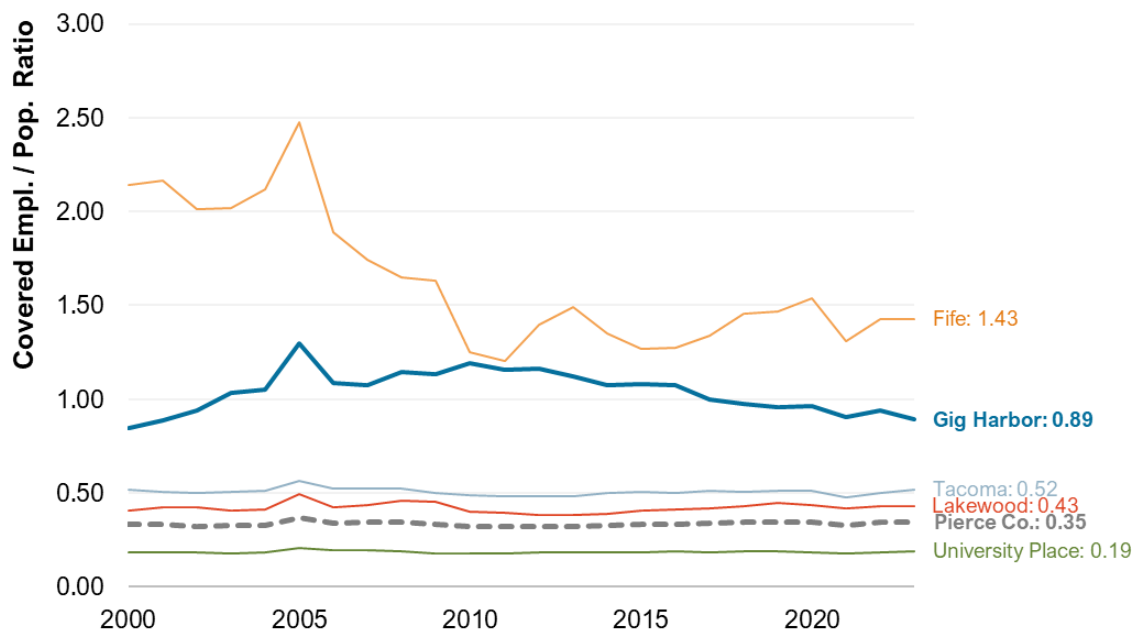
This location analysis highlights that employment in Retail is strongly represented at the local level, represented at twice the regional average and with one of the highest increases in concentration over the past 11 years. Some major sectors such as Education, Manufacturing, and Government have had significant increases in importance in local employment but still are underrepresented in the local economy. While Services dominate employment in Gig Harbor, there has been a slight decrease in employment concentration over time.

7.2.2 Employment, Population, and Commuting

Understanding how local employment relates to city residents is an important consideration in planning. Many residents commute to jobs outside of Gig Harbor, while workers within the city commute to jobs in the city. These commuting patterns affect traffic on roads like SR 16 and highway interchanges. Attracting more jobs to match the skills of local residents and encouraging more people to both live and work in the community can help to reduce traffic. Additionally, this can create a stronger local economy by encouraging the people employed at city businesses to spend more of their income within the city, resulting in greater benefits to local businesses and increases in city tax revenue.

Exhibit 7-4 provides one important measure for comparison: the ratio between local covered employment and the local population. This can provide a strong measure to understand whether a location mainly serves as a residential community (areas with a low ratio) or includes more jobs than residents and likely serves more as an employment center.

Exhibit 7-4. Regional Comparisons of Jobs-to-Population Ratios, 2000–2023



Sources: PSRC, 2024; BERK, 2024.

This figure highlights that Gig Harbor had a jobs-to-population ratio of 0.89 in 2023, indicating that there were 0.89 jobs per resident of the city. While this is not as large as Fife (1.43), this is larger than the County average (0.35), Tacoma (0.52), or Lakewood (0.43). This also highlights the distinct difference with communities such as University Place (0.19), which are dominated by residential uses.

An examination of the top 10 destinations for commuting in 2021 are included in Exhibit 7-5. This includes:

- The work locations of Gig Harbor residents commuting to work, and
- The home locations of workers commuting into Gig Harbor for work.

Exhibit 7-5. Gig Harbor Work and Home Locations (All Employment), 2021.

Work Location of Gig Harbor Residents	% of Total	Home Location of Gig Harbor Workers	% of Total
Tacoma city, WA	17.0%	Tacoma city, WA	10.7%
Seattle city, WA	11.5%	Artondale CDP, WA	5.9%
Gig Harbor city, WA	10.9%	Gig Harbor city, WA	4.9%
Purdy CDP, WA	4.0%	Wollochet CDP, WA	3.2%
Bellevue city, WA	3.4%	Seattle city, WA	2.8%
Bremerton city, WA	2.5%	Maplewood CDP, WA	2.2%
SeaTac city, WA	2.5%	University Place city, WA	2.1%
Lakewood city, WA	2.4%	Bremerton city, WA	2.1%
Federal Way city, WA	2.2%	Lakewood city, WA	1.9%
Kent city, WA	2.2%	Port Orchard city, WA	1.8%
All Other Locations	41.4%	All Other Locations	62.3%

Sources: US Census LEHD, 2024; BERK, 2024.

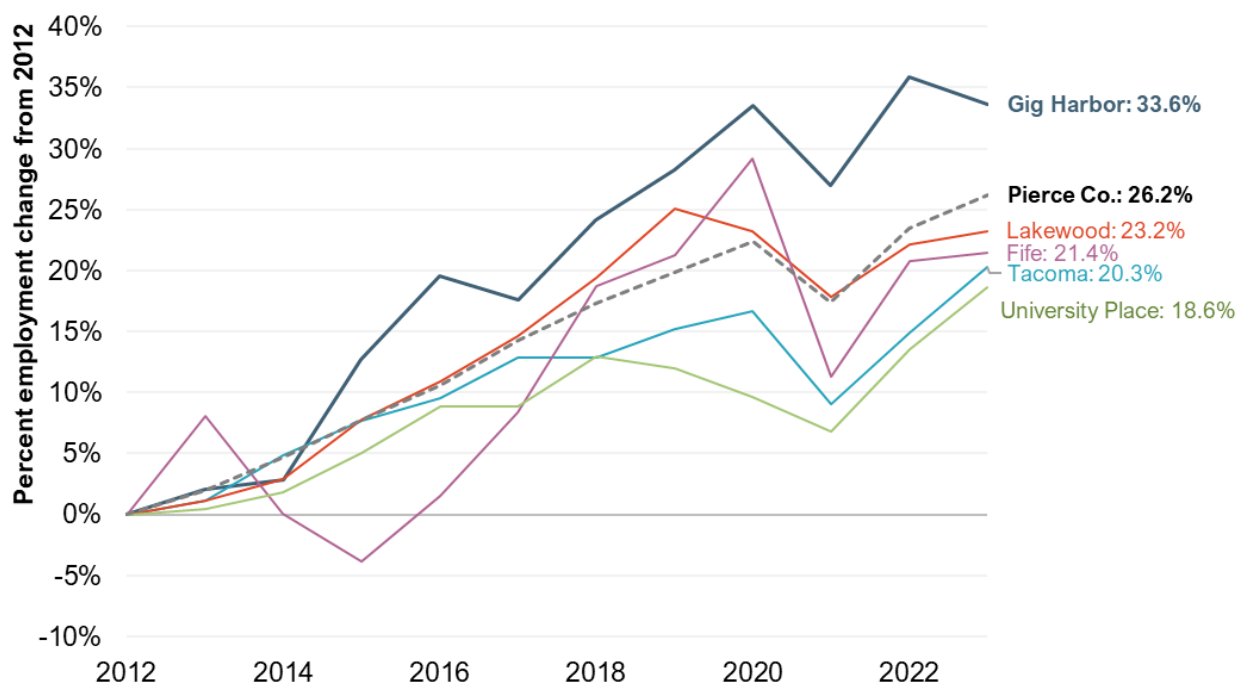
Overall, about 11% of workers in Gig Harbor that are employed stay within the city to work and constitute about 5% of the total workforce in the city, with another 4% of residents working in the Purdy CDP. The most popular destinations for Gig Harbor commuters are the major job centers of the region, with 17% of commuters going to Tacoma and 11.5% to Seattle, with Bellevue and Bremerton.

Conversely, the distribution of workers coming into the city for their jobs is more distributed. The largest proportion (10.7%) come from Tacoma, and almost 3% come in from Seattle. However, the draw of local employment appears to be more local with almost 6% of workers coming from the Artondale CDP, and others coming from local communities that are a shorter commute into the city.

7.2.3 Comparative Analysis

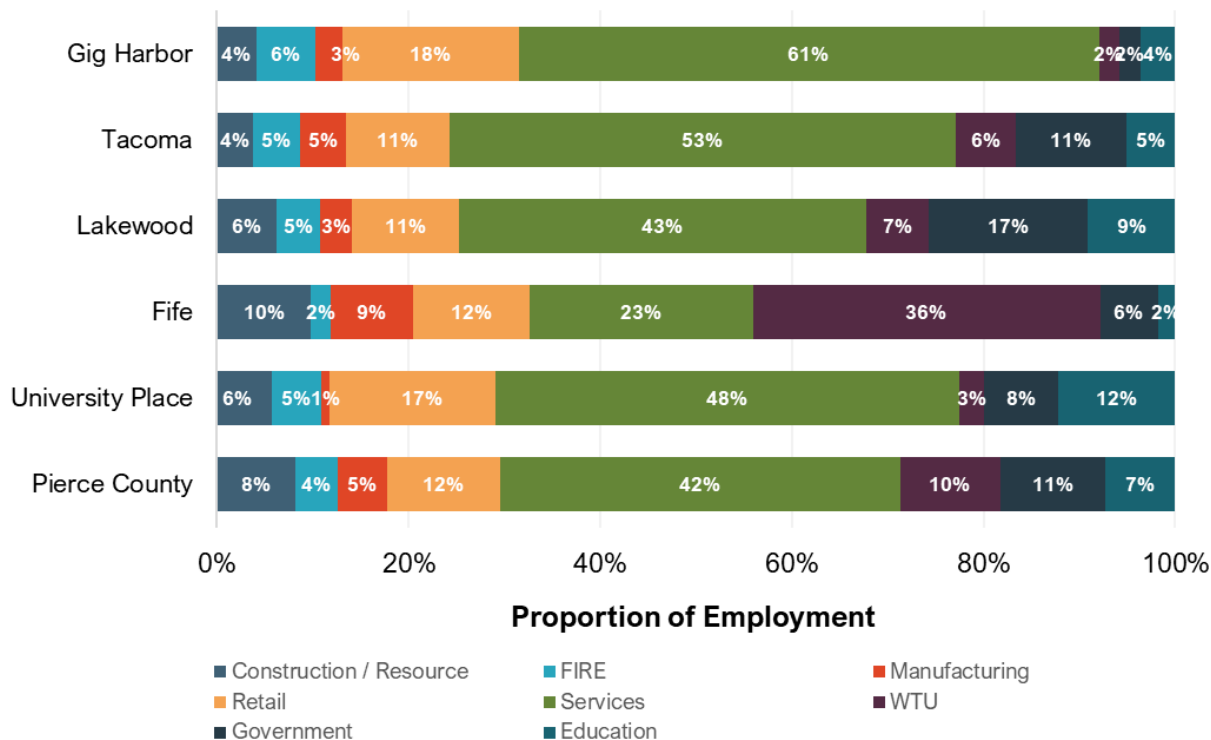
Understanding how Gig Harbor compares to neighboring cities and Pierce County is also essential to assessing its economic position and competitiveness. Exhibit 7-6 compares the percent change in covered employment from 2012 with Pierce County overall, as well as with the cities of Lakewood, Fife, Tacoma, and University Place. Under these comparisons, growth in city employment has been substantially better after the recovery from the recession, with Gig Harbor's increase in employment (33.6%) notably higher than Pierce County (26.2%), and substantially higher than the other communities examined.

Exhibit 7-6. Regional Comparisons of Changes in Covered Employment, 2012–2023



Sources: PSRC, 2024; BERK, 2024.

Additionally, Exhibit 7-7 shows comparisons with other cities in Pierce County. For Gig Harbor, Services and Retail both consists of a greater portion of the local economy than for any other city, and over the entire county. This highlights the greater concentration of employment of these types in the city, and indicates the importance of these sectors as part of a regional center. Additionally, this reinforces the relatively small contribution that Construction and Warehousing, Transportation, and Utilities makes to the local economy in Gig Harbor.

Exhibit 7-7. Regional Comparisons in Covered Employment by Major Sector, 2023

FIRE: Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

WTU: Warehousing, Transportation, and Utilities

Sources: PSRC, 2024; BERK, 2024.

7.2.4 Taxable Retail Sales

Another perspective on Gig Harbor's local economy can be provided by examining its taxable retail sales, generated from consumer purchases of personal property, services, and property improvements. Note that some transactions, such as those involving most food items (except prepared foods), are exempt from sales tax, but those that are recorded can provide a perspective both on local economic activity and the sources of sales tax revenue for the city.

A "pull factor" can measure the relative activity of retail by comparing local taxable sales in a category to values based on the state average. A pull factor below one suggests lower-than-expected local sales, while a number above one indicates a regional draw, where businesses are more likely to attract customers from outside Gig Harbor.

Exhibit 7-8 provides a regional comparison of calculated pull factors at the subsector 3-digit level for retail and restaurant sales, comparing Gig Harbor with other cities in Pierce County. This highlights activity that is most related to household expenditures and indicates areas where business activity may be higher or lower than expected.

Exhibit 7-8. Regional Comparisons of Pull Factors in Taxable Retail Sales, 2023.

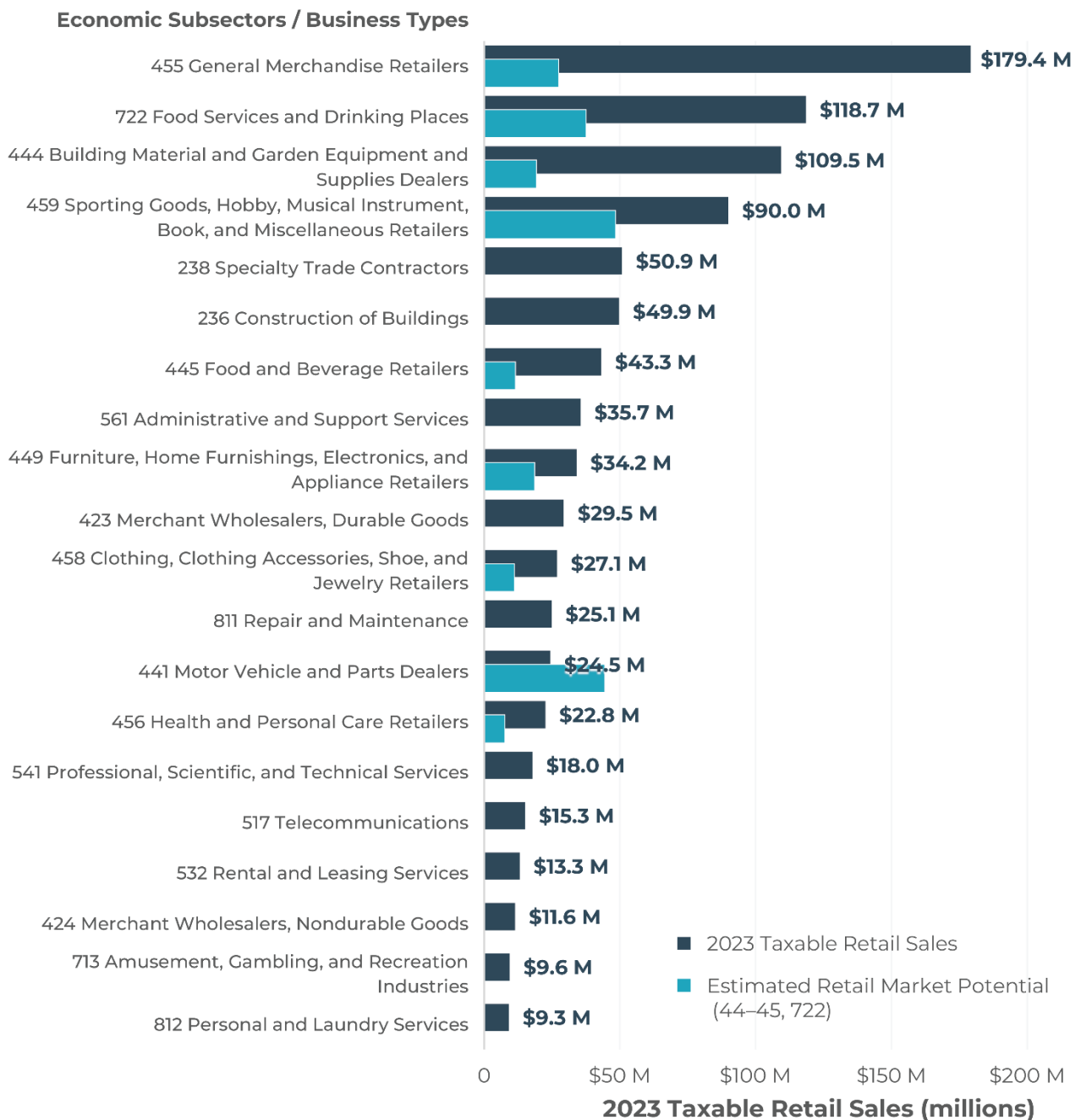
Category	Gig Harbor	Fife	Lakewood	Steilacoom	Tacoma	University Place
44-45 Retail Trade	2.77	10.11	1.14	0.31	1.44	0.51
441 Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	0.55	35.85	0.90	0.01	1.81	0.05
444 Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	5.69	1.40	1.12	0.18	1.13	0.16
445 Food and Beverage Retailers	3.74	0.67	1.40	0.02	1.37	1.30
449 Furniture, Home Furnishings, Electronics, and Appliance Retailers	1.83	3.61	0.78	0.55	1.37	0.72
455 General Merchandise Retailers	6.53	3.07	1.63	0.10	1.11	0.58
456 Health and Personal Care Retailers	3.00	1.04	1.42	0.19	1.62	0.66
457 Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	1.27	5.70	1.30	0.88	1.02	0.35
458 Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	2.41	1.07	0.91	0.36	1.85	0.44
459 Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, Book, and Misc. Retailers	1.86	2.70	1.15	0.67	1.36	0.77
722 Food Services and Drinking Places	3.17	2.01	1.69	0.24	1.41	0.58
Total Retail + Restaurant	2.83	8.80	1.23	0.30	1.43	0.52

Sources: WA Department of Revenue, 2024; BERK, 2024.

This analysis highlights that Gig Harbor is a regional retail center for most categories, with business subsectors that exceed one in almost all cases. Furthermore, these values exceed those of most cities (excluding Fife), indicating a higher concentration of these business activities as compared to other cities in the region. This supports the data regarding employment that points to Gig Harbor as a regional retail destination. The only major category that is underrepresented is Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers (441), which highlights that this is an underrepresented part of the retail market for the city, largely due to the lack of activity associated with new and used auto dealerships.

Exhibit 7-9 provides a comparison between total taxable sales and retail potential (for retail sectors) for the top 20 subsectors in the city. As opposed to the assessment of pull factors, this examines the absolute amount of activity in dollars in 2023 and compares it (when relevant) to what would be expected as local retail purchasing from Gig Harbor residents.

Exhibit 7-9. Gig Harbor Taxable Retail Sales, Top 20 Subsectors, 2023.



Sources: WA Department of Revenue, 2024; BERK, 2024.

Under Exhibit 7-9, the top subsectors for taxable retail sales include General Merchandise Retailers (455), Food Service and Drinking Places (722), Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers (444), and Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, Book, and Misc. Retailers (459), all of which exceeded \$90 million in taxable sales in 2023. Business activities related to construction were lower than this, with the construction sector in general responsible for about \$97 million total, mostly in Specialty Trade Contractors (238) and Construction of Buildings (236). Note that communities experiencing significant growth can experience higher receipts from retail sales related to construction as this is charged at point of sale.

7.2.5 Buildable Lands Assessment

Under the Pierce County Ordinance No. [2022-46s](#), Gig Harbor employment targets have been defined as follows:

Estimated 2020 employment:	12,855 jobs
2044 total employment:	15,602 jobs
2020–2044 employment growth:	<u>+2,747 jobs</u>

Under the previous 2021 Buildable Lands Report, employment capacity within the city was allocated as follows:

Vacant land:	2,074 jobs
Underutilized land:	748 jobs
Pipeline development:	594 jobs
Total capacity:	<u>3,416 jobs</u>

This highlights that current capacity in the city is sufficient to manage the employment growth expected over the next 20 years under the Plan.

7.3 Goals and Policies

- ▶ **EC-1 Increase local employment opportunities by collaborating with Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Waterfront Alliance, and other business groups to attract, retain and expand employment.**
 - EC-1.1 Foster a thriving local economy that supports the well-being of the community, with a focus on creating quality job opportunities for residents.
 - EC-1.2 Ensure sufficient development capacity and infrastructure to support 15,602 jobs by 2044.
 - EC-1.3 Develop and implement a city-wide economic development and marketing strategy to attract businesses
 - EC-1.4 Promote Gig Harbor's economic opportunities in coordination with a structured business consortium such as a business roundtable or an Economic Development Advisory Commission.
 - EC-1.5 Collaborate with local educational institutions, economic development organizations, and Pierce County to develop a skilled workforce that meets the needs of local employers and supports the city's economic growth
 - EC-1.6 Encourage reductions in commuting through expansion of local employment, support for employees working at home (e.g., broadband infrastructure, co-working spaces, shared mobility programs, etc.), and expansion of affordable housing.
 - EC-1.7 Explore partnerships with the Economic Development Corporation of Pierce County
- ▶ **EC-2 Encourage local commercial and industrial development to meet expected demand from businesses, address underutilized sites, and build a sustainable tax base.**
 - EC-2.1 Develop and maintain a commercial and industrial site inventory that identifies major sites that could accommodate local employment opportunities and indicates potential infrastructure limitations that could impact their use for capital facilities planning.
 - EC-2.2 Coordinate efforts to provide sufficient supporting infrastructure to sites that could accommodate additional employment, with a priority on sites that provide significant public benefits.
 - EC-2.3 Coordinate with local economic development organizations to market available sites for use by businesses looking to expand or to relocate to Gig Harbor.
 - EC-2.4 Ensure extensions of public services for commercial and industrial activities within the urban growth area are contingent on agreements to accept annexation.
 - EC-2.5 Encourage the reuse of older buildings and the infill of commercial development to revitalize older commercial and business districts within the city. Help structure local marketing efforts,

physical improvements programs, parking and building improvements and special management organizations.

► **EC-3 Encourage and support local business development in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Waterfront Alliance and potential Economic Development Advisory Commission.**

- EC-3.1 Coordinate local business development programs, particularly for small start-up business concerns which may be owned by or employ local residents.
- EC-3.2 Promote small business financing, management assistance and training programs to support local businesses, such as collaboration with Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE).
- EC-3.3 Coordinate efficient and timely permitting and licensing processes, with additional support provided for small businesses.
- EC-3.4 Work with local groups to explore the creation of improvement districts and other programs that can help revitalize and support city businesses.
- EC-3.5 Monitor local and regional trends in relevant markets and provide information and support responsive to these trends, in partnership with local and regional economic organizations.
- EC-3.6 Recognize the importance of home-based businesses in the city through supportive guidelines and standards, especially for individuals who face barriers in traditional office settings such as caregivers, people with disabilities, and those otherwise preferring alternative work environments.
- EC-3.7 Identify incubator facilities which may be used for small business start-ups, such as older structures which may be reused for business purposes.
- EC-3.8 Integrate considerations for small businesses into neighborhood planning, especially with respect to retail and service offerings for local residents.
- EC-3.9 Actively collaborate with local Tribal Nations to identify and pursue mutually beneficial economic development opportunities that respect the sovereignty, culture and traditions of these Nations, including exploration of joint ventures, investment in cultural and ecotourism, infrastructure development and job creation initiatives.
- EC-3.10 Prioritize downtown design that supports local businesses and enhances its unique waterfront character and sense of place through pedestrian-friendly streetscapes, historic preservation, and vibrant public spaces.

8 Essential Public Facilities

8.1 Introduction

The Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates that comprehensive plans include a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities (EPFs), as outlined in RCW [36.70A.200](#)(1). These facilities are often considered difficult to site due to local opposition but are required to provide local or regional services. The GMA prohibits the exclusion of such facilities from comprehensive plans or development regulations, ensuring they are sited to support orderly growth and public service delivery.

This element includes the following:

- A description of relevant requirements and policies to be considered in the Comprehensive Plan,
- The location of current essential public facilities in the City of Gig Harbor, and
- A review of the process to be pursued by the City when siting essential public facilities.

This also contains goals and policies for essential public facilities and the City's relationship to external urban service and utility providers. It directs Gig Harbor's management and financing of capital improvements for the facilities and utilities it owns and operates.

One important note with this section is that the term "essential public facilities" is not exclusively applied to facilities that are publicly owned. While many of these facilities may be managed by government agencies, there are others that may be provided by the private sector as well.

8.2 Background

8.2.1 GMA Requirements

Essential public facilities are those that are challenging to locate due to potential negative impacts such as size, bulk, hazardous characteristics, noise, or concerns related to public health and safety. These facilities are part of a regional or county-wide service system and can be seen as a subset of public purpose lands, though they do not encompass all public, semi-public, and institutional land uses. The importance of the

The city must identify land for essential public facilities that meets the needs of the community. This is defined by RCW [36.70A.200](#) and WAC [365-196-550](#), and includes:

- Local solid waste handling and treatment facilities
- Landfills
- Drop-box sites and sewage treatment facilities
- Airports

- State educational facilities
- Essential state public facilities
- Regional transportation and utility facilities
- State and local correctional facilities; and
- In-patient facilities (including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, and group homes);

as well as any other state facility included on the six-year facilities plan maintained by the Washington State Office of Financial Management.

Although these requirements present the facilities that must be included, cities have leeway with respect to other facilities which may be included. However, as per WAC [365-196-030](#)(2), cities have significant leeway with respect to what can be included as “essential” under local policy.

8.2.2 Countywide Planning Policies on EPFs

The current Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies have provisions for essential public facilities. These require that cities:

- Adopt a local comprehensive plan policy for siting essential public facilities that serve countywide or statewide needs with a useful life of 10 years or more. (EPF-1)
- Designate lands suitable for public purposes and integrate these designations into local comprehensive plans. (EPF-2)
- Develop a local comprehensive plan policy and process for identifying and siting essential public facilities. This also includes requirements for the state to provide a justifiable need for EPFs and ensure public participation. (EPF-3)
- Maintain policies that consider facility requirements, impacts on land use, environment, health, and urban growth, and ensure site compatibility and community distribution. (EPF-4)
- Ensure that facility siting aligns with County and municipal comprehensive plans, including land use, capital facilities, utilities, transportation, housing, and regional welfare considerations. (EPF-5)
- Align policies related to siting these facilities with broader planning goals like reducing sprawl, fostering economic development, protecting the environment, ensuring fiscal benefits, and supporting affordable housing. (EPF-7)

EPF-6 also allows cities to establish standards for construction timing, property acquisition, impact control, zoning, climate change, health and safety, and sustainable development.

8.2.3 Essential Public Facilities in Gig Harbor

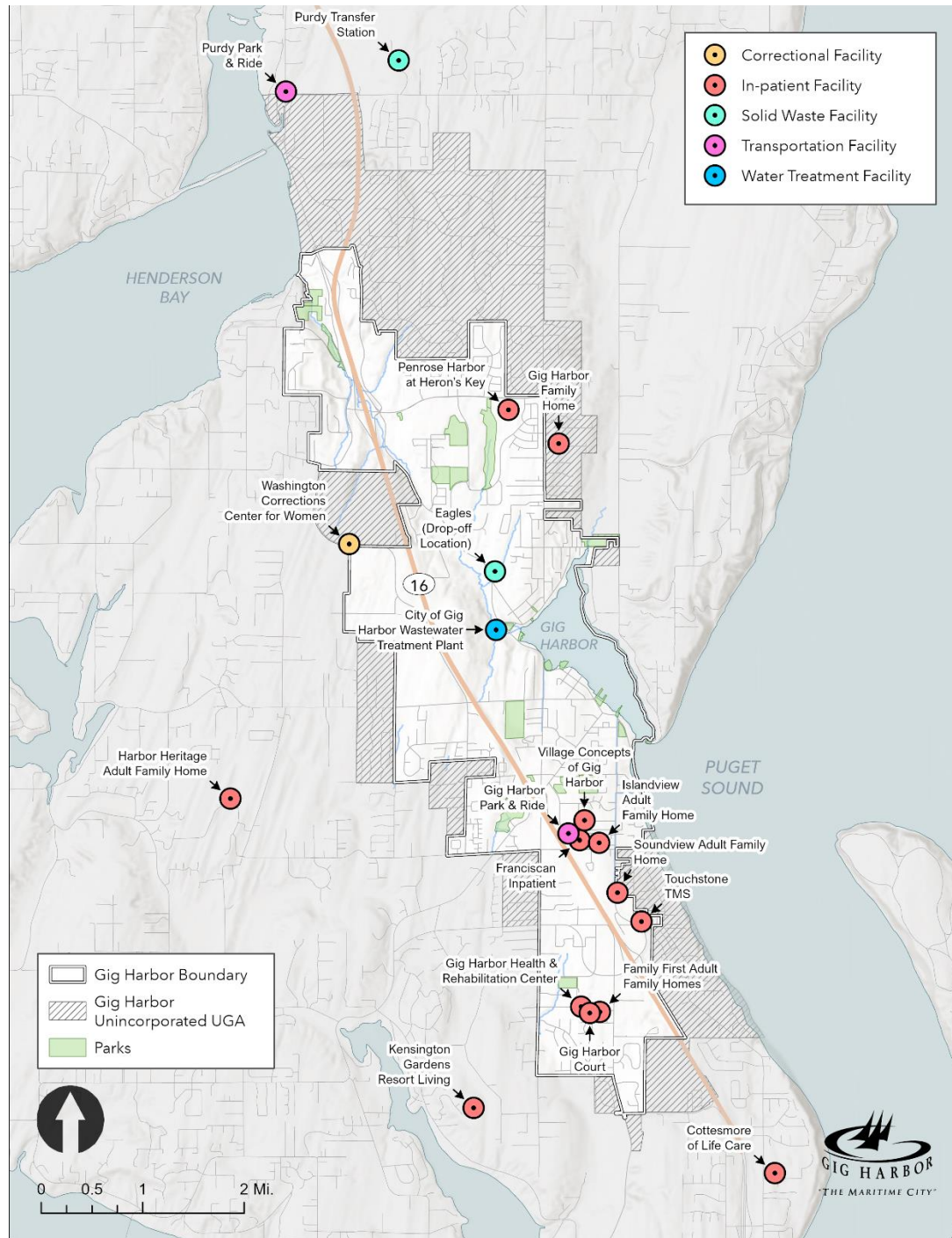
As of the 2023–2029 Six-Year Facilities Plan, no new statewide EPFs are expected to be built in Gig Harbor. The following facilities indicated in Exhibit 3-1 currently within Gig Harbor and its UGA are considered EPFs under the definitions provided above. These facilities are also shown on the map in Exhibit 8-2.

Exhibit 8-1. Essential Public Facilities in Gig Harbor

Facility	Address	Type
Purdy Transfer Station	14525 54th Ave NW	Solid Waste
Eagles (Drop-off Location)	4425 Burnham Dr NW	Solid Waste
City of Gig Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant	4216 Harborview Dr	Water Treatment
Gig Harbor Park & Ride	6565 Kimball Dr	Transportation
Purdy Park & Ride	14567 Purdy Dr	Transportation
Washington Corrections Center for Women	9801 Bujacich Rd	Correctional Facility
Gig Harbor Health & Rehabilitation Center	3309 45th St Ct	In-patient Facilities
Touchstone TMS	2727 Hollycroft St	In-patient Facilities
Franciscan Inpatient	6401 Kimball Dr	In-patient Facilities
Family First Adult Family Homes	4700 Point Fosdick Dr Suite 312	In-patient Facilities
Islandview Adult Family Home	3011 Islandview Ct	In-patient Facilities
Harbor Heritage Adult Family Home	7006 71st Ave NW	In-patient Facilities
Soundview Adult Family Home	5917 Soundview Dr	In-patient Facilities
Cottesmore of Life Care	2909 14th Ave NW	In-patient Facilities
Gig Harbor Family Home	3615 107th St NW	In-patient Facilities
Village Concepts of Gig Harbor	6633 McDonald Ave	In-patient Facilities
Penrose Harbor at Heron's Key	4340 Borgen Blvd	In-patient Facilities
Kensington Gardens Resort Living	3804 Olson Dr NW	In-patient Facilities
Gig Harbor Court	3213 45th St Ct	In-patient Facilities

Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024

Exhibit 8-2. Gig Harbor Essential Public Facilities Map



Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024

8.3 Goals and Policies

► EF-1 **Identify current, planned, and expected facilities that provide essential public benefits but may pose impacts to the community.**

- EF-1.1 Identify and maintain an inventory of current and planned “essential public facilities”, defined as facilities that have a useful life of 10 or more years with the potential for negative community impacts, including:
- a) Airports,
 - b) Marine port facilities,
 - c) Large ports,
 - d) State education facilities,
 - e) State or regional transportation facilities,
 - f) Regional transit authority facilities,
 - g) State and local correctional facilities,
 - h) Solid waste handling facilities,
 - i) Inpatient facilities including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, and secure community transition facilities,
 - j) Any other facility otherwise identified as necessary and of a statewide nature by the Washington State Office of Financial Management and included on the state 10-year capital plan, and
 - k) Those facilities that are otherwise identified as necessary and of a countywide nature by Pierce County.
- EF-1.2 Ensure that the identification of statewide essential public facilities is aligned with the standards and project lists from the Washington State Office of Financial Management.
- EF-1.3 Identify countywide essential public facilities in coordination with the county and other relevant jurisdictions.
- EF-1.4 Ensure that all essential public facilities are associated with justifiable, documented needs within the city, urban growth area, or broader region informed by 20-year population projections and expected technology advancements, if relevant.

► EF-2 **Minimize overall impacts from essential public facilities on the community while supporting public needs through effective site selection criteria.**

- EF-2.1 Manage suitable city sites for future use as essential public facilities.
- EF-2.2 Encourage essential public facilities to be sited in areas with:

- a) Minimal environmental constraints;
- b) Access to major transportation facilities and corridors;
- c) Compatible surrounding uses; and
- d) Sufficient supporting public services.

EF-2.3 Evaluate site suitability based on:

- a) Specific facility requirements, including the minimum size of the site, availability of supporting services, accessibility, and ability to meet local needs.
- b) Impacts of the facility, including the compatibility of surrounding uses; potential impacts on natural systems; expected changes related to public health and safety; and the effects on resulting development.
- c) Impacts on urban growth areas, including the nature and extent of urban growth.

EF-2.4 Ensure that there are sufficient buffers and screening between facilities and surrounding development.

EF-2.5 Ensure that for essential public facilities sited in residential neighborhoods that it is clearly established how the facility is suitable for the area and can minimize impacts to the surrounding residents.

EF-2.6 Involve the public in the site selection process for essential public facilities, especially residents of potentially affected areas.

► **EF-3 Minimize the impacts from the construction and operation of essential public facilities.**

EF-3.1 Require an impact analysis during the site selection process for an essential public facility to review implications of ongoing operations related to:

- a) Future land use compatibility;
- b) Existing land use and development in adjacent and surrounding areas;
- c) Existing zoning of surrounding areas;
- d) Existing Comprehensive Plan designation for surrounding areas;
- e) Present and proposed population density of surrounding area;
- f) Environmental impacts and opportunities to mitigate environmental impacts;
- g) Physical, social, emotional, and mental health impacts and opportunities to mitigate health impacts of those living in the vicinity;
- h) Effects on agricultural, forest or mineral lands, critical areas, and historic, archaeological, and cultural sites;

- i) Effects on areas outside of the city in neighboring jurisdictions;
- j) Effects on designated open space corridors;
- k) "Spin-off" (secondary / tertiary) impacts; and
- l) Effects from associated development induced by the siting of the facility.

- EF-3.2 Ensure that essential public facilities are consistent with all required and optional elements of this Comprehensive Plan, as well as the general welfare of the city and region, but that the Comprehensive Plan does not preclude the siting of essential public facilities in the city.
- EF-3.3 Provide site, building and design standards that improve the compatibility between essential public facilities and their surroundings.
- EF-3.4 Ensure "fair-share" appropriations or payments that avoid a disproportionate financial burden from the operation of an essential public facility.
- EF-3.5 Provide for a regular review of the ongoing impacts to the community from essential public facilities and coordinate with facility operators to manage these impacts.

9 Utilities

9.1 Introduction

The Utilities Element of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan ensures the provision of essential services necessary for the City's development and the well-being of its residents. Utilities addressed in this element include water, wastewater, electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and solid waste disposal. The primary goal is to coordinate with regional and independent utility providers to deliver reliable and high-quality services that meet the current and future needs of the community, while adhering to state and federal regulations. The element focuses on integrating utility planning with land use policies to support sustainable growth, minimize service disruptions, and optimize the use of resources across the city.

Per the relevant CPPs and RCW [36.70A.070](#)(4), the Utilities Element maintains internal consistency with other elements of the Comprehensive Plan, such as land use and capital facilities. It highlights the necessity for proactive planning and coordination with regional and independent utility providers to address the challenges of increasing demand, aging infrastructure, and infrastructure resilience. This element also promotes the conservation of energy and resources through efficiencies and economies of scale, the integration of new technologies, and the equitable distribution of services. By ensuring that utility services are planned and developed in a manner that is responsive to the City's growth and environmental conditions, the Utilities Element contributes to the City's long-term resilience and sustainability.

9.2 Background

9.2.1 Utilities

As discussed in the Capital Facilities Element, the City of Gig Harbor owns its wastewater utility and a percentage of its water utility. All other utilities are provided through intergovernmental or interagency agreements.

Exhibit 9-1 summarizes the utilities, providers, and applicable plans that guide the utilities as they respond to infrastructure maintenance and future growth. Each of these utilities is discussed in further detail in the following sections.

Exhibit 9-1. Major Utility Providers in Gig Harbor

Service / Utility	Agency	Description	Applicable Plans
Wastewater	City of Gig Harbor	Provides sewer services to the City of Gig Harbor	City of Gig Harbor Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Update, 2018
Water	City of Gig Harbor Washington Water Service (WWS) Peninsula Light Water Thurston PUD	Provides water to the City of Gig Harbor	2016 Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan 2018 Gig Harbor Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, 2022 - WWS Water System Plan; WWS Capital Improvement Plan - Peninsula Light Water - Thurston PUD Annual Water System Report – Quail Run 667, 2023
Electricity	Peninsula Light Company	Provides electric power to the City of Gig Harbor	Peninsula Light Company Energy Resource Plan 2022
Natural Gas	Puget Sound Energy (PSE)	Supplies natural gas to the City of Gig Harbor	2023 PSE Community Profile (Pierce County) 2023 PSE Gas Utility Integrated Resource Plan and Appendices
Telecommunications	Various private communications companies	Provide a range of telecommunication services, including telephone, cable, personal wireless communication, and internet	- Pierce County Broadband Connectivity and Access Evaluation, 2019 - The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regulates the rates and services of telephone companies operating in Washington per WAC 480-120. The WUTC does not normally regulate cable, internet, wireless phones, and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).
Solid Waste / Garbage	Murrey's Disposal Land Recovery, Inc.	Manage solid waste, recycling, and compost in the City	2021 Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan

Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

Major utility services provided include the following:

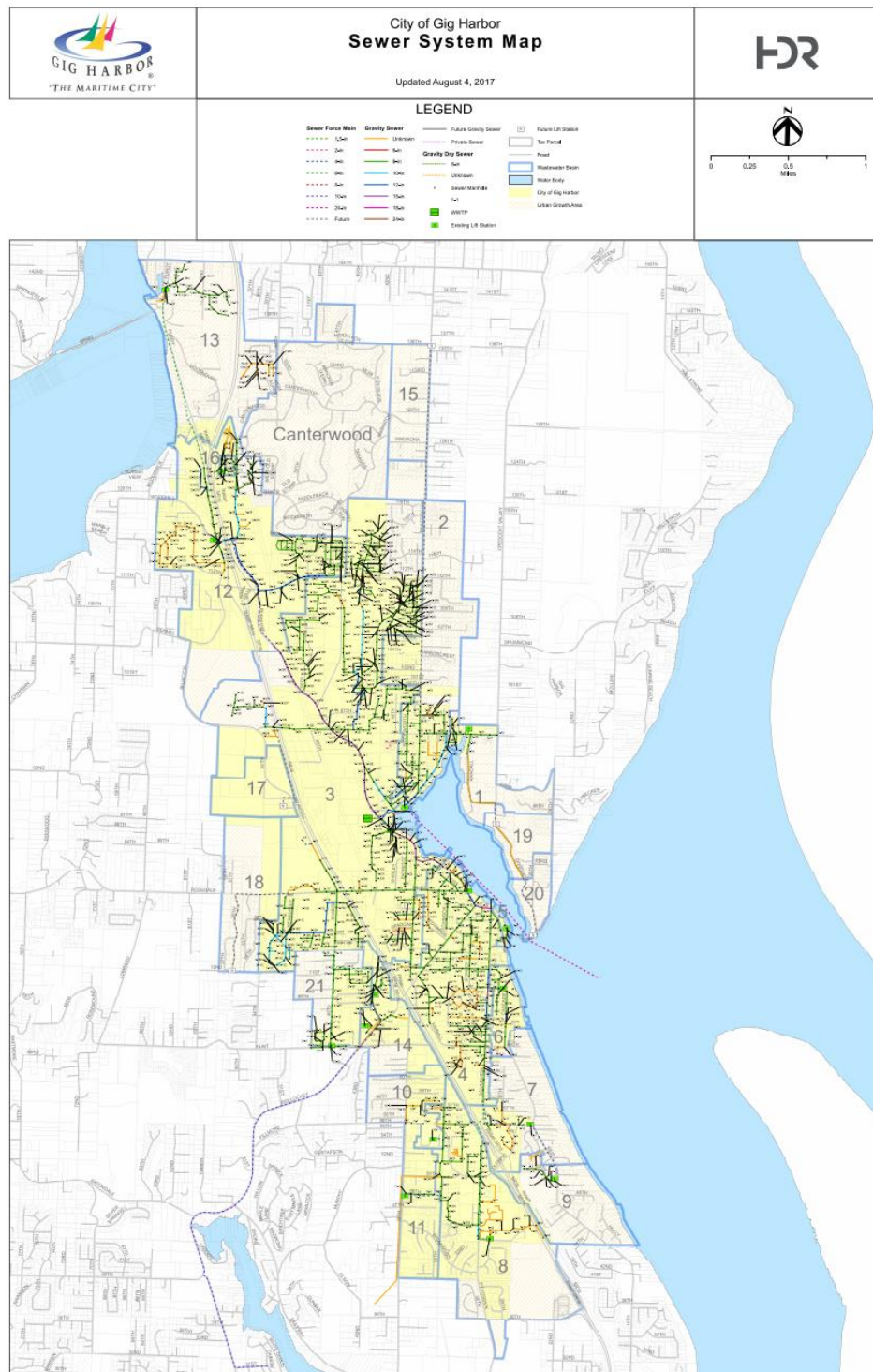
Wastewater

Sanitary sewer service in the City of Gig Harbor is owned, operated, and maintained by the City. The wastewater division is in the Public Works Department of the City.

With a service area of 1,800 acres, the system provides sewer services within the city limits and to select developments in the UGA, such as Canterwood Estates and the Washington Corrections Center for Women. Outside of the UGA, the City owns, operates, and maintains an on-site septic system for the 24-unit Shorecrest Development, located on Ray Nash Drive NW. The City also treats septic effluent from a 68-unit housing development on Wollochet Bay in unincorporated Pierce County. Within the City's UGA, there are individual residential on-site septic systems on select parcels; the City hopes to connect these parcels to the City sewer system by 2050.

As of 2018, the wastewater system includes 57 miles of sanitary sewer lines. Its collection system includes 213,000 lineal feet of gravity and force main pipe sewers and 18 lift stations. See Exhibit 9-2 for a map of the major sewer system lines as of 2017. The City of Gig Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located on five acres west of the intersection of Harborview Drive and North Harborview Drive, treats millions of gallons of wastewater each year. Built in 1975 with major upgrades in 2009 and 2016, the WWTP has increased capacity and improved reliability to adequately serve the City's current residents and future growth. Its current daily average flow is approximately 1.1 MGD (million gallons per day). Future improvements are anticipated to increase the WWTP's loading limit to 2.4 MGD, which exceeds the 20-year flow and waste load planning projections.

Exhibit 9-2. City of Gig Harbor Sewer System Map, 2017



The City regularly updates its Wastewater Comprehensive Plan to assess existing and future capacity of the sewer system, identify specific wastewater utility infrastructure improvements and determine how best to provide wastewater services to the Gig Harbor community over a 20-year growth period. It analyzes potential strategies to promote water resource management and environmental sustainability, such as a reclaimed water program, and identifies improvements to the wastewater system needed over the next 20-year planning period.

Future needs identified by the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan focus on the full build-out of its sewer services to the limits of the UGA. By 2050, it assumes that all unsewered developed parcels and new developments are sewer. See Exhibit 9-3 for the demographic forecast allocation model WWTP used to estimate its sewer and non-sewered build-out. Exhibit 9-4 shows the anticipated wastewater flow projections. See the Capital Facilities Element for further details on future capital improvement projects related to the wastewater utility, costs, funding, and approximate schedule to address these projections.

Exhibit 9-3. Gig Harbor UGA Demographics Based on Adjusted Growth Rates by Sewer Connection

Year	Single-Family Households		Multifamily Households		Employment		Prison Inmates	School Enrollment
	Sewered Units	Non-Sewered	Sewered	Non-Sewered	Sewered	Non-Sewered		
2017	2,035	2,889	1,580	1,225	18,929	9,635	738	5,970
2037	5,674	1,184	2,446	739	30,859	9,492	894	8,949
Build-Out	7,608	0	3,466	0	45,517	0	996	10,356

Source: Gig Harbor Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Update, 2018.

Exhibit 9-4. Average Sanitary and Peak Flow Estimates, 2017 - Build-Out

Category	Unit Wastewater Flows	2017		2037		Build-out	
		Sewered	ADWF (GPD)	Sewered	ADWF (GPD)	Sewered	ADWF (GPD)
Single-Family Residential	134 gpd per unit	2,035	272,659	5,674	760,337	7,608	1,019,481
Multi-Family Residential	134 gpd per unit	1,580	211,720	2,446	327,783	3,466	464,385
Employment	18 gpd per person	18,929	340,720	30,859	555,459	45,517	819,298
Prison	100 gpd per person	738	73,800	894	89,436	996	99,600
School	20 gpd per person	5,970	119,400	8,949	178,972	10,356	207,120
Wollochet Harbor	---	---	11,000	---	11,000	---	11,000
Average Dry Weather Flow		1,018,299		1,911,988		2,609,884	
Sanitary Peak Flow		1,527,449		2,867,982		3,914,826	

Source: Gig Harbor Wastewater Comprehensive Plan, 2018.

Water

The Gig Harbor community receives water through multiple water providers, including the City of Gig Harbor Water System, Washington Water Service, Peninsula Light Water, Thurston County Public Utility District (Thurston PUD), and private wells. Exhibit 9-5 shows the water system plan in the City of Gig Harbor, highlighting the Gig Harbor Retail Water Service Area and adjacent water purveyors.

Exhibit 9-5. Gig Harbor Water System and Adjacent Purveyors, 2018

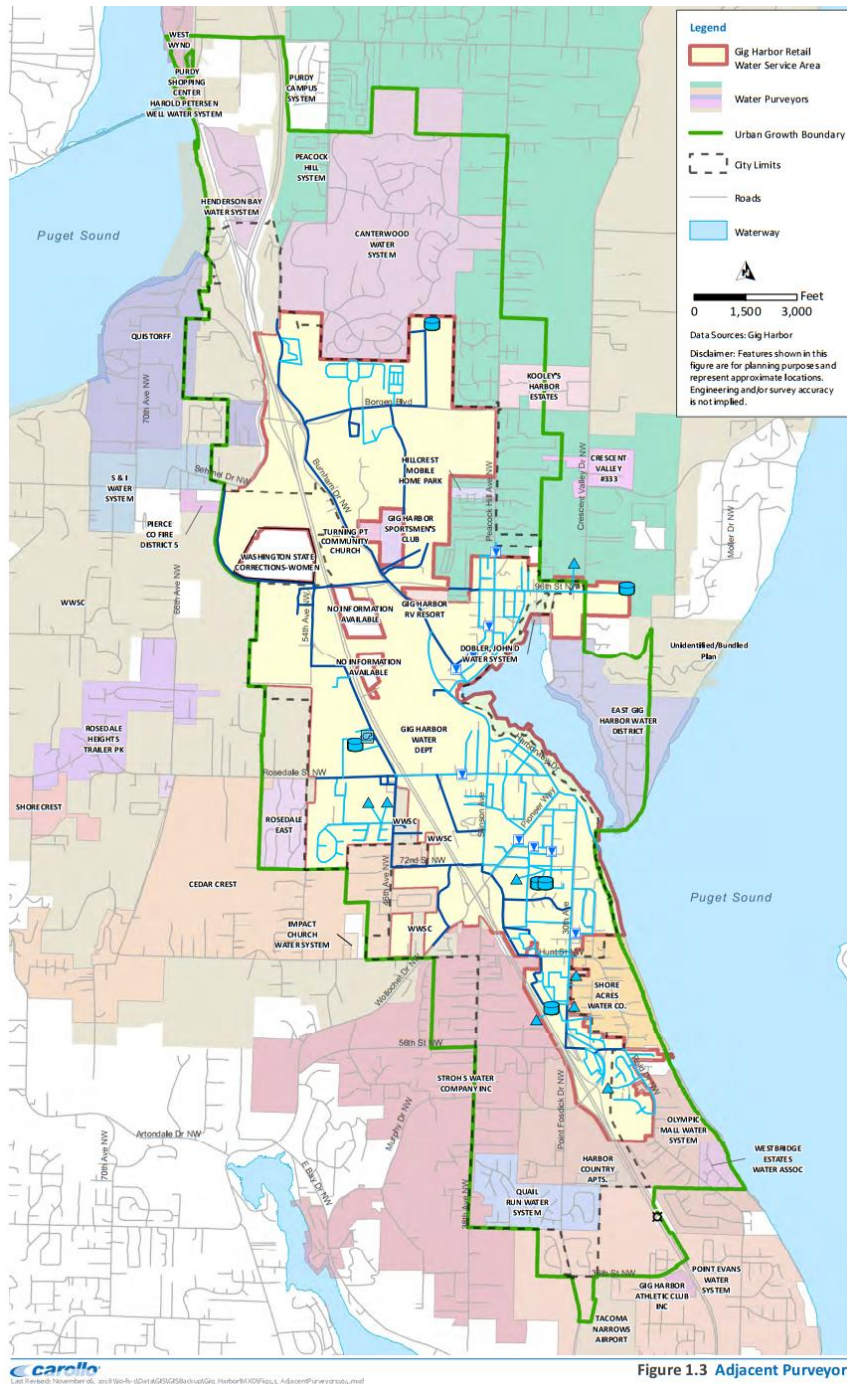


Figure 1.3 Adjacent Purveyors

Source: Gig Harbor 2018 Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, 2022

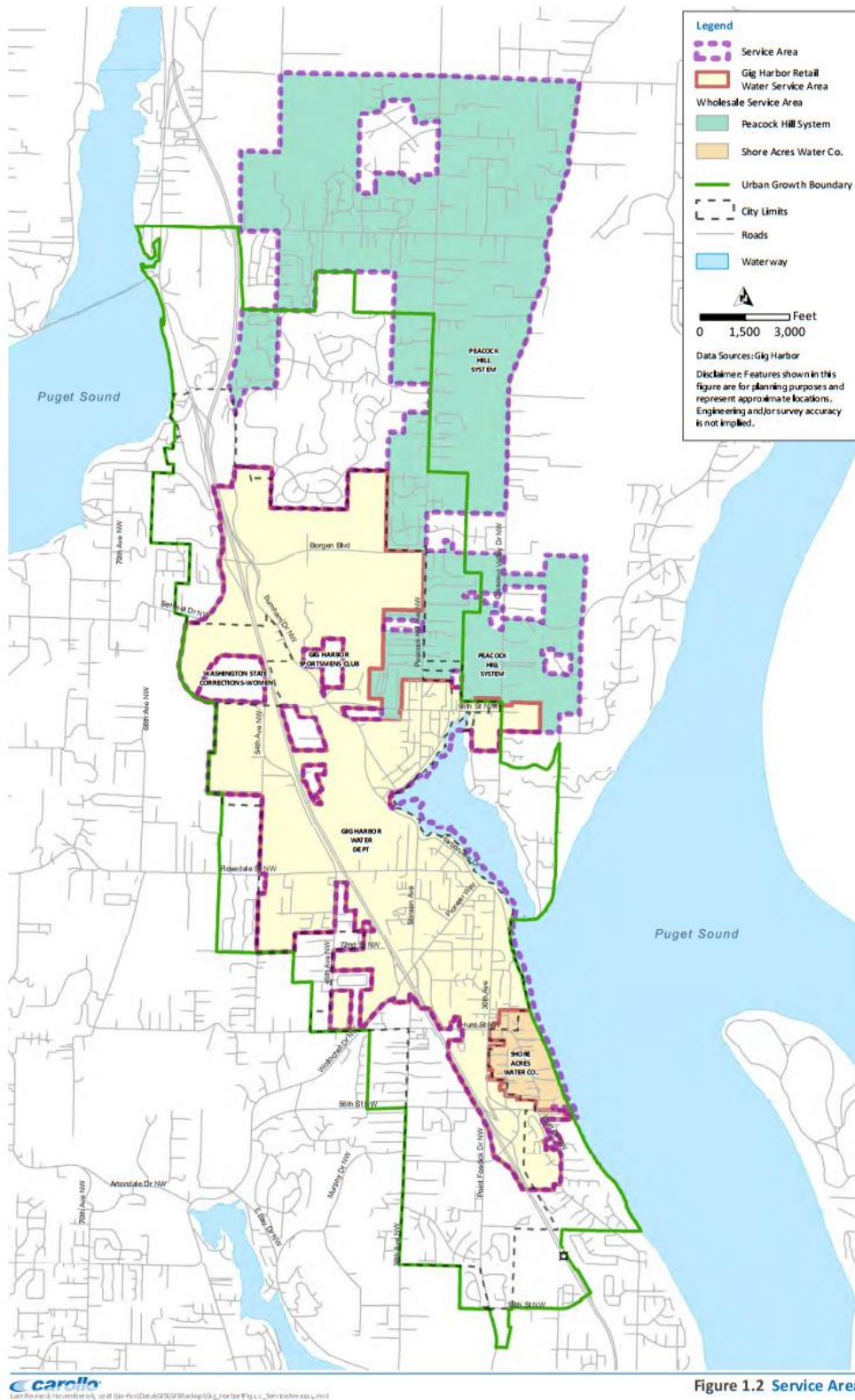
City of Gig Harbor Water System

The City of Gig Harbor Water System provides water to approximately 35% of the population within the city limits and UGA. Its retail water service area (RWSA) serves approximately 9,600 people and is approximately 4.45 square miles with 2,583 service connections and 43 miles of pipeline, as of 2017. It provides wholesale water service to customers outside the RWSA and has an emergency intertie with the Peacock Hill Water System. See Exhibit 9-6 for its RWSA and Exhibit 9-7 for its existing water system facilities.

For water supply, the Water System relies solely on its groundwater wells to meet its current supply. Its system is divided into three pressure zones: the 320 zone, 440 zone, and the 450 zone. For storage, the Water System contains six reservoirs, with a total storage capacity of 4.6 million gallons (MG). needs. See Exhibit 9-8 for the Water System's total well capacity and Exhibit 9-9 for its total storage reservoir capacity. The City also holds seven additive municipal purpose certificated water rights and one non-additive water permit.

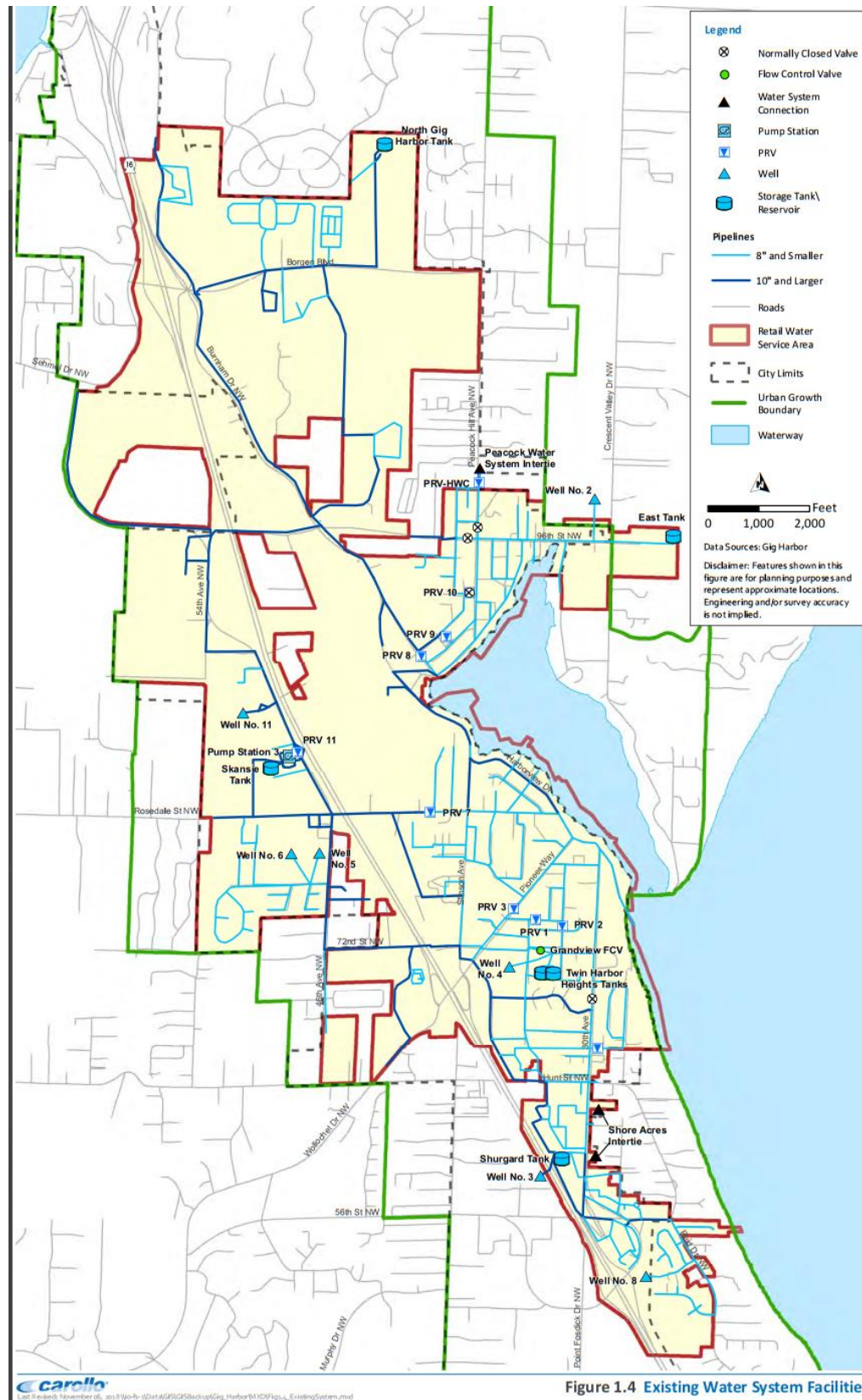
The Water System Plan forecasts water demand within the RWSA to evaluate the system's ability to meet future water needs over the next ten to twenty years and identify priorities for system infrastructure projects. The City's current average day demand (ADD) is approximately 1.1 million gallons per day (mgd) and is expected to rise to 1.4-1.5 mgd by 2037. The current maximum daily demand (MDD) is approximately 2.5 mgd and is expected to rise to 3.1-3.6 mgd by 2037. With its current supply and water rights, the City has sufficient water rights to meet projected demand over the next twenty years. However, the City is exploring development of Well 9 to add redundancy to the water system.

Exhibit 9-6. City of Gig Harbor Water System Service Area, 2018



Source: Gig Harbor 2018 Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, 2022

Exhibit 9-7. Existing Water System Facilities, 2018



Source: Gig Harbor 2018 Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, 2022

Exhibit 9-8. Inventory of Gig Harbor Wells

Well Number	Pressure Zone Served	Date Well Drilled	Maximum Instantaneous Flow Rate (gpm)	Well Pumping Capacity (gpm)
1 ¹	320	1951	400	0
2	320	1963	330	272
3	440	1978	625	626
4	320	1988	230	159
5	440	1990	500	524
6	440	1991	1,000	1,019
8	440	1965	30	12
10 ²	320	--	330 ²	0 ²
11	450	2013	-- ³	1,000
Total Gallons per Minute (gpm)			3,115	3,612

¹ Well 1 and Well 10 are inactive.

² Well 10 is a test well and supplemental to Well 2.

³ Well 11 is supplemental to system wells.

Source: Gig Harbor 2018 Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, 2022

Exhibit 9-9. Water System Storage Facilities

Name	Zone Served	Year Constructed	Nominal Volume (MG)
East Tank	320	1963	0.23
Twin Harbor Heights Tank No. 1	320	1962	0.25
Twin Harbor Heights Tank No. 2	320	1973	0.23
Shurgard Tank	440	1979	0.53
Skansie Tank	440	1989	1.13
North Gig Harbor Tank	450	2006	2.23
Total Storage (MG)			4.60

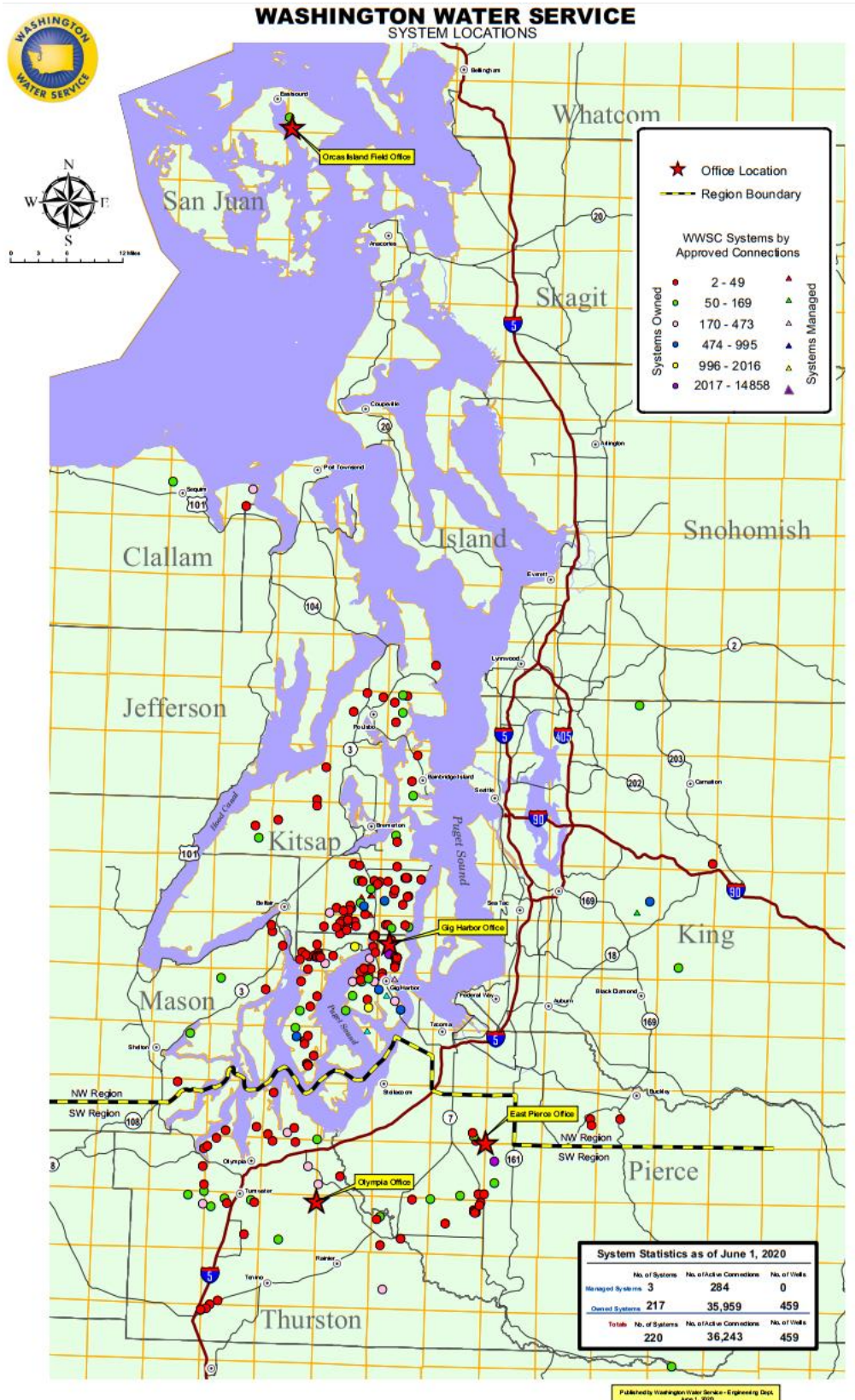
Source: Gig Harbor 2018 Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, 2022.

Washington Water Service

A subsidiary of California Water Service Group, Washington Water Service (WWS) provides water utility services to 38,000 customers in the region and is the largest investor-owned water utility in the State. WWS operates the NW Regional Office in Gig Harbor, with numerous system connections that serve the Gig Harbor community and Kitsap Peninsula region. See Exhibit 9-10.

The WWS water service in Gig Harbor is divided into three service areas – East Pierce (formerly Rainier View Water), Gig Harbor, and Stroh's. In 2020, WWS acquired Rainier View Water Company, which provided water services adjacent to WWS East Gig Harbor operations. In 2023, WWS acquired Stroh's Water Company, which provided water service in the central and southwest Gig Harbor area to approximately 900 customers.

Exhibit 9-10. Washington Water Service System Locations, 2020



Source: Washington Water Service, 2020.

Peninsula Light Water

Along with electricity, Peninsula Light Company provides water services to Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula to consolidate the independent water systems in the area. It has more than 3,000 water service members in its 112-square mile region.

Thurston PUD

Thurston PUD provides water services to parts of Gig Harbor through the Qual Run 667 connection. The connection consists of two groundwater wells that produce over 16.7 million gallons of water and have 136,000 gallons of storage capacity. It serves approximately 200 water connections, with each household using an average of 226 gallons per day. Annual consumption is approximately 16.3 million gallons of water.

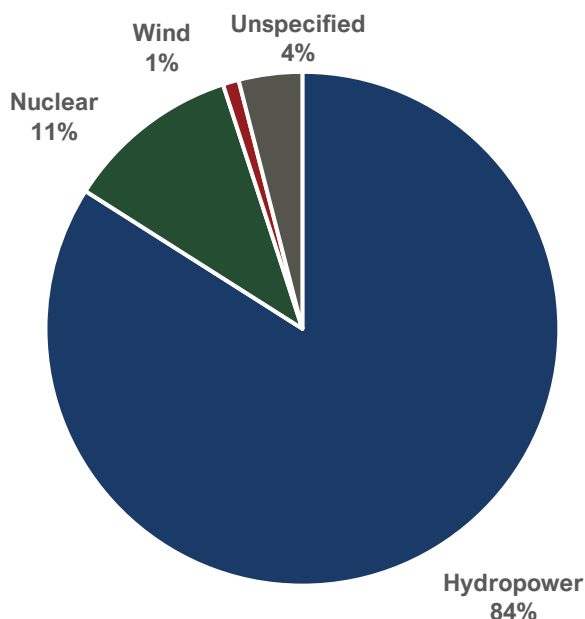
Electricity and Natural Gas

Gig Harbor electricity is provided through Peninsula Light Company, and its natural gas needs are met by Puget Sound Energy.

Peninsula Light Company

Peninsula Light Company (PenLight) is an electric cooperative that provides electricity services to over 30,000 homes and businesses across 112 square miles in Western Pierce County; its service territory encompasses Gig Harbor, Key Peninsulas, and Fox Island. Approximately 90% of its power is provided through Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). It also receives renewable energy from its Harvest Wind project. More than 80% of its fuel is derived from hydropower. See Exhibit 9-11.

Exhibit 9-11. PenLight Fuel Mix, 2022



Source: Peninsula Light Company, 2024.

PenLight submits a Resource Plan to the Department of Commerce every two years, which forecasts its anticipated loads over the next five and ten years. The Resource Plan helps anticipate future needs as population grows in the service territory. According to its 2022 Resource Plan, PenLight estimates that its annual total resources in 2031 is 69.08 MWa. Most power resources are anticipated to come from BPA, with an increasing trend of conservation and efficiency from 2021-2031.

Puget Sound Energy

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is the exclusive natural gas provider for the City of Gig Harbor. Natural gas is sourced from the Rocky Mountains and Canada, transported via interstate pipelines, and then distributed through supply mains to residential, commercial, and industrial customers. The Operations Planning Department of PSE monitors development permits and land-use applications to plan for future natural gas facility needs.

PSE supplies natural gas to nearly 170,000 customers throughout Pierce County, including the Gig Harbor community. Its infrastructure in Pierce County includes 31 substations and nearly 3,000 gas mains. There is also a liquefied natural gas (LNG) satellite storage facility, located at 9610 Bujacich Road in Gig Harbor. The facility adds flexibility and resiliency to support short-term natural gas service delivery to the Gig Harbor community, particularly during peak weather events. The capacity of the Gig Harbor LNG system as defined under the 2023 PSE Gas Utility Integrated Plan includes:

- 2,500 Dth/d withdrawal capacity⁴
- 2,500 Dth/d injection capacity
- 10,500 Dth storage capacity

PSE prepares an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) every two years, which forecasts demand over the next twenty years and evaluates how its resources will meet customers' future natural gas supply needs. The IRP identifies major pipeline projects to enhance reliability, increase operational flexibility, and replace aging infrastructure. Recent local projects include the replacement of 11,200 feet of old gas mainlines along Canterwood Drive Northwest in Gig Harbor. In 2018, PSE identified the need for a long-term supply solution related to the Gas Reliability Marine Crossing, the only gas pipeline supply to the Gig Harbor peninsula. As of 2023, the project was in its initiation phase, with PSE evaluating cost-effective long-term supply solutions for delivering gas service to its customers on the Gig Harbor peninsula, Vashon Island, and Maury Island area.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications includes phone and internet services. These services are delivered to the City by numerous private providers. These providers include AT&T, Century Link, DIRECTV, DISH, Frontier Internet, HughesNet, Viasat, and XFINITY. All providers that serve the Gig Harbor community are under private ownership.

⁴ "Dth" refers to "dekatherms".

Federal and State regulations require that telecommunications purveyors provide adequate telecommunications services on demand. Continuing coordination between the City and telecommunications purveyors will help ensure maintenance of adequate levels of service as growth occurs.

The FCC National Broadband Map shows Gig Harbor fully served by fixed broadband as of December 2023. Gig Harbor shows nearly 100% coverage of mobile broadband, with 4G covering much of the area. However, there are select locations that show 57-71% coverage, particularly in more wooded, rural areas near the shoreline. To close this gap, Pierce County is making investments to bridge broadband gaps and improve broadband internet service improvements throughout the county, including in rural parts of the Gig Harbor region.

Solid Waste

Solid waste in Gig Harbor is managed by Murrey's Disposal, a private company under city contract. Murrey's Disposal provides solid waste collection services to more than 93,000 residential and 2,600 commercial customers in the Gig Harbor peninsula and north Pierce County region. The final disposal location is the 168-acre LRI Landfill located on a 320-acre site in Graham, Washington. It has capacity for approximately 29.2 million cubic yards.

The Purdy Transfer Station, located at 14515 54th Avenue NW in Gig Harbor, is owned by Pierce County and operated by Land Recovery, Inc. (LRI). The transfer station's current capacity is 82,125 tons per year. Located at the same site is a recycling center and compost facility, also owned by Pierce County. The composting facility has a current capacity of 29,200 tons of compost per year, which handles less than a quarter of the County's needs for composting capacity.

The Tacoma-Pierce Solid Waste Plan manages and plans solid waste management for the region over the next twenty years for the region. It is revised every 5 years, with the most recent revision in 2021. Under current planning conditions and future growth projections, the LRI landfill will reach its capacity in 2032. To manage capacity, Pierce County is considering solid waste transfer evaluations, such as potentially doubling the capacity of the Purdy Transfer Station. Pierce County is also working on a new Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan that will identify strategies to improve its infrastructure in anticipation of future regional population growth.

9.2.2 Future Needs

The adequate provision of high-quality, reliable, and affordable utility services is essential for the Gig Harbor community. With increased development and population growth, the utility systems and facilities must continue to expand and improve to meet higher demand. These improvements must occur alongside development to maintain levels of service. Therefore, Gig Harbor must continue to coordinate with its utility providers on growth and expansion to ensure reliable service provision to customers aligns with future development. Coordination also includes maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure, construction of new utility infrastructure to increase capacity in response to future development,

9.2.3 Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges and opportunities for utilities include:

- **Aging Infrastructure:** Existing utility infrastructure, such as water pipes and sewer lift stations, are nearing the end of their lifespan and are in poor condition in need of replacement. The PSE natural gas marine pipeline also shows future need for replacement. Strong partnerships among City departments and utility providers will help ensure infrastructure upgrades are aligned with the City's priorities for existing infrastructure replacement and provide continuous service delivery.
- **Capacity Limitation and Expansion:** Projected population growth will increase demand for utility services, resulting in capacity constraints for specific utility services. Regarding sewer, the City desires to expand sewer extensions to individual residential parcels currently on septic systems. The sewer also shows limited capacity in some pipe sections that require replacement and the general expansion of its lift stations, force mains, and gravity sewer extensions. The solid waste capacity of the LRI landfill also shows constrained capacity as it accommodates regional growth and the potential future expansion of the Purdy Transfer Station. The Public Works Department should coordinate with utility providers and appropriate jurisdictional agencies to allow for an efficient and seamless infrastructure expansion.
- **Innovation and Resiliency:** As technology advances, utility providers can upgrade their infrastructure with greater resilience. Future upgrades include installing flow meters at all sewer lift stations to help with wet weather flow management to increase resilience to flooding; exploring the value of using reclaimed water as a water resource management strategy to optimize wastewater treatment plant capacity and enhance local surface and ground waters. Proactively embracing innovative technologies and solutions that incorporate resiliency can enhance the utility providers' service reliability, cost-effectiveness, and long-term sustainability.

9.3 Goals and Policies

► UT-1 **Coordinate the efficient siting of new utility services and infrastructure to minimize impacts.**

- UT-1.1 Locate utility lines within existing right-of-way corridors and provide sufficient rights-of-way for utilities in new developments.
- UT-1.2 Minimize impacts of the maintenance of transmission lines on the natural environment.
- UT-1.3 Provide sufficient natural vegetative screening, buffers, and setbacks from electric utility substations.
- UT-1.4 Ensure compatibility between local utilities and nearby development.
- UT-1.5 Encourage the underground installation of new utilities and undergrounding of existing utilities where possible.
- UT-1.6 Coordinate the undergrounding of utility feeder and distribution lines in visually sensitive areas with Peninsula Light Company through agreements for cost sharing, timing, and phasing.
- UT-1.7 Coordinate utility improvements and undergrounding with providers as part of major road realignment or construction projects.
- UT-1.8 Coordinate the development of new public and private infrastructure facilities to co-locate facilities in shared alignments and minimize construction-related disruptions.
- UT-1.9 Ensure that all utility infrastructure is installed consistent with City policy and requirements for the protection of the public's health, safety and welfare.
- UT-1.10 Maintain an inventory of utility facilities and alignments in GIS, and ensure it is consistently updated in collaboration with private utility providers.

► UT-2 **Encourage energy conservation in the community to minimize the need for new facilities and resource use.**

- UT-2.1 Support electricity and water conservation programs by utilities to reduce future needs for additional infrastructure.
- UT-2.2 Encourage conservation efforts by utilities to minimize the demand for nonrenewable resources and emissions of greenhouse gases.
- UT-2.3 Provide flexible siting guidelines for buildings to allow for maximum solar access where on-site solar power generation would be practical.
- UT-2.4 Provide flexible road-width standards to minimize impervious surfaces, surface water quality impacts, and the use of pavement construction materials.

- UT-2.5 Encourage the use of energy conservation and sustainable on-site generation features in new development projects through site development incentives.
- UT-2.6 Encourage ongoing changes to the Washington State Energy Code that allow for financially sustainable energy conservation improvements.
- **UT-3 Provide sufficient stormwater management infrastructure to address stormwater runoff quality and quantity to applicable standards.**
 - UT-3.1 Maintain a stormwater management program that is in compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) standards.
 - UT-3.2 Provide stormwater management design standards that maintain adequate levels of storage and treatment while considering economic efficiency and environmental protection.
 - UT-3.3 Explore the use of Local Improvement Districts (LIDs) to support necessary upgrades to local stormwater facilities and ensure developers bear the costs of required improvements related to their projects.
- **UT-4 Coordinate the delivery of high-quality potable water with sufficient volume and pressure.**
 - UT-4.1 Upgrade substandard water systems within the City limits to provide sufficient fire flows and comply with fire protection codes.
 - UT-4.2 Provide for facility charges for new development and major redevelopment projects to upgrade existing water systems to maintain expected standards under increased demand.
 - UT-4.3 Encourage water conservation through programs and incentives for residential and commercial users.
 - UT-4.4 Promote landscaping and irrigation systems with lower water demands to reduce water consumption.
 - UT-4.5 Coordinate a Water System Plan for the City Water Service Area that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
 - UT-4.6 Explore the use of reclaimed water in the city to reduce demands for potable water.
- **UT-5 Provide adequate wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities to protect human and environmental health and meet applicable standards.**
 - UT-5.1 Maintain a Sewer Comprehensive Plan to identify needed wastewater infrastructure over the next twenty years.
 - UT-5.2 Plan for the expansion of wastewater treatment plant capacity to meet future expected demands.
 - UT-5.3 Provide sewer services to properties within the unincorporated urban growth area consistent with adopted policies on extension requests.

UT-5.4 Require connections to the city sewer system under the following conditions:

- a) For new residential and commercial development, if the development is within city limits, or if it is within the unincorporated urban growth area and within 200 feet of a city sewer line.
- b) For existing residential and commercial development not serviced by the city sewer system, it is within 200 feet of a city sewer line and there has been a failure in on-site treatment documented by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

UT-5.5 Explore Local Improvement Districts (LID) as a means to support upgrades to existing sewer systems or the provision of new sewer lines.

UT-5.6 Require all new development in the unincorporated urban growth area requesting city sewer service to be compliant with all applicable city design standards.

► **UT-6 Coordinate with providers and government organizations to maintain and improve the quality of telecommunications service in the city.**

UT-6.1 Coordinate planning with the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission and telecom companies providing service to Gig Harbor to identify facility and infrastructure needs within the city and urban growth area.

UT-6.2 Maintain an inventory of the existing and planned telecommunications facilities needed to provide services to the city and urban growth area.

► **UT-7 Ensure that the city is served by a comprehensive solid waste management system that is efficient and environmentally sustainable.**

UT-7.1 Support an integrated solid waste management system that includes provisions for reduction, recycling, and disposal.

UT-7.2 Support comprehensive recycling and composting programs for residential and commercial users to divert materials from landfills.

UT-7.3 Support a residential hazardous waste program that ensures the safe collection, recycling, and disposal of hazardous materials, and protects environmental safety and human health.

UT-7.4 Ensure compliance with the County comprehensive solid waste management plan in addressing organic materials management capacity.

► **UT-8 Support the reliable and safe provision of natural gas that is coordinated with current and future needs.**

UT-8.1 Ensure that current and planned natural gas infrastructure and facilities meets expected demands.

UT-8.2 Coordinate with providers to integrate natural gas facilities with surrounding land uses and protect corridors from incompatible encroachments.

UT-8.3 Consider climate change policies and energy consumption trends in the management of natural gas facilities.

10 Shoreline Management

10.1 Introduction

The Shoreline Management Element of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan is integral to preserving the unique and diverse characteristics of the city's waterfront areas while promoting sustainable development and public enjoyment. This element is guided by the Shoreline Management Act of 1971 and the city's Shoreline Master Program (adopted by reference in this Plan), initially adopted in 1975, and updated most recently in 2013 and 2022. It encompasses the various aspects of shoreline use, including historical fishing industries, contemporary residential and recreational marinas, and commercial activities that are essential to the city's identity and economy. The overarching aim is to balance ecological preservation with development, ensuring that the natural and scenic qualities of Gig Harbor's shoreline are protected for future generations while supporting economic and recreational opportunities.

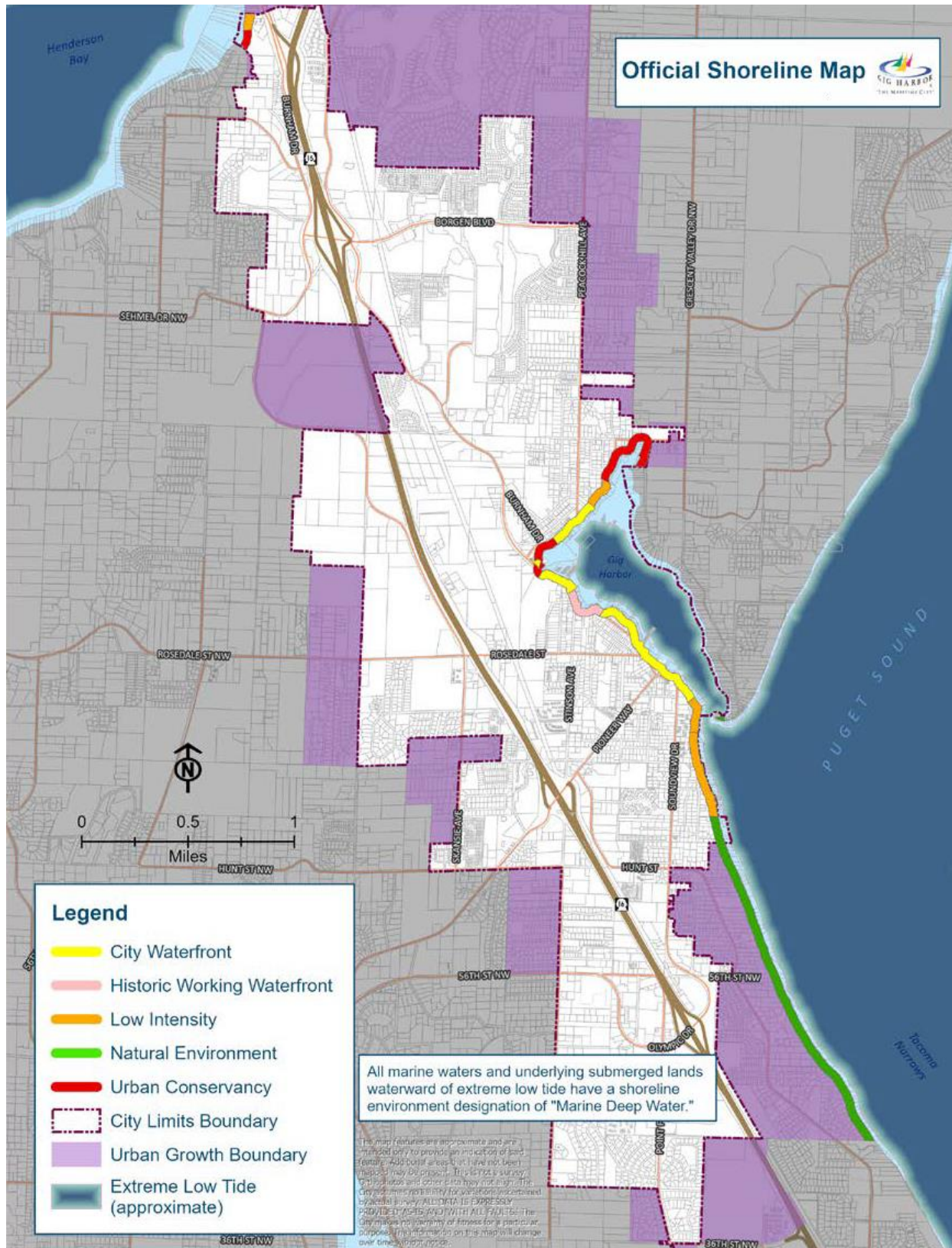
Key goals of the Shoreline Management Element include:

- protecting the natural quality of the shoreline
- maintaining the historical fishing industry
- promoting mixed-use waterfront development
- ensuring high-quality development that respects the historical and cultural character of the area.

Implementation of these goals involves conserving vital habitats, maintaining water and shoreline quality, and managing vegetation to support ecological functions. The plan also emphasizes the importance of water-oriented uses and public access to the waterfront, supporting activities like pleasure boating, and residential developments that enhance the public's interaction with the shoreline. By integrating these goals into the Comprehensive Plan, Gig Harbor aims to foster a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable waterfront that continues to serve as a cornerstone of the community's identity and economic vitality.

The planning segments used for the Shoreline Master Program are provided in Exhibit 10-1. These are based on coordinating land use, environmental, and development regulations for distinct segments of the shoreline in Gig Harbor and its UGA.

Exhibit 10-1. City of Gig Harbor Shoreline Master Program Official Shoreline Map.



Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2022.

The Official Shoreline Map for the SMP includes five distinct types of shoreline environments:

- **Natural Environment**, designated to protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of human influence or that include intact or minimally degraded shoreline functions that would become irreversibly impaired as a result of human development and activity. These systems require that only very low intensity uses be allowed in order to maintain ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes. Consistent with the policies of the designation, restoration of degraded shorelines within this environment is appropriate.
- **Urban Conservancy**, intended to protect and restore ecological functions of open space, floodplain and other sensitive lands where they exist in urban and developed settings, while allowing a variety of compatible uses.
- **Low Intensity**, developed to accommodate residential development in areas that are already developed with or planned primarily for residential uses. The Low Intensity Environment may also include water-oriented commercial and recreation uses, and public access.
- The **City Waterfront** designation includes Gig Harbor's historic, social, and commercial center, offering a diverse mix of residential, recreational, and commercial uses that support tourism and local needs. This designation aims to preserve water-dependent activities, protect historic resources, promote public access, and balance ecological restoration with existing land uses.
- The **Historic Working Waterfront** designation recognizes and preserve two of Gig Harbor's most notable historic industries: commercial fishing and boatbuilding. The area possesses a significant concentration of historic uses and structures that have aesthetic, architectural, historical and cultural significance and characterize the community's regional maritime identity. This designation allows a limited range of non-water oriented uses as a means of promoting the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic structures.

10.2 Goals and Policies

► SM-1 **Protect the ecological processes and functions in the shoreline and nearshore area.**

- SM-1.1 Preserve and protect shoreline habitats which provide unique value, including the Crescent Creek and Donkey Creek estuaries, McCormick Creek, and critical saltwater habitats such as kelp beds, eelgrass beds, spawning and holding areas for forage fish such as surf smelt and sand lance, sand spits, mud flats, and areas with which priority species have a primary association.
- SM-1.2 Protect and restore shoreline vegetation to maintain the multiple benefits native vegetation provides, including structural stabilization, ecological functions and habitat, coastal bluff stability, public safety, the protection of property, and visual and aesthetic quality.
- SM-1.3 Promote the use of soft shoreline stabilization techniques, such as beach nourishment and natural buffers, over hard armoring solutions to protect shoreline areas while preserving natural processes and habitat. Where hard armoring is necessary, ensure it is designed to minimize ecological impacts.
- SM-1.4 Maintain and enhance the quantity and quality of surface and ground water by managing all shoreline uses and developments.
- SM-1.5 Develop measures to conserve native vegetation along shorelines, including the avoidance or minimization of clearing or grading, restoration of areas of native vegetation, and/or control of invasive or non-native vegetation.
- SM-1.6 Encourage well-vegetated shorelines over vegetation clearance to create views or provide lawns, but allow limited and selective clearing for views and lawns when slope stability and ecological functions are not compromised.

► SM-2 **Provide for a mix of water-oriented shoreline uses that support public access, recreation, and historical commercial activities while minimizing impacts to shoreline ecological functions.**

- SM-2.1 Give preference to shoreline uses that are water-oriented (water-dependent, water-related, or water-enjoyment), provide public access and recreational opportunity, or are residential, as consistent with state policy (RCW [90.58.020](#)).
- SM-2.2 Shoreline uses should be located, designed, and maintained in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and/or processes.
- SM-2.3 Non-water-oriented development should be allowed in shoreline areas provided the development supports the objectives of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan and the Shoreline Master Program.
- SM-2.4 Retain a mixed-use waterfront on Gig Harbor Bay that includes commercial endeavors such as commercial fishing, boating, marine shops and services, restaurants and retail shops, as well as

residential uses, which are uniquely able to capitalize on the bay's appeal and associated ecosystems.

- SM-2.5 Continue to develop and enhance recreation and tourism uses along Gig Harbor Bay to encourage public access and enjoyment of this resource and provide economic opportunities.
- SM-2.6 Retain the maximum open surface water area possible to facilitate safe and convenient watercraft circulation.
- SM-2.7 Provide for single and multifamily residential uses with access to the shoreline that respect valuable waterfront settings and characteristics.
- SM-2.8 Require commercial developments to permit public facilities and access to shoreline beaches, docks, walkways, and other facilities including views and vistas.
- SM-2.9 Develop existing publicly owned shoreline properties to provide additional public access where appropriate.
- SM-2.10 Create a mix of active and passive public recreation facilities that do not intrude on the natural features of the shoreline.
- **SM-3 Provide for high-quality development in waterfront areas that balance the needs of residential, recreational, retail, and commercial uses.**
 - SM-3.1 Maintain a balance in waterfront land use development so that any single use does not overpower or detract from the others.
 - SM-3.2 Support compatible, human-scale development that ensures new structures are consistent with existing facilities and do not dominate the shoreline in terms of size, location or appearance.
 - SM-3.3 Maintain design standards for shoreline uses based on the city's Design Manual.
 - SM-3.4 Create an accessible and visible waterfront and shoreline that includes public beaches, fishing and boating docks, picnic and passive overlooks and viewpoints.
 - SM-3.5 Require private developments to provide unobstructed access and visibility for tenants, waterway users, and the general public.
 - SM-3.6 Encourage waterfront developments that provide public amenities consistent with the scale and the character of the development, such as additional docks, paths or walks, overlooks, picnic and seating areas, fishing piers or areas, and viewpoints.
 - SM-3.7 Maintain Best Management Practices governing the development of associated improvements (e.g., parking areas, sidewalks, stormwater facilities).
 - SM-3.8 Provide design standards to control scale, construction methods and materials, drainage patterns, site coverage, landscaping and screening, signage, and other features of unique importance to the waterfront setting.

SM-3.9 Encourage innovative, effective solutions which cluster and share common improvements, reduce paved areas and otherwise blend construction with the natural setting or with desirable features of the built environment.

11 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

11.1 Introduction

The 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) for Gig Harbor was approved by the City Council on February 28, 2022. The PROS Plan represents the city's vision and provides goals and objectives for the development of parks, recreation, and open spaces in Gig Harbor for the next six years and beyond and establishes a road map for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas and recreational opportunities for Gig Harbor. Only key elements of the PROS Plan are incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. This chapter includes the goals and policies adopted in the PROS Plan, while the inventory, levels of service and 6-year capital facilities projects are included in the Capital Facilities Element.

The planning area for this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes the city's existing incorporated area and the city's Urban Growth Area as defined in the Comprehensive Plan. Implementation of the PROS Plan will focus on the city limits with an eye toward serving the residents of the Urban Growth Area as annexations occur over the next 15 years.

The continued high growth in the Gig Harbor peninsula's population has resulted in an increased use of the city's community parks and recreational facilities, which will continue over the foreseeable future. The demographics of Gig Harbor are also changing as a younger demographic is moving into the area. The increase in demand coupled with a changing demographic mean new challenges and opportunities for the city.

To provide quality parks and recreational opportunities for today's residents as well as for future generations, the city initiated a planning process in conjunction with the overall update of the city's Comprehensive Plan. The PROS Plan is a stand-alone document which meets the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office guidelines. It is also compliant with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). Part or all of the PROS Plan may be incorporated into future updates of the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan. The planning horizon for both plans is 2044, consistent with buildable lands projections for Pierce County and under the GMA requirements for long range planning.

The GMA requires a park and recreation element within the Comprehensive Plan that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. This element includes estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a fifteen-year period; an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.⁵

⁵ RCW 36.70A.070(8) GMA

During the PROS Plan public outreach effort, the community expressed many ideas for improving parks and recreational opportunities in Gig Harbor including:

- Providing a balance of active and passive activities within the city's parks;
- Seeking dedicated funding to support park management and maintenance responsibilities and costs;
- Providing trail connectivity between parks and connecting residential and commercial neighborhoods to the city's park system; and
- Providing a park system that offers something for all ages and types of users.

This Plan considers today's and tomorrow's needs and is a community-driven plan that has broad-based support and is implementable over the 15-year plan horizon. This update:

- Identifies the anticipated types of activities and the population that the city's parks and recreation facilities will serve,
- Defines the city's vision of the future of the city's park and recreational facilities,
- Identifies the estimated cost to achieve the community's vision, and
- Provides goals and policies to act as a guide for getting there.

The 2022 Gig Harbor Park Recreation and Open Space Plan will help guide the city staff, park commission and city council in meeting identified gaps in services and park development to meet the need and support the quality of life for our citizens in the coming years.

11.2 Vision

Gig Harbor's vision for parks is to create an exceptional and cohesive system of parks, trails and open spaces that enhance the city's history, environmental features, and sense of place to encourage both active and passive forms of recreation popular on the peninsula.

11.3 Goals and Policies

- **PR-1 Develop a quality, diversified recreational system that provides for all age and interest groups.**
 - PR-1.1 Acquire and develop sites for passive and active recreation opportunities that accommodate formal and informal activities that meet the needs of various age groups, recreational interests and abilities.
 - PR-1.2 Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, geographic distribution, system gaps, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity, and revenue-generating potential.
 - PR-1.3 Pursue accessible, adaptive recreation facilities and services for users with disabilities or health or mobility challenges.

- PR-1.4 Collaborate with a wide range of public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, viewing and other related recreational activities and pursuits, while respecting the rights of property owners.
- PR-1.5 Develop and encourage waterfront and watercraft access opportunities, especially for human-powered boating and board activities on Gig Harbor and along the Puget Sound shoreline.
- PR-1.6 Facilitate field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball to meet the needs of the community.
- PR-1.7 Coordinate a calendar of special events throughout the year in partnership with responsible providers of recreational programming and special events.
- **PR-2 Preserve and enhance the natural environment and support habitat and other resources for local wildlife as part of park and open space acquisition and management.**
 - PR-2.1 Preserve and protect open space and park land areas with significant environmental features such as wetlands, riparian corridors, forests, steep slopes, plant and animal habitats that support threatened or endangered species.
 - PR-2.2 Develop an interlinked system of open space corridors along natural riparian and wetlands.
 - PR-2.3 Provide appropriate public access and nearby parking where appropriate and feasible for open space areas to support passive recreation.
 - PR-2.4 Provide opportunities for environmental education in open space areas through creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other experiences.
 - PR-2.5 Maintain and improve the environmental quality of city-owned parks, trails, and open space areas through invasive species removal, planting of native species, and restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands, and other habitat areas.
 - PR-2.6 Foster climate-resilient landscapes in parks and open space areas to manage expected impacts from climate change.
 - PR-2.7 Improve tree management policies and practices in parks and open space in line with an Urban Forestry Management Plan to promote tree retention, tree succession, and more effective wildfire prevention practices.
 - PR-2.8 Map and evaluate riparian areas within salmon-bearing stream corridors on public lands as part of planning for land acquisition, climate change adaptation, and ongoing management.
- **PR-3 Provide alternative transportation options and low impact recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities through a high-quality system of park trails and corridors in coordination with the Gig Harbor Active Transportation Plan.**

Trail and Corridor Planning

- PR-3.1 Create a comprehensive system of shared-use off-road trails using the Cushman Trail as the backbone of the system.
- PR-3.2 Develop trails to provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, neighborhoods, and business districts to promote physical activities and a health-conscious community.
- PR-3.3 Coordinate with public and private agencies to construct pedestrian crossing for SR-16 and other highways that improve trail system connections.
- PR-3.4 Connect trails to nearby sidewalk facilities where possible to improve the functionality of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation.
- PR-3.5 Consider the siting of proposed trail segments as part of the development review process.
- PR-3.6 Work with public and private organizations in the region to link and extend Gig Harbor trails to other regional trail facilities.
- PR-3.7 Support broader pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements in conjunction with planning under the Transportation Element to improve safety and utilization of the system.

Trail Development and Amenities

- PR-3.8 Develop trails consistent with the park development goals and policies that reach a wide variety of users.
- PR-3.9 Provide trailhead improvements such as interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water and other services.
- PR-3.10 Where appropriate, locate trailheads to consider park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local access to the trail system, local businesses, and integrate supporting improvements.
- PR-3.11 Consider needs for maintenance, security, and access by appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles in park design and construction.
- PR-3.12 Develop and implement branded signage (e.g. trailhead, etiquette, directional, mile markers, emergency location markers, etc.) to mark trails and non-motorized routes that is consistent with broader signage and design standards in the city.

- **PR-4 Ensure that park, open space, and recreational facilities are accessible, safe, easy to maintain, cost efficient, and meet the diverse needs of the residents of the city and Urban Growth Area.**

Planning and Design

- PR-4.1 Maintain park master plans, management plans, and adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.

- PR-4.2 Consider unique features and other characteristics in the design of new parks and upgraded/renovated facilities to enhance the local sense of place, ensure quality of facilities, and minimize maintenance and operations costs.
- PR-4.3 Provide playgrounds that have a community draw and offer unique opportunities for all city residents in a multi-use, multi-generational setting.

Community Accessibility

- PR-4.4 Design, convert, and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels, and ages in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- PR-4.5 Eliminate accessibility barriers at existing parks and facilities and address other related actions as identified in the city ADA Transition Plan.
- PR-4.6 Reduce barriers to access and expand inclusive opportunities related to other characteristics of users, such as socioeconomic background, language fluency, physical or mental health considerations, geographic location, and transportation access.
- PR-4.7 Implement policies to address service gaps for historically underserved communities and provide a priority matrix to guide the allocation of resources to address known gaps.

Engagement

- PR-4.8 Involve residents and stakeholders in the planning and design of park and recreation facilities and program to incorporate community input and considerations, provide information, and meet public needs.
- PR-4.9 Partner with representative groups of users of specialized facilities, such as sport fields, off-leash areas, disc golf course, skatepark, BMX pump track, community gardens, etc., to plan the development and management of these facilities.

Branding

- PR-4.10 Provide comprehensive, well-designed maps to identify park and trail opportunities and provide relevant information for users.
- PR-4.11 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity and aesthetic for all parks and facilities, and ensure all signage is accessible, inclusive, universally understandable, and designed to meet the diverse needs of the community. Note that all signage should provide clear, multilingual, and understandable information, incorporating formats such as braille and visual contrast for accessibility.
- PR-4.12 Standardize park furniture and improvements such as trash cans, tables, benches, and fencing to reduce maintenance and replacement costs and provide for a more consistent aesthetic for city facilities.

Maintenance

- PR-4.13 Design and develop facilities to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation costs, while providing for adequate and aesthetically appealing facilities and amenities.
- PR-4.14 Incorporate sustainable, low impact design practices into the development of new facilities and rehabilitation of existing facilities.
- PR-4.15 Consider native vegetation for landscaping in parks to conserve native wildlife habitat and limit maintenance requirements.

Security and Safety

- PR-4.16 Maintain parks, trails and open spaces to protect public property, preserve the value of these facilities, and ensure their intended functions, uses, safety, and security over their entire life cycle.
- PR-4.17 Implement adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, police patrols, and other programs to increase safety, security, awareness and visibility.
- **PR-5 Provide for long-term banking of potential sites for park and recreation facilities in coordination with other public and private agencies, private landowners, and other organizations.**
 - PR-5.1 Review needs for parks, recreation and open space prior to the approval of an annexation to determine potential impacts to adopted levels of service and identify land requirements for new facilities.
 - PR-5.2 Identify and reserve lands to meet long-term demands for parks, recreation, and open space, especially in developing areas and potential sites with healthy tree canopies, minimal development, or critical areas.
- **PR-6 Coordinate with other agencies and non-profit recreational providers to help meet the recreational needs of local residents.**
 - PR-6.1 Leverage city resources by maintaining and developing partnerships with public and private agencies such as school districts to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
 - PR-6.2 Look for opportunities to partner with other organizations to provide support for indoor recreational facilities.
 - PR-6.3 Endorse the efforts of local non-profit providers such as organized sports leagues to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletic fields, and provide city support as needed.
 - PR-6.4 Coordinate and collaborate with Pierce County, PenMet Parks and the Peninsula School District about the planning, acquisition, design and operation of parks and recreational facilities in the UGA and unincorporated service area.

► **PR-7 Support and protect historical resources through planning and management of the park and open space system.**

- PR-7.1 Identify, enhance and incorporate Gig Harbor’s heritage, indigenous history and cultural features into the park system to preserve these interests and provide a holistic social experience.
- PR-7.2 Identify parks, structures and spaces eligible for designation as historic places to ensure they are preserved for the future and planned for long-term preservation and maintenance by the city.
- PR-7.3 Assist historical and cultural societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits to the community and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs to promote awareness of Gig Harbor’s heritage.
- PR-7.4 Collaborate with the Harbor History Museum, Gig Harbor BoatShop, Gig Harbor Fisherman’s Civic Club and other organizations to provide cultural programs and activities for the public, including offering space, assistance with publicity and promotion, and streamlining permit requirements.
- PR-7.5 Encourage the owners of historic sites and structures to provide full or limited public access, by providing incentives such as expedited permitting, public recognition, and flexible use of public space.

► **PR-8 Acquire, develop, operate, and maintain facilities and programs to be cost efficient and to equitably distribute costs and benefits to the public.**

- PR-8.1 Provide the financial and staff resources necessary to maintain the high quality of the city’s park and recreation system.
- PR-8.2 Support methods to finance facility development, maintenance, and operations which can supplement city budget allocations while reducing costs, improving flexibility, and better meeting user needs.
- PR-8.3 Pursue traditional and alternative funding sources for parks, facilities, and programs, which may include private donations, partnerships, sponsorships, state and federal grant sources, dedicated local taxes and local bonds or levies.
- PR-8.4 Apply for recreational system grants, potentially with partner agencies as appropriate.
- PR-8.5 Consider joint ventures for projects and programming with other public agencies such as PenMet Parks, Pierce County, Peninsula School District, regional, state, and federal agencies, local tribes, and private agencies including for-profit concessionaries.
- PR-8.6 Use sponsorships to offset costs of special events and seasonal activities.
- PR-8.7 Regularly review and update Park Impact Fee rates and methodologies to support the expansion of the parks system to meet growth in demand.
- PR-8.8 Periodically monitor and review level of service (LOS) metrics and revise park and recreational capital project priorities.

- PR-8.9 Define naming conventions and conversions to include an on-going evaluation of the names of city parks and public recreational facilities.
- PR-8.10 Regularly update GIS data to ensure park, open space, trail, and recreational facility information such as names, classifications, acreages, and ownership are correctly identified.

12 Transportation

[to be added]



City of Gig Harbor 2024 Transportation Element



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gig Harbor is a city rich in natural beauty. Over the past century, Gig Harbor has grown from its maritime roots to become a desirable residential and tourist destination. This Element aims to provide a 20-year vision for Gig Harbor's transportation system, which respects the community's history and character, supports anticipated growth in the region, and builds on Gig Harbor's momentum as an attractive community in which to live, work, and play by supporting safe and comfortable travel by all modes through 2044.

Guidance from City staff, the Planning Commission, stakeholders, and community members helped identify several priorities:

- Provide safe and complete connections to encourage active transportation and public health for all users;
- Plan a transportation system that efficiently accommodates growth;
- Prioritize transportation projects that connect and support strong, vibrant centers, as well as investments that connect the city to the region;
- Consider the environmental and financial sustainability of transportation investments; and
- Coordinate with a broad range of groups to ensure community understanding.

The Transportation Element sets a framework for building a transportation network that helps Gig Harbor realize its transportation vision. This document includes six chapters:

- **Chapter 1 – Introduction & Vision:**
This chapter describes the purpose of the Transportation Element and the planning requirements it needs to address. It also provides an overview of Gig Harbor's position in the region.
- **Chapter 2 – Transportation Context:**
This chapter describes the existing conditions for all travel modes in the existing transportation system. It also identifies current challenges and trends that may impact the transportation network in the future. Additionally, this chapter includes results from the concurrency analysis and future traffic forecasts.
- **Chapter 3 – Community Outreach:**
This chapter describes the outreach process conducted in 2024 as well as the extensive outreach conducted as part of the 2018 TE update, which also informed this plan.
- **Chapter 4 – Transportation Goals and Policies:**
This chapter explains Gig Harbor's vision for transportation and the goals that provide the foundation for the Transportation Element.
- **Chapter 5 – The Recommended Plan:**
This chapter presents a layered network concept to create a complete transportation system in Gig Harbor that accommodates all travel modes. It outlines how to support each mode and establishes the City's level of service standards. Additionally, it includes a capital plan to address identified needs and align with community values expressed during the planning process.
- **Chapter 6 – Implementing the Plan:**
This chapter evaluates Gig Harbor's financial conditions over the next 20 years and provides guidance on plan implementation.

To serve as a useful document for the community, including both City staff and the general public, this Transportation Element focuses on the City's vision and the projects and programs intended to meet that vision. Technical and supporting information are available in the [Appendices](#).





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION & VISION

Gig Harbor, named so by Captain Charles Wilkes, is steeped in maritime history with roots in boat-building, lumber, and fishing. Over the past century, Gig Harbor has continued to grow, aided by the completion of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Though the city has seen unprecedented growth in the last 10 years, it remains dedicated to preserving its rich history for all to enjoy.

This Element provides a 20-year vision for Gig Harbor's transportation system, which respects the community's history and character, supports anticipated growth in the region, and builds on Gig Harbor's momentum as an attractive community in which to live, work, and play by supporting safe and comfortable travel by all modes through 2044.

PURPOSE

This Transportation Element provides a framework for developing a safe, balanced, and efficient multi-modal transportation system that aligns with the City's overall vision and serves anticipated growth. Guidance from City staff, the Planning Commission, stakeholders, and community members helped identify several priorities:

- Provide safe and complete connections to encourage active transportation and public health for all users;
- Plan a transportation system that efficiently accommodates growth;
- Prioritize transportation projects that connect and support strong, vibrant centers, as well as investments that connect the city to the region;
- Consider the environmental and financial sustainability of transportation investments; and
- Coordinate with a broad range of groups to ensure community understanding.

This Element outlines the policies, projects, and programs needed to achieve the City's vision for future mobility in and through Gig Harbor. As a key component of the City's 2024 Comprehensive Plan, the Transportation Element informs the development of the Capital Improvement Program by identifying the types of projects the City should undertake to support future travel trends.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

Gig Harbor's location in the region affects the demands put on its transportation system. The city is situated along Gig Harbor Bay in Pierce County, northwest of Tacoma. It is bisected by State Route (SR) 16, which connects to Interstate 5 (I-5), allowing for movement to and from regional destinations in Pierce, King, and Kitsap Counties. [Figure 1](#) shows the location of Gig Harbor in this regional setting.

Gig Harbor is influenced by many regional travelers and trends. Moreover, due to its proximity to state parks and its historic waterfront, Gig Harbor has become a popular tourist destination. Annual events such as the Maritime Gig Festival draw crowds to the city.

The City must coordinate its transportation planning with a variety of jurisdictions and agencies, including Pierce County, the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC), the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).





Figure 1: Regional Map

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

Transportation planning at the state, county, and local level is governed by Washington's **Growth Management Act (GMA)** of 1990. The GMA requires that transportation planning be directly tied to the City's land use decisions and fiscal planning. This is traditionally accomplished through the adoption of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The GMA [\[RCW 36.70A.070 \(6\)\]](#) requires that the Transportation Element:

- Use land use assumptions to estimate travel demand.
- Assess multimodal level of service (LOS) impacts on state-owned transportation facilities.
- Inventory air, water, and ground transportation facilities, including transit and active transportation, for future planning.
- Establish multimodal LOS standards for local and state transportation systems.
- Forecast multimodal transportation demand for at least 10 years based on the land use plan.
- Identify and address deficiencies in transportation facilities or services below established LOS standards.
- Coordinate local system needs with state and regional plans.
- Develop a transition plan for ADA compliance, addressing accessibility deficiencies.

This Transportation Element Update fulfills this GMA requirement.





OTHER PLANS

Pierce County's Countywide Planning Policies (CPP) provide a framework for county and municipal comprehensive plans, including the City of Gig Harbor. The framework is intended to ensure that municipal and County comprehensive plans are consistent. The CPP must also be consistent with the Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs) established in [VISION 2050](#), the regional planning guidance provided by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).

PSRC is the region's metropolitan planning organization made up of cities, towns, counties, ports, tribes, transit agencies, and major employers. PSRC has set MPPs for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap Counties through VISION 2050, a planning strategy that lays out the long-term goals for growth management, environmental, economic, and transportation issues in the region.

To better accommodate geographical differences, VISION 2050 divides the region into the following categories, or regional geographies: Metropolitan Cities, Core Cities, High-Capacity Transit (HCT) Communities, Cities & Towns, Urban Unincorporated Areas, Rural, Resource Lands, Indian Reservation Lands, and Major Military Installations.

Gig Harbor is included in the Cities & Towns category which is defined as "communities with smaller downtown and local centers that may be served by local transit." Within the region, Cities & Towns are anticipated to accommodate 6 percent of population growth and 4 percent of employment growth by the year 2050.

VISION 2050 sets the following transportation goal for the region:

The region has a sustainable, equitable, affordable, safe, and efficient multimodal transportation system, with specific emphasis on an integrated regional transit network that supports the Regional Growth Strategy and promotes vitality of the economy, environment, and health.

The policies identified in VISION 2050 to achieve this goal are organized into the following categories:

- The Regional Transportation Plan
- Supporting the Economy
- Protecting the Environment
- Innovation

This Transportation Element is consistent with VISION 2050 priorities.

Additionally, given the status of SR 16 as a major transportation corridor that travels through Gig Harbor, this plan aims to coordinate with WSDOT to ensure that state facilities can adequately serve the region's needs.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

This Transportation Element includes six chapters:

- **Chapter 1 – Introduction:**
This chapter describes the purpose of the Transportation Element and the planning requirements it needs to address. It also provides an overview of Gig Harbor's position in the region.





- **Chapter 2 – Transportation Context:**
This chapter describes the existing conditions for all travel modes in the existing transportation system. It also identifies current challenges and trends that may impact the transportation network in the future. Additionally, this chapter includes results from the concurrency analysis and future traffic forecasts.
- **Chapter 3 – Community Outreach:**
This chapter describes the outreach process conducted in 2024 as well as the extensive outreach conducted as part of the 2018 TE update, which also informed this plan.
- **Chapter 4 – Transportation Goals and Policies:**
This chapter explains Gig Harbor's vision for transportation and the goals that provide the foundation for the Transportation Element.
- **Chapter 5 – The Recommended Plan:**
This chapter presents a layered network concept to create a complete transportation system in Gig Harbor that accommodates all travel modes. It outlines how to support each mode and establishes the City's level of service standards. Additionally, it includes a capital plan to address identified needs and align with community values expressed during the planning process.
- **Chapter 6 – Implementing the Plan:**
This chapter evaluates Gig Harbor's financial conditions over the next 20 years and provides guidance on plan implementation.





CHAPTER 2: TRANSPORTATION CONTEXT

This chapter describes how people use Gig Harbor's transportation network today and how that may change over the next 20 years as the region grows. The way people travel is greatly influenced by the built environment, which includes land use and travel corridors; it also includes the key destinations people travel to, such as where they live, work, shop, and recreate, as well as an understanding of how people are traveling based on anticipated travel growth and travel mode data.

CITY PROFILE

Gig Harbor lies along the shore of the Puget Sound within Pierce County, situated alongside State Route 16, which connects the city to Pierce County and other regional destinations via the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Embracing its maritime roots, Gig Harbor proudly identifies as the Maritime City and spans a land area of 5.95 square miles. As of the 2022 Census, the population of Gig Harbor was recorded at 11,917 residents.

DEMOGRAPHICS

A Transportation Element must address the diverse needs of the entire community. Therefore, understanding who lives in Gig Harbor and their varying mobility requirements is essential. Individual transportation needs can differ significantly based on personal circumstances. As Gig Harbor's population becomes more diverse, recognizing and addressing these unique needs is increasingly important. The following section explores the current demographics of the city's residents.

INCOME AND POVERTY

In 2022, the median household income in Gig Harbor was \$103,688, an increase of 8% over 2021. However, median incomes differ significantly by race and ethnicity. Households that identify as "White" make close to the citywide median income (0.4% less). Households that identify as "Asian alone" have a median household income of 9.1% more than the citywide median income, while American Indian and Alaska Native households have a median household income of 64.9% less than the citywide median income.

In 2022, 6.0% of the population of Gig Harbor was experiencing poverty. Of those experiencing poverty, 75.9% were female.

HOUSING

In 2022, 60.1% of housing units in Gig Harbor were owner-occupied, a decline from 63.4% the previous year. This ownership rate is lower compared to neighboring cities, Pierce County, and the national average.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

As of 2022, the racial and ethnic composition of Gig Harbor's population is as follows:

- White (Non-Hispanic): 81.9%
- Multiracial (Non-Hispanic): 6.2%
- Multiracial (Hispanic): 4.7%
- Asian (Non-Hispanic): 4.1%
- American Indian and Alaskan Native (Non-Hispanic): 0.7%





- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (Non-Hispanic): 0.7%
- Black or African American (Non-Hispanic): 0.5%
- White (Hispanic): 0.5%
- Other (Hispanic): 0.2%

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

As of 2022, 5.6% of Gig Harbor residents were born outside the United States, reflecting a steady decline in the foreign-born population. Since 2015, this represents a roughly 36% decrease. Of residents born outside of the United States, 44.2% were born in Asia and 29.8% were born in Europe.

AGE

In 2022, the median age of Gig Harbor residents was 44.6 years. About 40% of the population is aged 55 or older.

POPULATION AND JOB GROWTH

Gig Harbor's Comprehensive Plan anticipates adding 1,150 additional households and 2,550 new jobs in the city by 2044. This is a 19% increase in households and a 23% increase in employment relative to 2022.

LAND USES AND KEY DESTINATIONS

Gig Harbor's zoning map, shown in **Figure 2**, reflects the types of activities and land uses that occur in specific areas of Gig Harbor. Zoning leads to clustering of like uses, such as shopping and other commercial destinations in downtown and along major roadway corridors, with other areas of the city limited to primarily residential development.



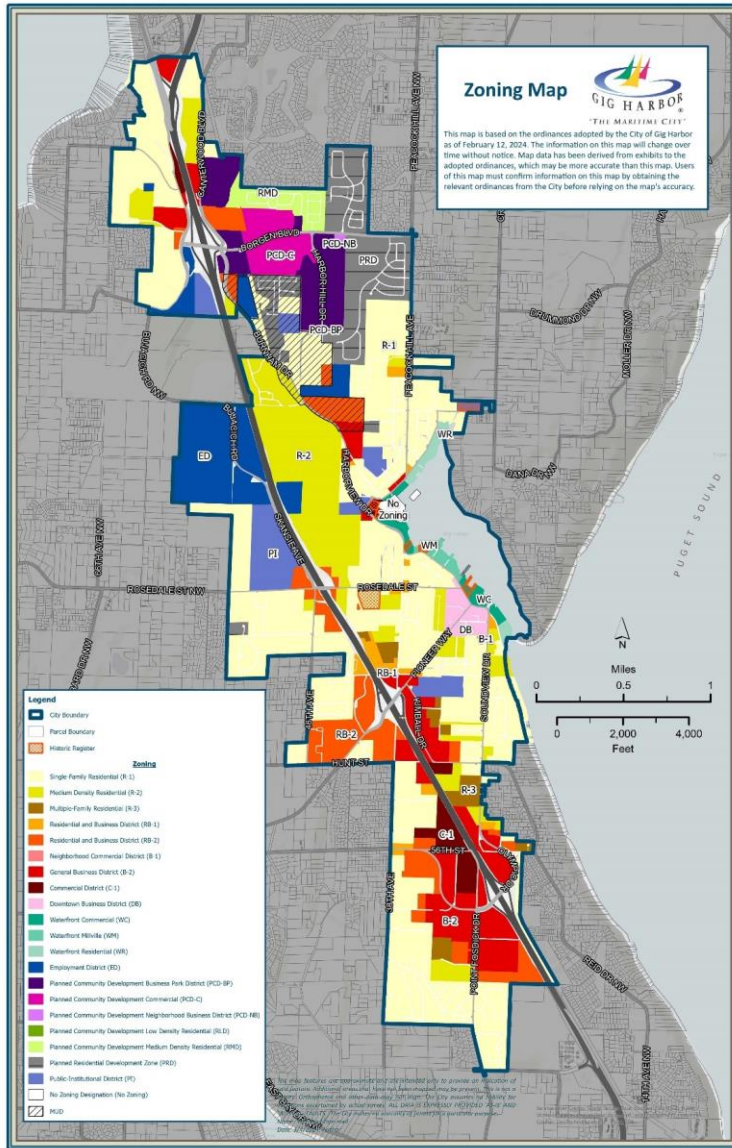


Figure 2: City of Gig Harbor Zoning Map

Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024





CENTERS OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE

Gig Harbor has five Centers of Local Importance (CoLIs), compact and mixed-use hubs that prioritize pedestrian-oriented development. These CoLIs attract a significant volume of travel across different modes and serve the commercial needs of Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula areas. These CoLIs play a crucial role in shaping the character and functionality of Gig Harbor, providing a diverse range of services, housing options, and vibrant gathering places for residents and visitors alike.

The five CoLIs include:

- **Westside** – Westside serves as a local and regional retail gathering place, featuring Gig Harbor's highest intensity commercial development. It combines mixed-use spaces and multi-family residential housing. Notable establishments include restaurants, groceries, shops, a theater, banks, and a medical facility.
- **Kimball** – encompasses higher density residential area, low-income, and senior housing; a branch of Tacoma Community College; Gig Harbor Civic Center; Pierce Transit Park and Ride; and a hotel – all of which increase pedestrian use in the area.
- **Downtown** – a central gathering place for the community with seasonal events, shops and restaurants, parks, easy pedestrian access, and seasonal transit service.
- **Finholm** – small activity node is located by the Bay and features restaurants, a convenience store, and retail establishments. Surrounding the area are single-family homes.
- **Gig Harbor North** – a commercial hub that caters to the retail needs of the surrounding region. It is home to major retailers like Costco, Home Depot, Target, and various fast-food restaurants. Additionally, the St. Anthony's Hospital, the YMCA, and higher density single-family residential developments are present. The CoLI is intersected by the Cushman Trail, facilitating non-motorized connectivity to the city and region.

Figure 3 shows a map of the CoLIs.



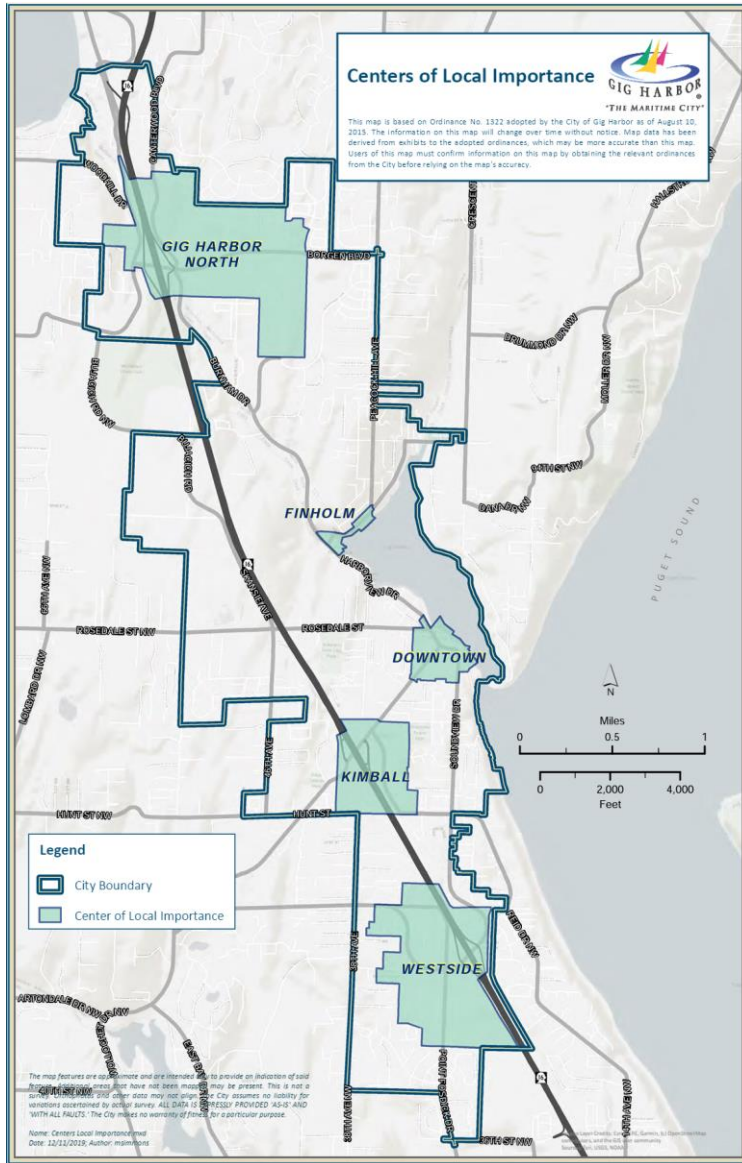


Figure 3: Gig Harbor Centers of Local Importance

Source: 2015 Comprehensive Plan





In addition to the CoLIs, there are several other key destinations in Gig Harbor and the Urban Growth Area (UGA), which are mapped in **Figure 4** and described below. The UGA is an area designated within which urban growth will be encouraged and outside of which growth can only occur if it's not urban in nature.

EARLY LEARNING AND K-12 SCHOOLS

The Peninsula School District serves just over 9,000 students as of June 2023.¹ School District includes seventeen K-12 schools in the region. This includes two elementary schools that have been built since the last Transportation Element was adopted in 2018. Overall, six schools fall within the city limits of Gig Harbor and two are within the UGA:

- Discovery Elementary School
- Harbor Ridge Middle School
- Henderson Bay Alternative High School
- Gig Harbor High School
- Swift Water Elementary School
- Pioneer Elementary School
- Purdy Elementary School (UGA)
- Peninsula High School (UGA)

In addition to these public schools, Lighthouse Christian School, St Nicholas, Hosanna Christian School, Harbor Montessori School, Gig Harbor Academy and Harbor Christian Schools are private schools in the city. There are also several preschools and daycares throughout Gig Harbor.

Transportation networks surrounding schools can become congested at start and end times each day, as vehicles queue for pick-up and drop-off. Students can arrive at school by walking, biking, being dropped off, driving a personal vehicle for older students, or taking the school bus. The combination of the various modes during a compressed timeframe can lead to safety concerns. The City has prioritized the development of complete sidewalks to access schools, and has been constructing sidewalk infills, in some cases by constructing sidewalks on one side of the road instead of both.

TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Situated within the Kimball CoLI west of SR 16, Tacoma Community College offers a wide variety of courses to the residents of Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula region. The Running Start program attracts numerous students from Gig Harbor High School who opt to take classes at the college. Since there is no bus service available in this area, most students rely on car commutes to reach the campus, utilizing routes like Wollochet Drive NW, Hunt Street NW, or 38th Avenue NW.

PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

The City of Gig Harbor owns 14 developed parks ranging in size from 0.06 of an acre to 20 acres. These parks include neighborhood parks, waterfront parks, and a Civic Center with a skate park and green. Parks attract active transportation users such as walkers, bikers, and skateboarders. They also attract users of all ages, so safety of the transportation network surrounding parks is critical.

¹ Peninsula School District. 2017. "District Profile." <https://www.psd401.net/>.





CUSHMAN TRAIL

The Cushman Trail is a 6.2-mile regional, paved multi-use trail with three trailheads within the city, located at Borgen Boulevard, Hollycroft Street, and Grandview Street. This popular trail attracts walkers, bikers, and other active transportation users of all ages, running through the heart of Gig Harbor and providing access to several nearby schools and activity centers.

HOSPITAL

St. Anthony Hospital and Gig Harbor Medical Park serve the city and surrounding areas. St. Anthony Hospital provides inpatient and outpatient medical services as well as 24-hour emergency care. It is currently licensed for 80 beds but is undergoing an expansion. The hospital includes parking for 700 cars.² A bike lane and sidewalk on the north side of Canterwood Boulevard NW serve the hospital.

Gig Harbor Medical Park is located in the Uptown Shopping Center and provides a wide range of medical services including urgent care and day surgery. A bike lane and well-connected network of sidewalks serve the facility, though the nearest crossing across Point Fosdick Drive NW is 500 feet north of the facility.

RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Retirement communities, along with schools and parks, contribute significantly to travel by modes other than driving. Within these communities, many residents have ceased driving their own vehicles, relying instead on privately operated shuttles, public transportation, and walking (or motorized scooters, in some cases) to reach doctors' appointments, family and friends' residences, as well as shopping and dining destinations. In Gig Harbor, several retirement communities, such as Brookdale Gig Harbor, Heron's Key, Gig Harbor Court, Peninsula Retirement, the Lodge at Mallard's Landing, Rosedale Village, and Sound Vista Village, among others, are present.

OTHER KEY DESTINATIONS

The Gig Harbor Business Park is located on 97th Street NW just off Burnham Drive NW, which includes several industrial uses, such as Metagenics Corporation. Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, which is located on a 10-acre parcel across the street from Discovery Elementary School on Rosedale Street NW, has large capacity and continues to pull the population from the region. It affects the congestion to Gig Harbor's transportation network before and after services.

² Arch Daily. 2010. "St. Anthony Hospital / ZGF Architects LLP." <http://www.archdaily.com/94063/st-anthony-hospital-zgf-architects-llp>



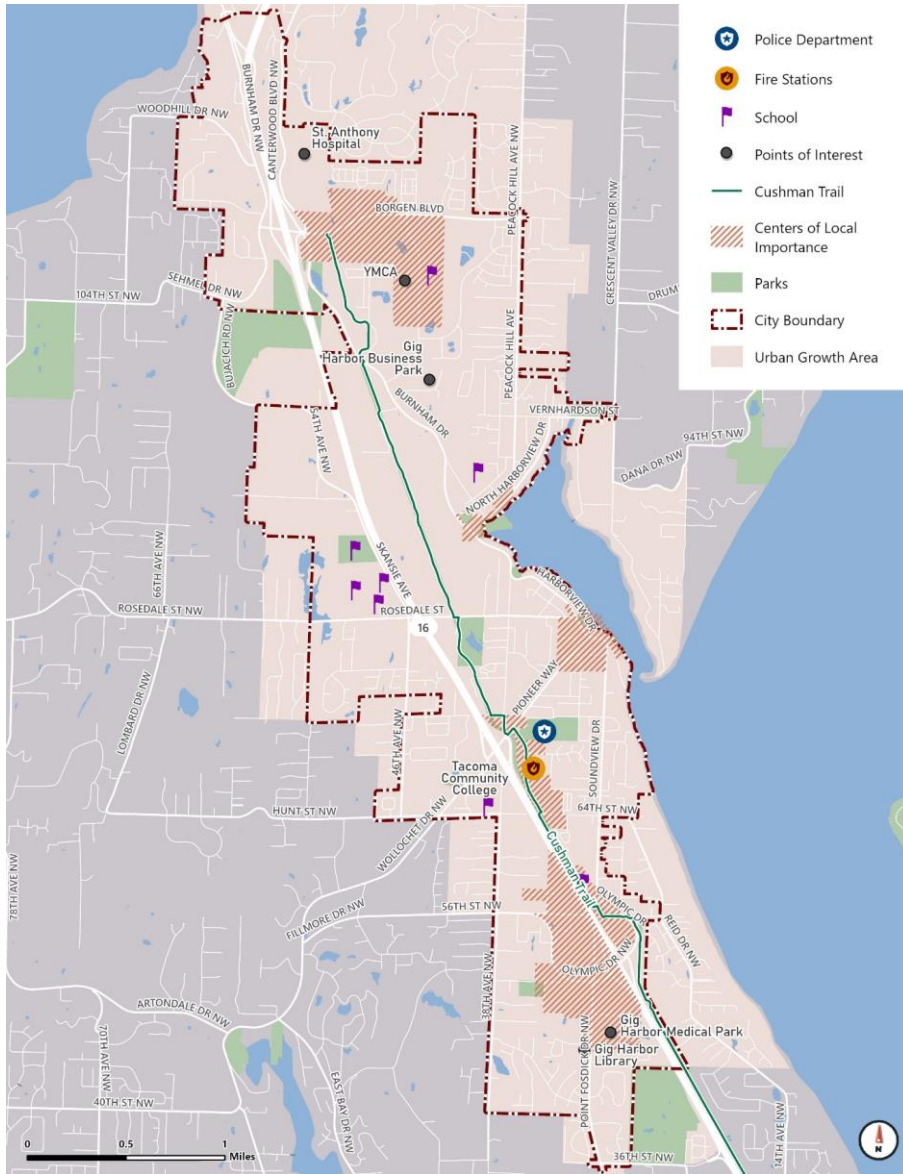


Figure 4: Key Destinations in Gig Harbor

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





SAFETY

Collision data was obtained from WSDOT to identify safety hotspots and overall collision trends for Gig Harbor. Data was analyzed for the period of January 2017 through December 2021. In total, 593 collisions occurred in Gig Harbor.³ A total of 161 injuries were reported, 14 of these collisions involved pedestrians, and 14 involved bicyclists. One fatality was recorded, which was a result of rear-end collision. As expected, more collisions occur on higher volume streets, such as Borgen Boulevard, Olympic Drive NW, and Point Fosdick Drive NW. Collisions for all modes are shown in [Figure 5](#), and collisions that involved people walking and rolling are shown in [Figure 6](#).

³ Does not include collisions on State Routes.



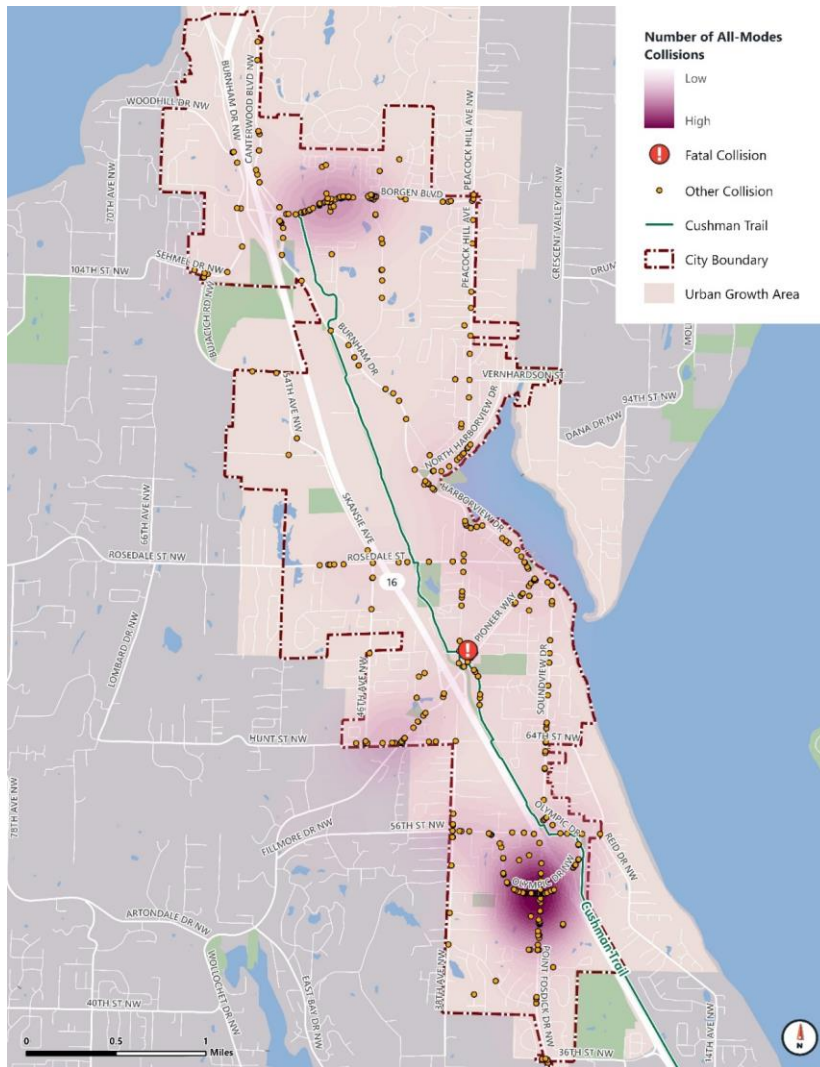


Figure 5: All Modes Collisions (Occurred January 2017-December 2021)

Source: WSDOT, 2021



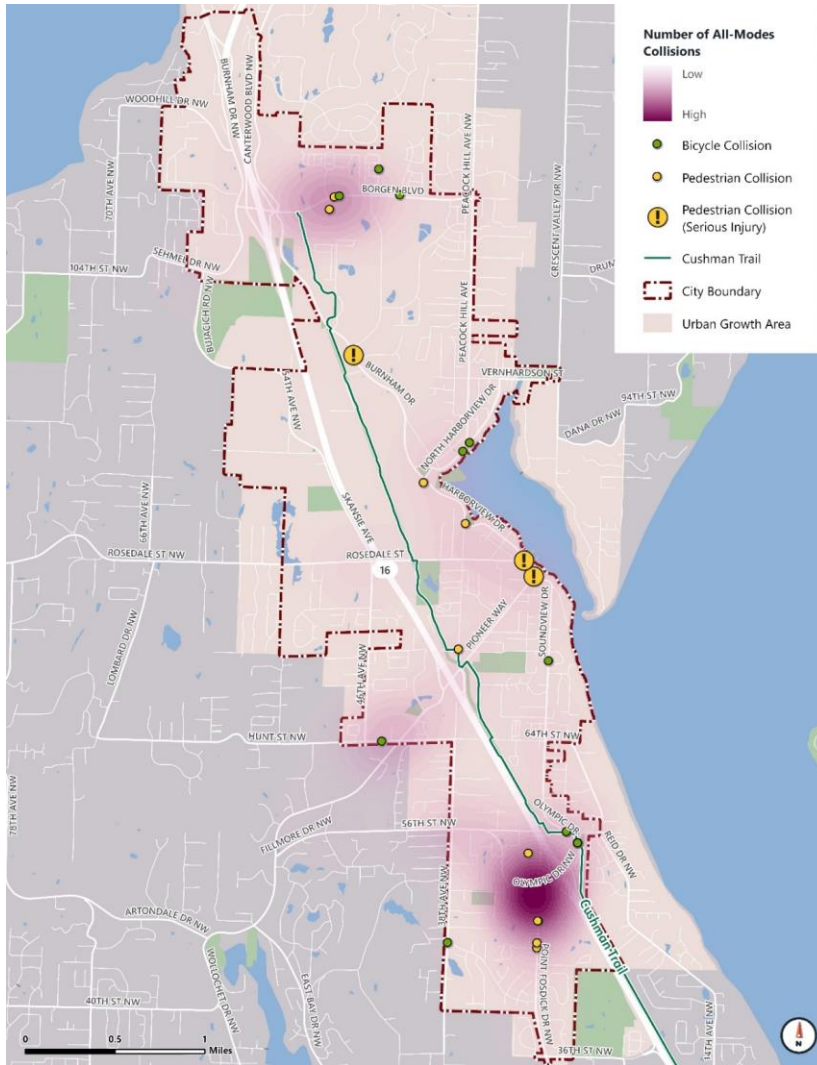


Figure 6: Bicycle/Pedestrian-Involved Collisions (Occurred January 2017-December 2021)

Source: WSDOT, 2021





EXISTING AND FUTURE CONDITIONS BY MODE

Gig Harbor accommodates various modes for getting around, including walking, cycling, public transit, freight transport, and driving.

STREET NETWORK

Gig Harbor's street network is comprised of roadways with varying vehicle capacity and accommodations for other modes of transportation. Gig Harbor's street network is an essential backbone that connects all users to local and regional facilities. The city lacks a grid layout, leading to limited connectivity. This is mainly attributed to factors such as the area's topography, cul-de-sacs, private drives, dead ends, and other missing links, which are prevalent in the predominantly residential areas of Gig Harbor. Gig Harbor is also bisected down the middle by SR 16 – a highway that carries commuters traveling to Tacoma, Kitsap County, and beyond – which is increasingly resulting in through traffic and congestion in the city. The interplay between traffic congestion on SR 16 and Gig Harbor's city streets is undeniable: regional traffic can spill onto Gig Harbor's streets when the highway is congested. Conversely, local trips in Gig Harbor often use SR 16 due to the lack of north-south street connections in the city. SR 16 further exacerbates the strain on east-west connectivity, as there are limited connections across it and those connections are often congested. Key interchanges that serve the city are located at Olympic Drive NW, Wollochet Drive NW/Pioneer Way NW, and Borgen Boulevard. While these interchanges provide convenient access to key destinations such as the Olympic Village and Uptown shopping centers, Downtown Gig Harbor, and the retail district along Borgen Boulevard, congestion near these interchanges remains a prominent issue.

Table 1 describes the different types of roadways in Gig Harbor, also called functional classification, and **Figure 7** maps their locations in the city. **Figure 8** shows the different traffic control devices within Gig Harbor.





Table 1: City of Gig Harbor Functional Classification

Roadway Type	Description	Example	Photo
State Route	State routes are managed by WSDOT, provide connections between cities, and carry high volumes of traffic. They are grade separated and have limited access through ramps.	SR 16	
Principal Arterial	Principal arterials tend to carry the highest volumes on the non-State system. They serve regional through trips and connect Gig Harbor with the rest of the region.	Wollochet Drive NW Olympic Drive NW Borgen Boulevard Point Fosdick Drive NW	
Minor Arterial	Minor arterials are designed for higher volumes, but they tend not to be major regional travel ways. Minor arterial streets provide inter-neighborhood connections.	Peacock Hill Avenue NW Burnham Drive NW Harborview Drive Pioneer Way Canterwood Blvd NW	





Roadway Type	Description	Example	Photo
Collectors	Collectors distribute trips between local streets and arterials and serve as transition roadways to or from commercial and residential areas. Collectors have lower volumes than arterials and must balance experience for all modes.	Rosedale Street NW Hunt Street NW Skansie Avenue 38th Avenue NW Grandview Street	
Local Roads	Local streets are the lowest functional classification, providing circulation and access within residential neighborhoods. Many local streets do not require sidewalks given their lower traffic volumes and speeds.	McDonald Avenue Woodworth Avenue Edwards Drive	



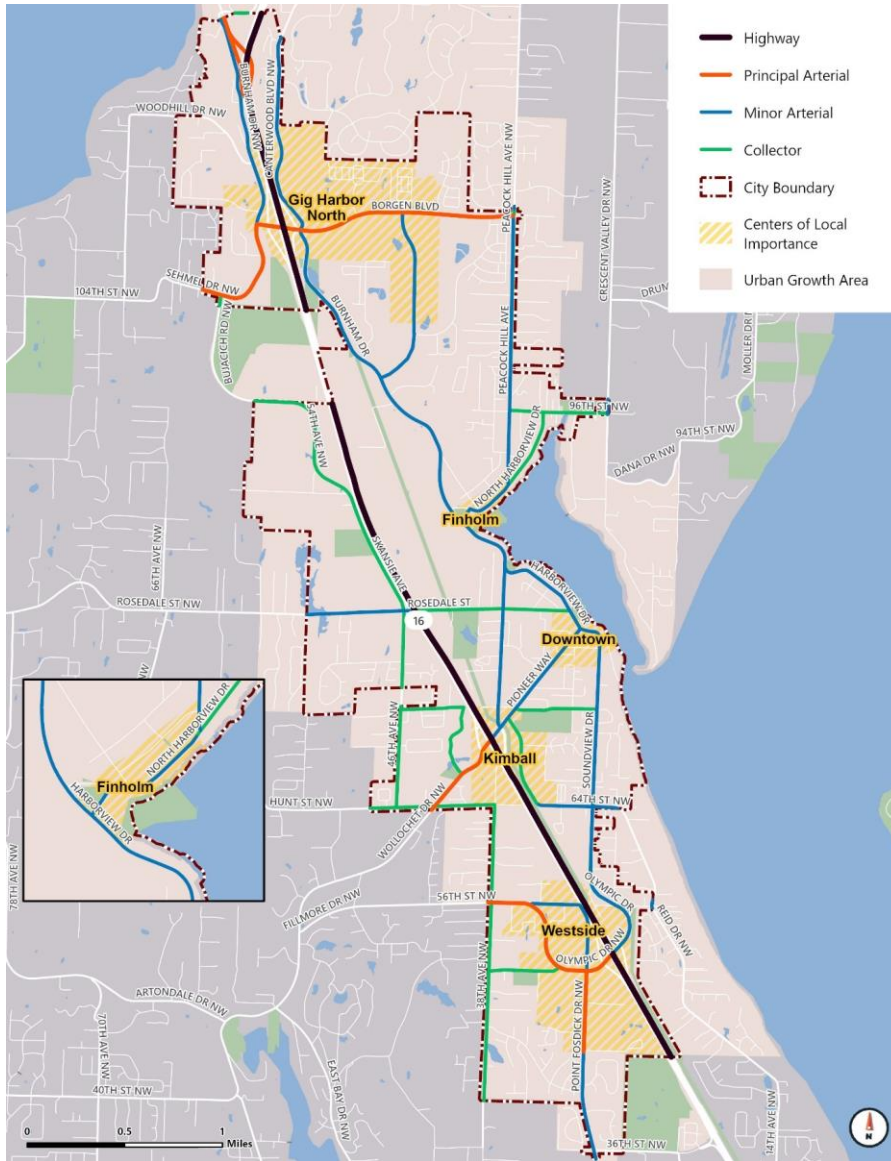


Figure 7: Functional Classification of Roadways in Gig Harbor

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024



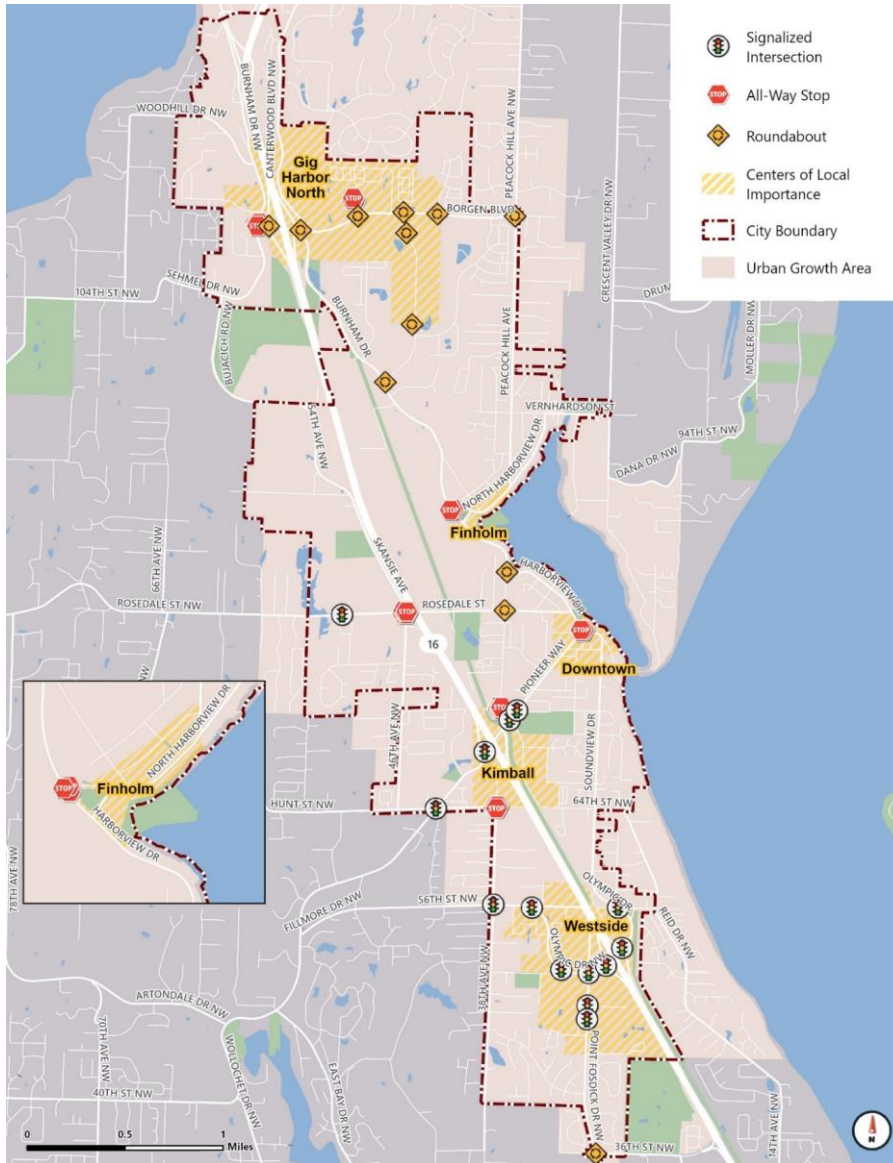


Figure 8: Traffic Control Devices in Gig Harbor at Functionally Classified Intersections

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





FREIGHT

Ensuring the smooth movement of freight is crucial for Gig Harbor, as it facilitates the delivery of goods to residents and enables the export of products across the region. To minimize heavy truck traffic on less-trafficked streets, specific routes known as "freight and goods routes" have been designated. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) employs a classification system consisting of five categories to assess roadways based on freight tonnage. State Route 16 carries the highest freight tonnage annually, followed by Wollochet Drive NW. Recently, Burnham Drive NW south of Borgen Boulevard has transitioned from a T-4 classification to T-3 due to the increasing volume of freight. Other significant truck routes can be found in [Table 2](#), while the corresponding route map is illustrated in [Figure 9](#).

Table 2: WSDOT Freight Classifications in Gig Harbor

Freight Corridor	Description	Example in Gig Harbor
T-1	More than 10 million tons of freight per year	SR 16
T-2	4 million to 10 million tons per year	Wollochet Drive NW
T-3	300,000 to 4 million tons per year	Point Fosdick Drive NW, Olympic Drive NW, 46th Avenue NW, 56th Street NW, Bujacich Road NW, Sehmel Drive NW, Burnham Drive NW, Canterwood Boulevard NW
T-4	100,000 to 300,000 tons per year	Harborview Drive
T-5	At least 20,000 tons in 60 days	No streets classified

Source: WSDOT Community Planning Portal. <http://arcg.is/1ivD8W>.



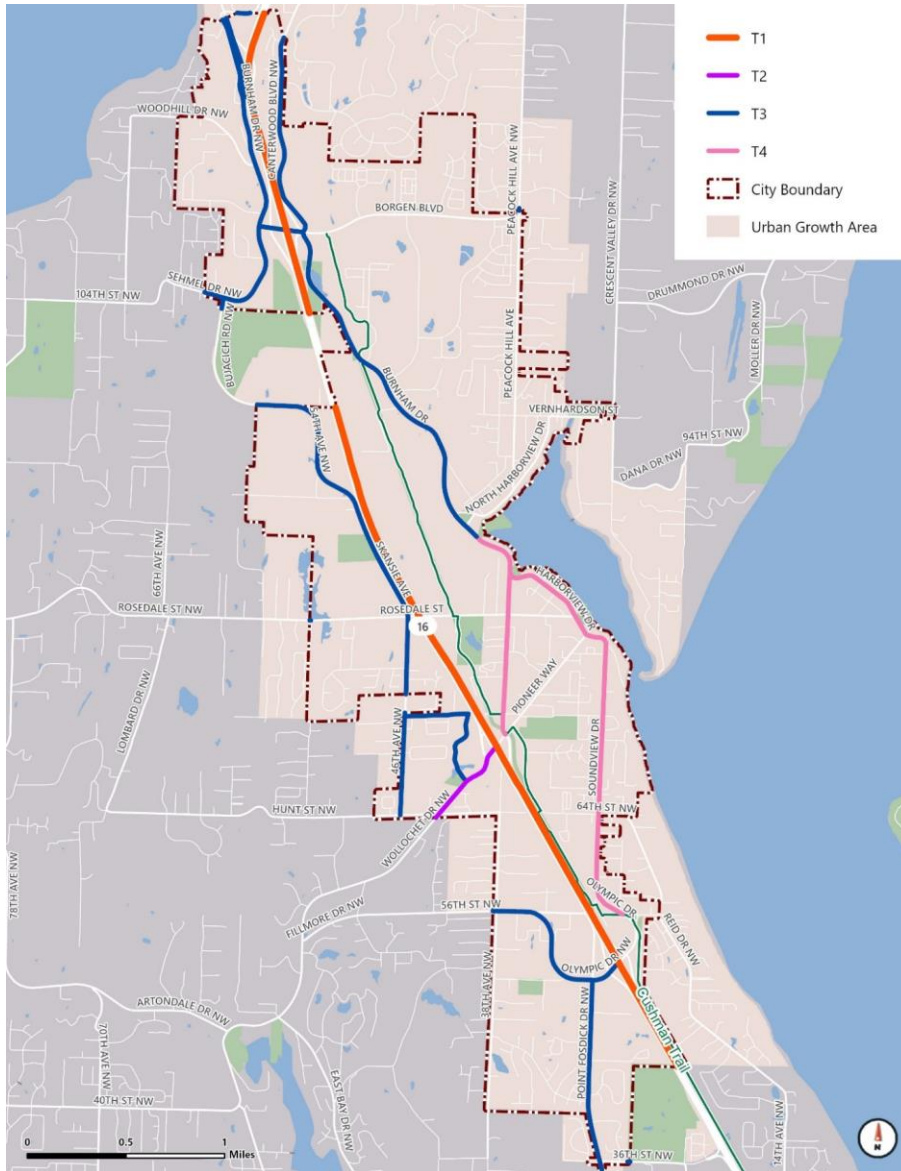


Figure 9: WSDOT Freight Corridors in Gig Harbor
Source: WSDOT, 2024





EXISTING VEHICLE CONGESTION

Transportation Solutions, Inc. (TSI) conducted an analysis of intersections within the city and UGA. The purpose of the analysis was to evaluate the operational performance of these intersections during the PM peak hour, using a measurement called the Level of Service (LOS). The LOS grades provide an indication of congestion levels at an intersection by assessing the amount of delay experienced by vehicles.

The LOS grading system ranges from A to F, with each grade representing a different level of congestion. An intersection operating at LOS A signifies a smooth flow of traffic with minimal or no delays. On the other hand, an intersection operating at LOS F indicates severe congestion, causing significant delays for vehicles and exceeding the roadway's capacity.

Table 3 presents the definitions of each LOS grade, as established in the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) Sixth Edition, published by the Transportation Research Board in 2016. The HCM serves as a standardized approach for evaluating the operational performance of roadway segments. Analyzing the LOS at various intersections provides valuable insights into the congestion levels and performance of the roadway network within the city and UGA.

Table 3: Level of Service Definitions

Level of Service	Description	Control Delay (seconds/vehicle)	
		For signalized and roundabout controlled intersections	For unsignalized intersections
A	Free-flowing conditions	≤ 10	≤ 10
B	Stable operating conditions	10-20	10-15
C	Stable operating conditions, but individual motorists are affected by the interaction with other motorists	20-35	15-25
D	High density of motorists, but stable flow	35-55	25-35
E	Near-capacity	55-80	35-50
F	Over capacity, with delays	≥ 80	≥ 50

Source: Highway Capacity Manual, 6th Edition

The City's 2018 Comprehensive Plan identified LOS standards for the city's roadway network. It required LOS D or better operations at all functionally classified intersections; however, the City accepted a lower LOS standard in a few locations in recognition of right-of-way constraints and the need to balance limited space among multiple travel modes:

- LOS E - Burnham/Borgen/Canterwood/SR 16 roundabout.
- LOS F - The "Harbor Area", shown in [Figure 10](#), which includes the following intersections:
 - Harborview Drive & Austin Street
 - Harborview Drive & Pioneer Way





- Harborview Drive & Rosedale Street NW
- Harborview Drive & Soundview Drive
- Harborview Drive & Stinson Avenue
- N Harborview Drive & Peacock Hill Avenue NW

In this 2024 Transportation Element update, the City has decided to remove the intersections of Harborview Drive & Stinson Avenue and Burnham/Borgen/Canterwood/SR 16 from the LOS D-exempt list.⁴ Therefore, with this 2024 update, the City's LOS standard will be LOS D at all intersections except for:

- LOS F - The "Harbor Area":
 - Harborview Drive & Austin Street
 - Harborview Drive & Pioneer Way
 - Harborview Drive & Rosedale Street NW
 - Harborview Drive & Soundview Drive
 - N Harborview Drive & Peacock Hill Avenue NW



Figure 10: Harbor Area
Source: 2018 Comprehensive Plan

⁴ A new roundabout has recently been constructed at Harborview Drive & Stinson Avenue, improving current intersection operations to LOS A. At the Burnham/Borgen/Canterwood/SR 16 roundabout, the modeling analysis completed for the 2024 Transportation Element update indicates that the intersection is expected to maintain LOS D operations through the 2029 scenario, and therefore does not require an LOS exemption.





WHY DEFINE LOS F FOR CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS?

LOS E and F indicate systems which are near to or over capacity. These conditions lead to increased congestion and travel delay for drivers. Although this measure seems counter-productive, the City is committed to mobility for all, which means that in addition to considering vehicular travel, it must also take into account factors such as:

Cost: Maintaining LOS D operations everywhere would require millions in capital investment.

This strategy would not only be impractical but could also hinder investments for other modes. More multimodal travel is expected in the Harbor Area, and therefore LOS F is allowed at five intersections as a fiscally practical and realistic approach to mitigating vehicle delay.

Right of way: Substantial right-of-way impacts, such as street widening, intersection modifications, and removal of parking can be challenging to overcome.

Other modes: Roadway improvements for vehicular travel may negatively impact other modes. For example, adding additional lanes will increase the amount of time it takes pedestrians and cyclists to cross the street.

Local Identity: Some locations are of historical and cultural importance to the city. Widening roadways may detract from the local identity and sense of place that residents and visitors enjoy.

Growth Management Act requirements: The State's concurrency law stipulates that the City must be able to maintain its stated LOS policy in order to continue permitting development. Setting an LOS standard that is unrealistic for the above reasons would put Gig Harbor in jeopardy of being able to permit development, even within CoLIs, which are intended to provide more walkable, bikeable, transit accessible options. As such, this Element sets a realistic LOS standard at key intersections where the conditions above make the City's LOS D standard that applies elsewhere infeasible.

Figure 11 shows existing intersection LOS during the PM peak hour. Of the intersections analyzed, **seven intersections** do not meet the current LOS standard and **four intersections within the city**, operating at LOS E or F, including:

Inside City of Gig Harbor:

- Soundview Drive & Hunt Street NW
- Wollochet Drive NW & Wagner Way
- Hunt Street NW & Skansie Avenue
- Wollochet Drive NW & SR 16 Eastbound On-Ramp*

*While this intersection is within the City of Gig Harbor, it is owned and operated by WSDOT.





Outside City of Gig Harbor:

- Purdy Drive NW & SR 302
- SR 302/Purdy Drive NW & Goodnough Drive NW (south)
- 144th Street NW & 54th Avenue NW

At city-owned intersections, treatments at failing intersections should be considered to alleviate significant delays:

- **Soundview Dr & Hunt Street/64th Street**, which operates at LOS E, is currently identified in the 2025-2030 TIP. This intersection is considered for a traffic signal to improve vehicle operations and construct safe non-motorized crossings.
- **Hunt Street NW & Skansie Avenue**, which operates at LOS E, is also identified in the current TIP. This intersection is considered for a roundabout to improve vehicle operations.
- **Wollochet Drive NW & Wagner Way** is another intersection identified in the TIP, which currently operates at LOS F. A traffic signal is in design and will be installed at this intersection based on the findings of a recent traffic impact assessment (TIA) which determined that a traffic signal is the most effective solution for improving conditions at this location.

To comply with transportation concurrency requirements, capacity improvements should be implemented at these three intersections within the next six years.

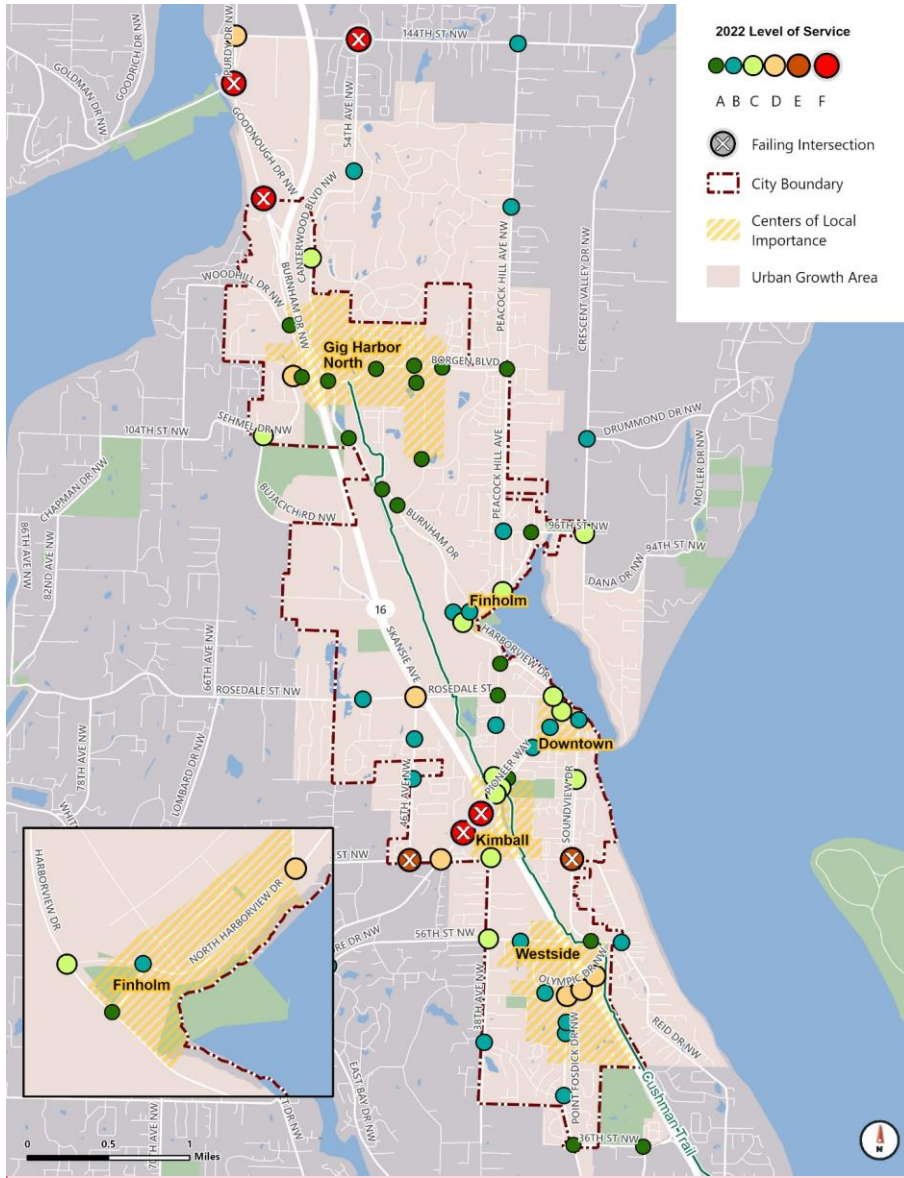
Outside the city limits, three LOS-deficient intersections on key access routes to Gig Harbor have been identified. These intersections include Purdy Drive NW & SR 302 and SR 302 & Goodnough Drive NW, managed by WSDOT, as well as 144th Street NW & 54th Avenue NW, a Pierce County intersection. Although these intersections are mentioned for reference, they do not affect the transportation concurrency compliance for the City of Gig Harbor.

While the intersection LOS analysis method described above represents the typical approach for intersection operation assessments, the standard software, Synchro, includes a technical limitation that assumes vehicles move freely through each intersection, unaffected by congestion and queues from nearby intersections or ramp meters. As a result, these LOS results can sometimes be overly optimistic, especially in corridors where traffic backs up through multiple intersections, such as the Olympic Drive corridor from Point Fosdick Drive to the SR 16 interchange.

To address this limitation, additional planning work was conducted to capture congested conditions that are not reflected in standard LOS analysis. This alternative approach uses the volume-to-capacity (v/c) ratio to identify roadway segments at intersections where vehicle demand exceeds the available lane capacity, a condition known as "oversaturation." This method was applied to assess both current conditions and to forecast future congestion and is used for planning purposes only. The findings were used to inform the project list in Chapter 5.

Appendix A summarizes the existing intersection delay in greater detail.





Commented [AP1]: TO BE UPDATED: This map will be replaced with the corrected LOS results and Hunt/Skansie intersection included.

Figure 11: 2022 PM Peak Hour LOS

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024

Note: LOS at intersections outside city limits are for informational purposes only.





FUTURE VEHICLE CONGESTION

As Gig Harbor grows, it is important to understand how this citywide and regional growth will impact Gig Harbor's transportation system. In addition to evaluating how intersections perform during current PM peak hours, the Gig Harbor travel demand model was used to forecast traffic volumes for 2029 and 2044, offering a clearer picture of future vehicle congestion.

CONCURRENCY SCENARIO (2029)

The GMA requires cities and counties to provide public infrastructure, including transportation facilities and services, concurrent with new development. For transportation, "concurrent" means that necessary improvements or plans must be in place when development happens, or there must be a financial commitment to complete these improvements within six years.

Transportation concurrency means that increased travel demand from new development should not cause intersection LOS to fall below the City's standards. If a proposed development would reduce LOS below these standards, the City must have an improvement at the failing intersection identified on the six year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). These improvements, which may involve securing funding for projects, must be identified and planned for implementation within six years of the development permit. Or, if the City does not have a relevant project on their TIP, the development must be modified to reduce its expected travel demand, or provide corrective transportation improvements.

The 2029 concurrency scenario was run to assess the potential impacts of development in the pipeline on transportation facilities in the City of Gig Harbor. By modeling this scenario, the City can identify areas where deficiencies exist in order to identify improvements to be constructed in the next 6 years to meet concurrency standards.

Figure 12 presents the citywide intersection LOS for 2029, assuming the construction of 18 development projects currently in the pipeline as of 2022. It also assumes the completion of one transportation improvement project: a new traffic signal at the intersection of Wollochet Drive NW and Wagner Way, which was under construction at the time of this analysis. The 18 development projects included in the 2029 growth forecast were identified and verified by City staff. These projects were permitted but not fully occupied at the time of analysis. The pipeline growth is expected to add 355 new weekday PM peak-hour trips compared to the 2022 baseline.

Of the intersections analyzed by TSI, **eight intersections** are projected to fall below the current LOS standard by 2029, with **four intersections within the city** expected to operate at LOS E or F, including:

Inside City of Gig Harbor:

- Rosedale Street NW & Skansie Avenue
- Soundview Drive & Hunt Street NW
- Hunt Street NW & Skansie Avenue
- Wollochet Drive NW & SR 16 Eastbound On-Ramp*

*While this intersection is within the City of Gig Harbor, it is owned and operated by WSDOT.

Outside City of Gig Harbor:

- Purdy Drive NW & 144th Street NW
- Purdy Drive NW & SR 302



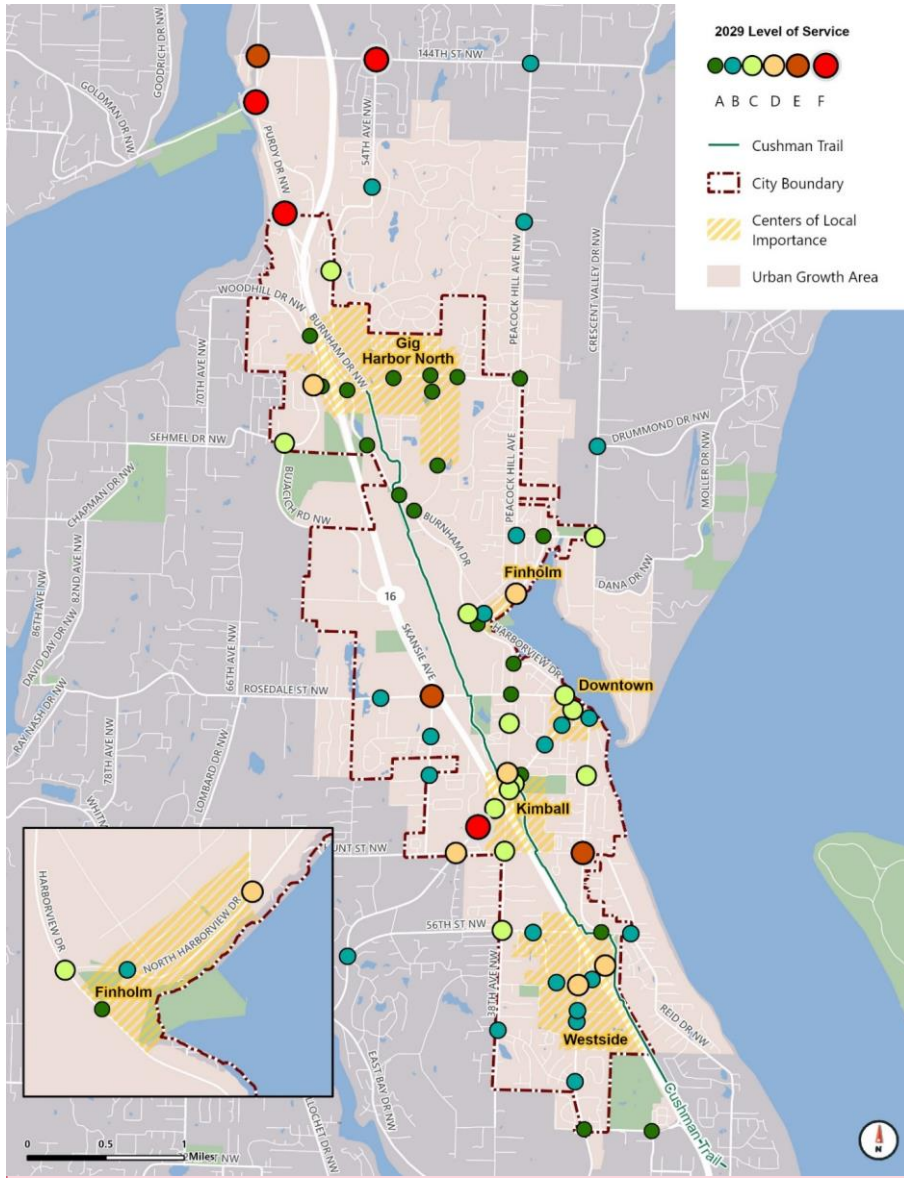


- SR 302/Purdy Drive NW & Goodnough Drive NW (south)
- 144th Street NW & 54th Avenue NW

The three city-controlled intersections forecasted to fall below the current LOS standard already have improvements identified in the current TIP, which are described in detail in the **Existing Vehicle Congestion** section.

Appendix B summarizes the forecasted 2029 intersection delay in greater detail.





Commented [AP2]: TO BE UPDATED: This map will be replaced with the corrected LOS results and Hunt/Skansie intersection included.

Figure 12: 2029 PM Peak Hour LOS

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024

Note: LOS at intersections outside city limits are for informational purposes only.





LONG-RANGE SCENARIO (2044)

Figure 13 shows LOS citywide for 2044, assuming development follows the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element and assuming the completion of three transportation improvement projects which were funded and in design or under construction at the time of analysis:

1. **Wollochet Drive & Wagner Way:** New traffic signal (under construction at the time of analysis and also assumed in the 2029 Concurrency Scenario)
2. **Wollochet Drive & SR 16 Eastbound Ramp:** New right-turn lane on SR 16 Eastbound off-ramp (funded and in design at time of analysis)
3. **38th Avenue NW & 56th Street:** New roundabout (funded and in design at time of analysis)

The development forecast included a total of 1,151 new dwelling units and 2,552 new employees in city limits, representing a 19 percent increase in dwelling units and a 23 percent increase in employment relative to 2022. In this scenario, new development is anticipated to generate 3,545 new weekday PM peak hour vehicle trips within city limits, a 19 percent increase relative to 2022.

Of the intersections analyzed by TSI, **fourteen intersections** are projected to fall below the current LOS standard by 2044, with **nine intersections within the city** expected to operate at LOS E or F, including:

Inside City of Gig Harbor:

- Sehmel Drive NW & Bujacich Road NW
- Rosedale Street NW & Skansie Avenue
- Soundview Drive & Hunt Street NW
- Stinson Avenue & Grandview Street
- Wollochet Drive NW & Hunt Street NW
- Hunt Street NW & Skansie Avenue
- Borgen/Burnham & SR 16 Westbound Off-Ramp*
- Wollochet/Pioneer & SR 16 Westbound On-Ramp/Stinson*
- Wollochet Drive NW & SR 16 Eastbound On-Ramp*

*While these intersections are within the City of Gig Harbor, they are owned and operated by WSDOT.

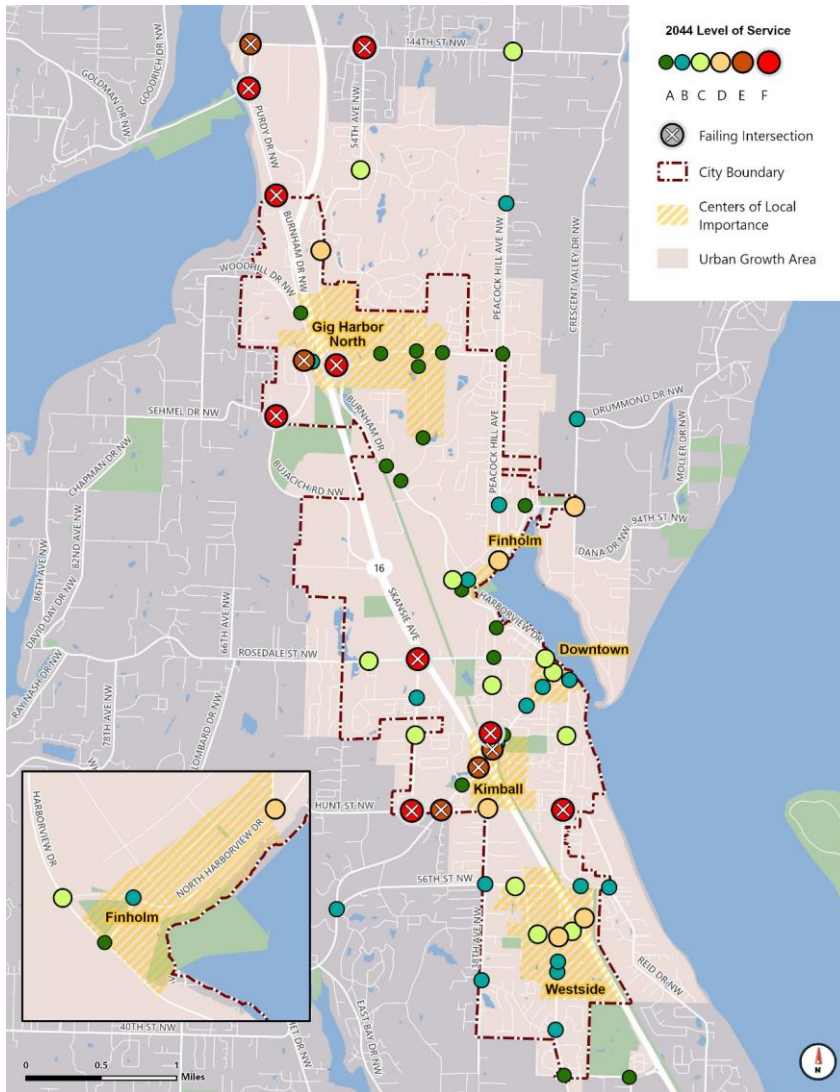
Outside City of Gig Harbor:

- Burnham Drive NW & Sehmel Drive NW
- Purdy Drive NW & 144th Street NW
- Purdy Drive NW & SR 302
- SR 302/Purdy Drive NW & Goodnough Drive NW (south)
- 144th Street NW & 54th Avenue NW

Appendix C summarizes forecasted 2044 intersection delay in greater detail. Furthermore, the long-term project list provided in Chapter 5 includes roadway projects that would maintain the City's LOS standard through 2044, as well as ensure that other components of the city's roadway network offer sufficient capacity to handle anticipated future demand volumes.⁵

⁵ In addition to the PM peak hour intersection LOS standard, the City plans for transportation capacity by comparing existing and future traffic volumes to roadway capacities. This practice is most useful for identifying specific movements or approaches at intersections that are over capacity.







IMPACTS OF CITY GROWTH ON STATE FACILITIES

As Gig Harbor continues to grow, traffic volumes will increase on SR 16, which is a Highway of Statewide Significance that serves as a critical link for Gig Harbor residents and employees to the rest of the region. WSDOT has set a level of service standard of LOS D for SR 16.¹ To understand the magnitude of change in SR 16 volumes related to Gig Harbor's growth, PM peak hour volume forecasts are shown below. These forecasts are methodologically consistent with the forecasts developed for the SR 16 Tacoma Narrows Bridge to SR 3 Congestion Study, a study currently underway by WSDOT with draft findings anticipated in late 2018.

Segment	Eastbound			Westbound		
	2022	2029	2044	2022	2029	2044
North of Borgen Boulevard	2,950	3,200	3,400	3,350	3,500	3,650
North of Pioneer Way/ Wollochet Drive	3,100	3,200	3,300	3,500	3,600	3,700
North of Olympic Drive	3,100	3,250	3,300	3,500	3,650	3,700
South of Olympic Drive	3,100	3,250	3,300	3,500	3,550	4,000

1: https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/los_hss_pierce.pdf

TRANSIT NETWORK

Pierce Transit and Sound Transit provide bus-based transit service in Gig Harbor. **Figure 14** maps the two Pierce Transit routes and one Sound Transit bus route, including stop locations, and these routes are also described in **Table 4**. Transit service between Gig Harbor and Tacoma is not easily accessible to many Gig Harbor residents. Route 595 caters to peak-period, weekday-only commuters with regular 9-to-5 jobs in Downtown Seattle and Downtown Tacoma. This limited schedule does not adequately serve individuals who have reverse commutes, work non-traditional hours, or otherwise need transit to access daily needs. There is a need for more frequent and reliable transit options to Seattle, Tacoma, and other main destinations for the benefit of Gig Harbor residents and workers. The Pierce Transit Trolley is well-utilized and helps address some of the transit needs, but there has been a decrease in service over time. Many in the community would like to see expanded service that operates year-round.

Pierce Transit is in the process of updating its long-range plan, which will have an impact on transit services in Gig Harbor. The City will actively collaborate with Pierce Transit to advocate for enhanced service and ensure that the community's needs are prioritized in future improvements.





Table 4: Existing Bus Routes within Gig Harbor

Bus Route	Description	Headway	Schedule*
Pierce Transit Route 100 (Figure 15)	Route 100 runs between the Purdy Park & Ride north of Gig Harbor and the Tacoma Community College Transit Center. This route includes several stops along key corridors in Gig Harbor.	60 minutes	Weekdays: 7:15 AM to 8:15 PM Weekends: 9:45 AM to 5:45 PM
Pierce Transit Route 101 (Trolley) (Figure 16)	Route 101 travels between Peacock Hill Avenue & Borgen Boulevard and Uptown Gig Harbor Shopping Center. Along the way, it stops at the Finholm District, Downtown Gig Harbor, the Kimball Drive Park & Ride, and the Uptown Shopping Center.	60 minutes	<i>July 6th through August 31st only</i> Thursdays: 3:05 PM and 8:05 PM Saturdays: 12:05 PM and 6:05 PM
Sound Transit Express Bus Route 595	Route 595 is a Sound Transit Express Bus Route that travels between Gig Harbor and Downtown Seattle. The Kimball Drive Park & Ride is the only stop within Gig Harbor City limits, with additional stops in Tacoma at Narrows Park and Ride, TCC Transit Center Zone, and Tacoma Dome Station.	50 to 60 minutes	Weekdays: 5:00 AM to 6:53 AM to downtown Seattle 3:06 PM to 5:09 PM to Gig Harbor

*As of September 2024.



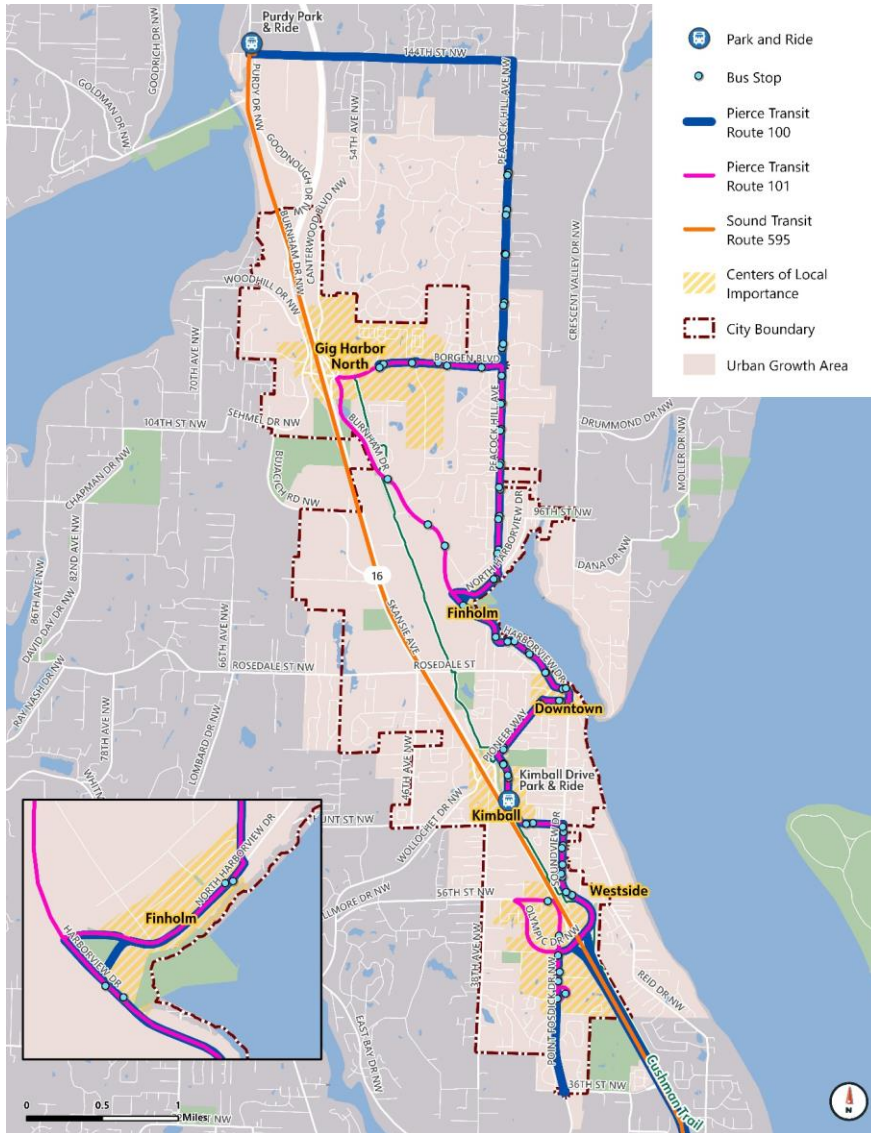


Figure 14: Gig Harbor Transit Service
Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





Figure 15: Pierce Transit Route 100 (Gig Harbor Route)

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024



Figure 16: Pierce Transit Route 101 (Pierce Transit Trolley)

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE NETWORK

Walking and bicycling facilities are essential components of the city's multimodal transportation system. The current pedestrian and bicycle network in Gig Harbor can be seen in [Figure 19](#). While sidewalk connections in certain parts of the city are limited, with some sidewalks ending abruptly, the City has made significant efforts to provide sidewalks on one or both sides of most arterial streets, covering the downtown and Uptown areas, shopping districts, and some residential areas.

One notable community asset is the Cushman Trail ([Figure 17](#)), which is an off-street trail accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities. This trail features a 16-foot-wide pervious pavement with 4-foot gravel shoulders, offering a comfortable path for users. Along the trail, there are seating areas providing rest spots. The City has plans to extend the trail between Borgen Boulevard and Purdy to connect with the regional trail system, further enhancing its value.

Gig Harbor has constructed bicycle lanes on Borgen Boulevard and sections of Canterwood Boulevard NW, Rosedale Street, Soundview Drive, Point Fosdick Drive, Grandview Street, Olympic Drive NW, and North Harborview Drive. This bicycle network is largely connected by the Cushman Trail which offers access from one bicycle facility to another. However, even with bike lanes in place, some streets and larger intersections can be uncomfortable to navigate for many cyclists.



Figure 17: Cushman Trail

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024

Additionally, Gig Harbor boasts three on-street trails: the Harborview Trail along Harborview and North Harborview Streets, the Finholm View Climb, and the Stanich Trail, which is the undeveloped section of Erickson Street. These on-street trails contribute to the overall pedestrian and bicycle network within the city.





The American Community Survey estimates commute mode share (Figure 18). The data indicates that only 2 percent of Gig Harbor residents walk to work. However, commute data are not the most accurate indicators of overall walking, as many residents in Gig Harbor work outside of the city and many walking trips are for purposes other than commuting.

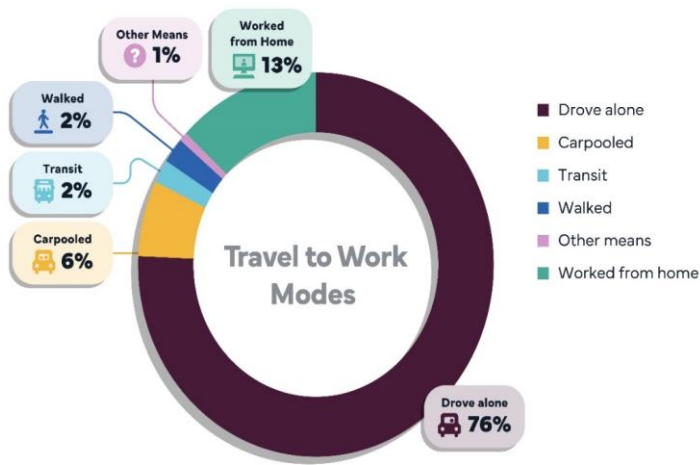


Figure 18: Travel to Work Modes for Gig Harbor

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, 2021

Gig Harbor is dedicated to enhancing infrastructure to benefit all users. In June 2024, the City adopted Ordinance 12.24.040 which mandates the integration of “complete streets infrastructure” into Gig Harbor’s public streets as feasible. The purpose of this ordinance is to create a connected and inclusive transportation network for all users in Gig Harbor.

In 2021, Gig Harbor completed an [ADA Transition Plan](#) for transportation as required under Title II of the ADA. The City conducted self-evaluations of its existing facilities to determine whether they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. Based on this review, a program access plan was developed to address pedestrian ramp deficiencies. The plan identifies physical obstacles, outlines methods for removing barriers, sets a timeline for necessary modifications, and designates leadership roles responsible for implementation.

Furthermore, the City’s Active Transportation Plan (ATP) [Gig on the Go](#) outlines the mission to improve and expand walking, biking, and other non-motorized transportation options within Gig Harbor by creating a more connected, safe, and accessible transportation network for pedestrians, cyclists, and other active modes of travel.



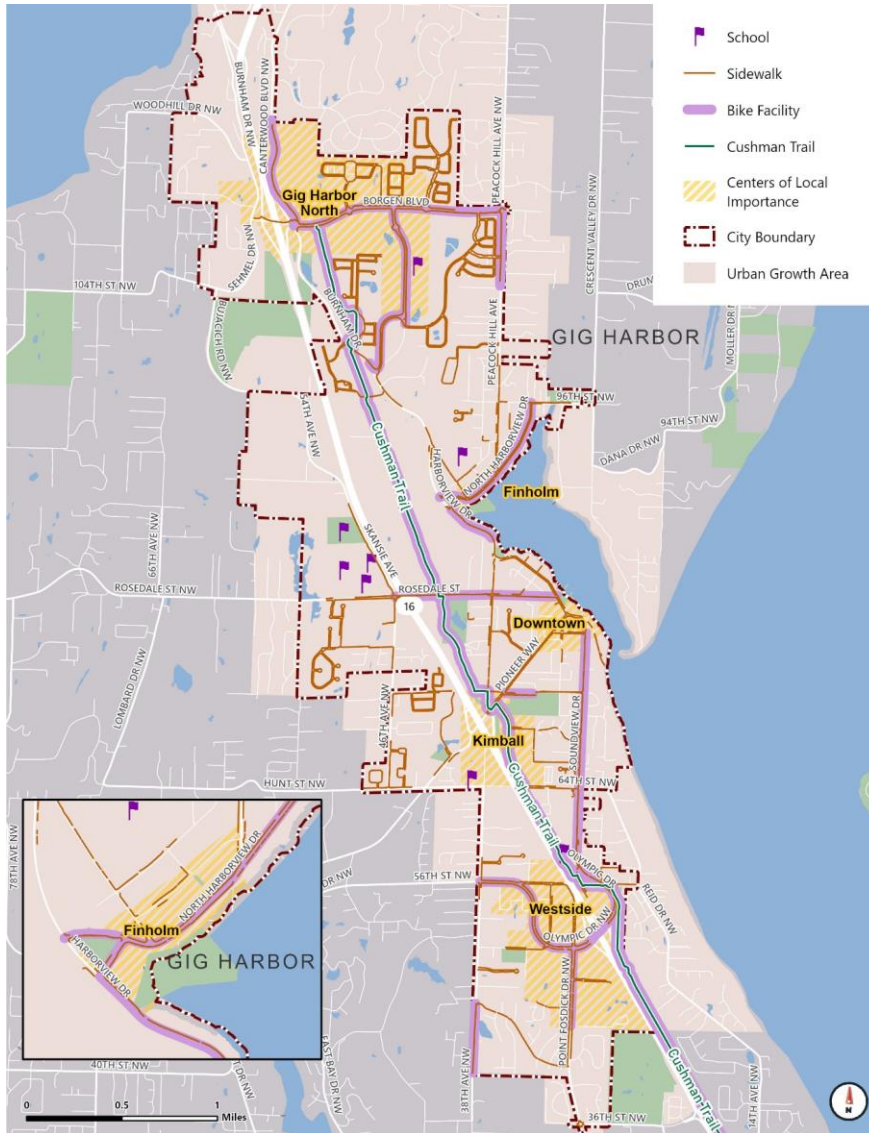


Figure 19: Gig Harbor Bicycle and Pedestrian Network
 Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The City of Gig Harbor is faced with significant challenges as it prepares for future growth and strives to establish a well-rounded, multimodal transportation network where people are less reliant on cars to get around. To address the barriers, the City should aim to develop a smart, efficient, and achievable transportation system, using performance metrics aligned with the City's multimodal goals to ensure the efficient movement of people and goods.

In terms of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, while the Cushman Trail serves as a valuable resource for cyclists traveling north and south, the existing bicycle network in the city is limited, with missing links and insufficient separation between modes. These limitations hinder mobility and often result in increased reliance on private vehicles instead of walking or biking, even when trips are short, and those options would be preferable. To overcome these challenges, the City's goal is to establish safe and comprehensive connections for all users, making walking and biking viable choices throughout Gig Harbor.

To address transportation challenges, several roadway capacity and bicycle and pedestrian improvements have been identified as part of the [2025-2030 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#). These projects provide a glimpse into the connectivity barriers that exist in the city today, and which major intersections and corridors have been prioritized for near-term improvements.

Considering the anticipated growth in population across the city, the UGA, and the surrounding region, it is crucial to prepare for increased demands on the transportation network. This growth will inevitably contribute to additional traffic on arterials and impact the quality of life for Gig Harbor residents. To maintain and enhance mobility, the City will prioritize transportation projects that improve multimodal connections to CoLIs, while also investing in connections between the city and the regional transportation systems.

Furthermore, Gig Harbor's transportation system does not operate in a vacuum: active coordination with various regional partners and stakeholders, including Pierce County, WSDOT, Kitsap Transit, and the Peninsula School District, is necessary to develop and maintain an efficient transportation system. This coordination ensures that residents, employees, and visitors have a positive experience while using the transportation network.

Safety remains a significant concern, with a particular focus on reducing pedestrian and bicycle collisions, as these vulnerable users require heightened attention. This Transportation Element should emphasize creating an inviting and equitable transportation system that encourages active modes of transportation while ensuring the safety and well-being of all users.

When it comes to funding, Gig Harbor, like many jurisdictions, faces challenges in financing transportation network improvements. Exploring alternative funding sources such as grants and private investments is crucial to supplement local funds and increase investment in transportation infrastructure. This Transportation Element should seek long-term sustainability, both financially and environmentally, by considering the full costs of planning, permitting, construction, and maintenance in transportation investment decisions. Additionally, the plan should include an update of the City's transportation impact fee program and active transportation plan to align with the multimodal vision, potentially making multimodal projects more financially sustainable, including sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes.





By addressing these challenges comprehensively and adopting a forward-thinking approach, Gig Harbor is committed to creating a transportation system that supports future growth, prioritizes safety, enhances connectivity, and provides sustainable and accessible options for all residents and visitors.





CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Gig Harbor community played a crucial role in shaping this Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Element update. Building on the extensive input gathered during the 2018 Transportation Element, the project team ensured that the 2024 update reflected the community's evolving priorities. Over the course of 2023 and 2024, more than a dozen outreach events were held as a part of the broader Comprehensive Plan update process. These included a kickoff meeting in May 2023, six focus group discussions, and multiple tabling events throughout the summer of 2023. These efforts prioritized aligning potential future projects with community preferences, maintaining a strong connection between the plan and local needs. The insights from these community engagement activities shaped the direction and content of this document.

SUMMARY OF 2018 OUTREACH

The community outreach for this update of the Transportation Element builds on the extensive feedback collected during the 2018 update. That outreach included interviews, a pop-up studio, "walkshops," and various other engagement activities, all of which shaped the direction and content of this document. For more information about the 2018 engagement activities and input received, see [Appendix D](#).

PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL

The project team and city staff presented to the Planning Commission and City Council throughout the process to ensure they were kept apprised of community input and key project milestones. City staff presented to Planning Commission and Council multiple times in 2023 and 2024 to share updates on the overall Comprehensive Plan progress, and the project team presented to Planning Commission in September 2024 to focus on the Transportation Element updates.

WEBSITE AND ONLINE SURVEY

To promote transparency on upcoming short-term projects (2024–2030) and gather feedback on potential long-term projects, the project team developed an interactive project website and survey. The online survey was open for three weeks, during which the public was encouraged to participate through promotions on social media, the city newsletter, flyers, and the community groups' email listserv.





Figure 20: Promotional Flyer for Website and Online Survey

The website provided an overview of the need for public input in updating the Transportation Element and explained its role in shaping Gig Harbor's future. It included a map highlighting short-term projects that were informed by the 2018 Transportation Element update and emphasized the importance of gathering community feedback on the long-term project list.



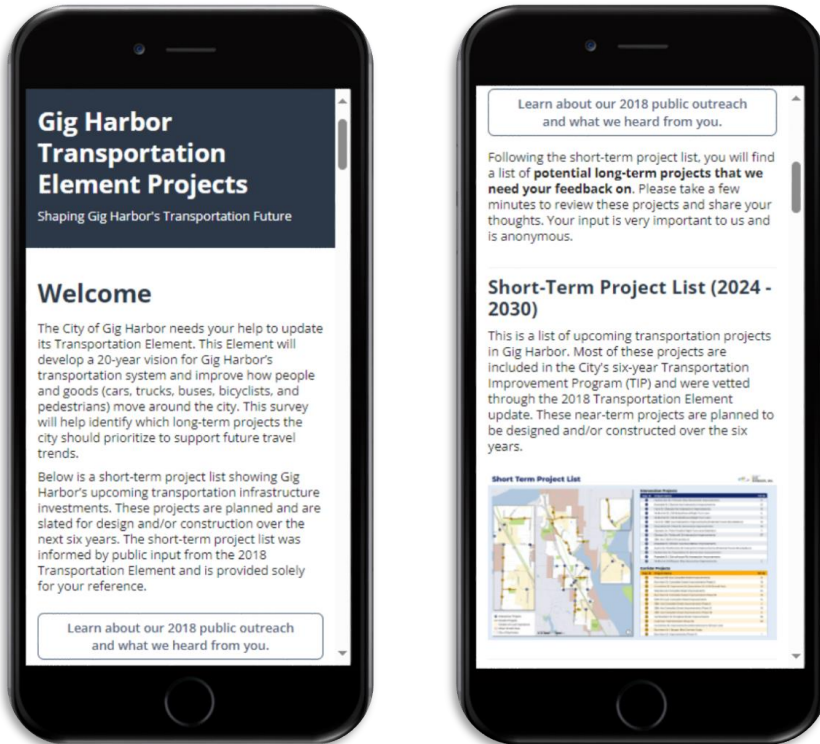


Figure 21: Community Outreach Website

This site featured detailed information about nine potential long-term projects, including their locations, visual renderings, and descriptions, and invited the public to rate each one in a survey (Figure 22). Survey participants were also asked to select which projects were their top two priorities and indicate their overall support for the potential long-term project list. Additionally, an open-ended section allowed users to suggest missing projects or offer further feedback on improvements they would like to see.



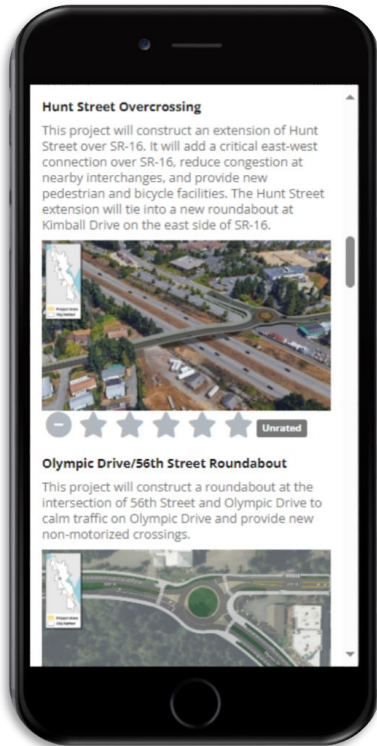


Figure 22: Survey Preview

SURVEY RESULTS

The survey received a total of 180 contributions.

- 85% of respondents **supported** the list of potential long-term projects.
- 13% of respondents **opposed** the list of potential long-term projects.
- 2% of respondents were **neutral**.
- The two projects with the highest support were the Wollochet Drive Interchange Improvements (43%) and the Hunt Street Overcrossing (32%).
 - Many respondents commented about traffic concerns at the SR 16 interchanges in Gig Harbor, so projects that improved existing interchanges, or the new Hunt Street Crossing over SR 16 ranked highly.
- The two projects with the lowest support were the Olympic Drive/56th Street Roundabout (5%) and Rosedale Street/Stinson Avenue Roundabout Improvements (9%).





- The write-in responses reflected conflicting opinions about roundabouts in general.
- The remaining projects with the most support were centered around sidewalk, intersection, corridor, and bicycle lane improvements.

For more information about survey results, see [Appendix E](#).





CHAPTER 4: TRANSPORTATION GOALS & POLICIES

Gig Harbor has established five goals to accomplish its overall vision for transportation in the future. The goals establish overarching priorities that serve the vision of this Transportation Element while policies lay out specific actions. The consolidated set of goals and policies is included in this chapter.

The City of Gig Harbor seeks to create a transportation system that is:

GOAL 1: INVITING AND ACCESSIBLE, ENCOURAGING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION



Gig Harbor's transportation network will provide safe and complete connections for all users, making active transportation modes like walking and biking reasonable options in all areas of the city.

GOAL 4: SUSTAINABLE OVER TIME, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY



The City considers the full costs of planning, permitting, construction, and maintenance in its transportation investment decisions, as well as how these investments impact the environment.

GOAL 2: SMART, EFFICIENT, AND ACHIEVABLE



The City will plan a transportation system that efficiently accommodates growth.

GOAL 5: UNDERSTOOD BY THE COMMUNITY



The City's transportation planning process and investment decisions are well-understood by the community. The City actively coordinates with a broad range of groups to develop and ensure operation of the transportation system.

GOAL 3: EFFECTIVE IN CONNECTING CENTERS TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM



Gig Harbor will prioritize transportation projects that connect and support strong, vibrant centers, as well as investments that connect the city to the region.





GOAL 1: INVITING AND ACCESSIBLE, ENCOURAGING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- Policy 1.1 Design, construct, and operate transportation infrastructure to serve all users safely and conveniently, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users, while accommodating the movement of freight and goods, as suitable to each facility's function and location.
- Policy 1.2 Improve collector streets to provide adequate capacity for present and future projected traffic loads, pedestrian and bicyclist activities.
- Policy 1.3 Enhance walkability in the Harbor Area and Centers of Local Importance through sidewalk widening and improved sidewalk connections, beautification, and preservation.
- Policy 1.4 Update and implement the Active Transportation Plan to provide inviting connections for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Policy 1.5 Encourage additional pedestrian, bicycle, or shared vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian connections in the city as development and redevelopment occurs to increase the ease of access and create useful and well-designed public ways.
- Policy 1.6 Require public and private transportation improvements to meet the most recently adopted Public Works Standards, which specify inclusion of non-motorized features in the construction and design of new or improved streets.
- Policy 1.7 Promote non-motorized connections to the Cushman Trail to improve connectivity between the trail and parks, schools, adjacent neighborhoods, and businesses.
- Policy 1.8 Work to increase the safety of the transportation system with appropriate design and, in the long term, support the state's "Target Zero" plan goal of zero deaths and disabling injuries.
- Policy 1.9 Implement pedestrian improvements through a combination of public and private investments by using the Priority Network, Active Transportation Plan (ATP), and ADA Transition Plan as guides.

GOAL 2: SMART, EFFICIENT, AND ACHIEVABLE

- Policy 2.1 Define a hierarchy of local, collector, and arterial streets which provides methods for connecting and traversing SR 16 and the neighborhoods, districts and other places within the area without overly congesting or depending on the arterial street system or any single intersection.
- Policy 2.2 Promote transportation investments that support transit and pedestrian oriented land use patterns and provide alternatives to single-occupant automobile travel.
- Policy 2.3 Pursue funding and support regional actions to develop an all modes crossing of SR 16 at Hunt Street.
- Policy 2.4 Maintain roadway facilities to achieve the City's intersection Level of Service standard of LOS D or better, except for the following intersections identified within the Downtown Harbor Area:





- Harborview Drive & Austin Street
- N Harborview Drive & Peacock Hill Avenue NW
- Harborview Drive & Rosedale Street NW
- Harborview Drive & Pioneer Way
- Harborview Drive & Soundview Drive

The above intersections may be allowed to operate at LOS F consistent with the vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian objectives identified in the Harbor Area.

Policy 2.5 Require traffic impact mitigation when a proposed development would degrade the LOS below the adopted threshold on a state highway. This traffic impact mitigation shall be based on the recommendation of the City Engineer and consistent with the *Washington State Highway System Plan's Appendix G: Development Impacts Assessment*.

Policy 2.6 Continue to maintain and update a current traffic demand model to facilitate the preparation of annual capacity reports and concurrency reviews.

Policy 2.7 Where practicable, work toward the development of a multi-modal transportation system that achieves the following LOS metrics:

- **Pedestrian LOS** – provide a minimum of LOS Yellow within the Pedestrian Priority Network, as defined in [Table 5](#) Table 5.
- **Bicycle LOS** – provide a minimum of LOS Yellow within the Bicycle Priority Network, as defined in [Table 6](#) Table 6.
- **Transit LOS** – partner with local and regional agencies to provide a minimum of LOS Yellow, as defined in [Table 7](#) Table 7.

Policy 2.8 Adopt and implement a program which increases public awareness to the City's transportation demand management strategies, including non-motorized transportation and increased use of local transit.

Policy 2.9 Establish appropriate right-of-way widths, pavement widths, shoulder requirements, bicycle accommodations, curb-gutter- sidewalk standards for major arterials, collectors and local streets.

Policy 2.10 Establish design standards, which provide for visually distinct roadways that provide increased pedestrian accommodations while providing efficient and cost-effective engineering design.

Policy 2.11 Adopt and implement street construction standards, which consider the objectives of Complete Streets and implement the goals and policies of the City of Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan Design Element and the City Design Guidelines.

Policy 2.12 Work with Pierce County to require the design and construction of appropriate urban transportation improvements in the Urban Growth Areas adjacent to the city.

Policy 2.13 Continuously monitor and analyze individual intersection approach leg LOS to determine if a capacity-related intersection improvement project, whether completed through a private development project or City capital project, is necessary to remedy a localized deficiency at a particular intersection approach leg. If it is determined that a capacity-related project is available that will remedy failing LOS at a particular leg of an intersection and the project will improve the





overall intersection LOS significantly, the City shall consider such projects when generating the 6-year TIP project list.

Policy 2.14 Explore the feasibility of parking management programs, shared parking strategies, and/or subsidized ORCA cards programming as new low-income housing units are being developed; addressing the transportation needs as development occurs, not after units are built.

Table 5: Pedestrian Priority Network - LOS Standards

LOS Standards	Principal and Minor Arterials; Collectors (within CoLIs or 0.5 mile of a school)
	Pedestrian facilities* available on both sides of the street
	Pedestrian facilities available on one side of the street
	No pedestrian facilities available

*Pedestrian facility includes sidewalks and shoulders protected by a raised curb

Table 6: Bicycle Priority Network - LOS Standards

LOS Standards	Arterials	Collectors
	Shared use path or a buffered bike lane on both sides of street.	Conventional bike lanes on either sides of street or a shared use path.
	Conventional bike lanes on both sides of the street, or a shared use path or buffered bike lanes within 700 feet.	Fog lines on both sides of the street.
	None of the above facilities are provided, or facilities are on one side.	None of the above facilities are provided, or facilities are on one side.

Table 7: Transit Accommodation - Stop Amenities and Pedestrian Access

LOS Standards	Transit Stop Amenities	Pedestrian Access
	Provides high quality stop amenities (benches, shelters, garbage cans, lighting)	Sidewalks and marked crosswalks serving all stops
	Provides transit stop amenities where feasible	Sidewalks and marked crosswalks serving stops where feasible
	No amenities	General lack of sidewalks and marked crosswalks





GOAL 3: EFFECTIVE IN CONNECTING CENTERS TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

- Policy 3.1 Promote and implement a network of local street and trail infrastructure that supports walking, bicycling, and transit use to enhance connectivity, and physical activity throughout the city while providing connections between CoLIs and neighborhoods.
- Policy 3.2 Prioritize investments in transportation facilities and services in CoLIs that support compact, pedestrian and transit-oriented development.
- Policy 3.3 Work with Pierce Transit to satisfy local travel needs, particularly between residential areas, the CoLIs, and major commercial areas along SR 16.
- Policy 3.4 Work with Pierce Transit to locate Pierce Transit Park & Ride lots in areas which are accessible to transit routes and local residential collectors, but which do not unnecessarily congest major collectors or arterial roads or SR 16 interchanges.
- Policy 3.5 Work with the Harbor property owners to determine an effective parking plan, including the establishment of a local parking improvement district for the Harbor.
- Policy 3.6 Provide connections between commercial developments for vehicles and pedestrians, when feasible.
- Policy 3.7 Implement transportation programs and projects that provide access to opportunities while preventing or mitigating negative impacts to people of color, people with low incomes, and people with special transportation needs.

GOAL 4: SUSTAINABLE OVER TIME, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY

- Policy 4.1 Re-evaluate the Land Use Element, LOS, and revenue sources when funding for projects falls short. Impact fees should be used to the extent possible under GMA to fund capacity project costs. Alternative revenue sources and/or LOS modifications should be considered before land use density changes are considered.
- Policy 4.2 Give high priority to maintenance and preservation of the existing transportation infrastructure.
- Policy 4.3 Implement programs and construct projects that reduce reliance on private vehicles, thereby reducing harmful vehicle emissions, avoiding or mitigating impacts to critical areas and wildlife, manage water quality, and providing a safe environment for people to live and travel in.
- Policy 4.4 Implement programs that help to meet and maintain federal and state clean air requirements, in addition to regional air quality policies. Also, support programs and projects that help to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions consistent with state goals established in RCW 70.235.050 and RCW 70.235.060.
- Policy 4.5 Support the development and implementation of transportation modes and technologies that are energy-efficient, improve system performance, and minimize negative impacts to human health.





Policy 4.6 Protect the transportation system against natural and manmade disasters, develop prevention and recovery strategies, and plan for coordinated responses by using transportation- related preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery strategies and procedures adopted in the emergency management plans and hazard mitigation plans of the County and as well as the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Policy 4.7 Provide for an efficient storm drainage system in road design considering the width of road pavement needed to achieve levels of service and utilization low impact development techniques including pervious pavements and biofiltration.

Policy 4.8 Work with the Puget Sound Regional Council, Washington State Department of Transportation, Pierce Transit and neighboring jurisdictions in the development of transportation control measures and other transportation and air quality programs where warranted.

Policy 4.9 Reduce the impact of the city's transportation system on the environment through expanded zero-emission vehicle use and active transportation options and identify opportunities to increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure when planning and designing transportation projects and facilities, on City rights-of-way or adjacent property(s), or through other transportation policies and programs.

GOAL 5: UNDERSTOOD BY THE COMMUNITY

Policy 5.1 Coordinate planning, construction, and operation of transportation facilities and programs with the State, County, neighboring cities, Puget Sound Regional Council, transit agencies, and other entities. This coordination will be achieved by:

- a. Participating in the transportation- related activities of Pierce County and advisory committees;
- b. Working with other jurisdictions to plan, fund, and implement multi- jurisdictional projects necessary to meet shared transportation needs; and
- c. Making transportation decisions consistent with this Transportation Element and other regional plans.

Policy 5.2 Work with private property owners to improve connections for automobile and non-motorized travel.

Policy 5.3 Work with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure that new development outside of Gig Harbor does not unreasonably affect transportation systems, levels of service, and the quality of life.

Policy 5.4 Work with business leaders, private owners, and other local organizations to reach mutual transportation goals.

Policy 5.5 Continue to work with WSDOT to lobby for future state transportation monies to be used on City east/west connections that will help alleviate both SR 16 congestion as well as City interchange congested areas.





Policy 5.6 Actively engage the public, especially historically underserved populations, during all phases of the development/update/improvement of a transportation service or facility to identify and reduce negative community impacts.





CHAPTER 5: THE RECOMMENDED PLAN

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Gig Harbor envisions a future transportation system that serves all users and modes of travel by offering a safe and robust network of sidewalks, trails, bicycle facilities, intersections, and roadways. This chapter describes Gig Harbor's vision for its future transportation network and the needed infrastructure to achieve this vision.

This Element provides a 'layered' transportation network, which focuses less on providing vehicular capacity and more on accommodating all modes of travel. While some roadway improvements are needed to meet the City's vehicular LOS standard, many of the infrastructure enhancements described in this chapter focus on providing safer and more complete facilities for walking, bicycling, and riding transit in order to improve access and mobility for all roadway users.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LAYERED NETWORK

It can be a challenge for a single roadway to satisfy the demands and expectations of all modes at any given time. In response to this challenge, the City of Gig Harbor has adopted a layered network approach that focuses on how the city's transportation network can function as a system to meet the needs of all users. In such a system, individual travel modes are prioritized on different facilities throughout the overall network. **Figure 23** illustrates the concept of a layered network.

The City will implement this layered network through a system of modal networks that define each street's user priorities and associated infrastructure needs.



Figure 23: Layered Network Concept





THE RECOMMENDED PLAN BY MODE

Streets in Gig Harbor serve different travel purposes, and the modal networks therefore prioritize a different balance of users on each corridor. Determining how the entire transportation network fits together in Gig Harbor requires identifying desirable streets for each mode, combining them to locate overlaps, and then assigning priority to certain modes. The following sections outline the networks for each mode and establish their LOS standard.

INTRODUCTION TO MULTI-MODAL LEVEL OF SERVICE

The following sections define LOS for various modes of transportation. As described in Chapter 2, the most commonly used metric of transportation performance is vehicular LOS, as defined by the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM). LOS for auto and freight is reported in an A-to-F letter scale, which represents the amount of delay (measured in seconds) experienced by motorists at intersections. However, this metric does not consider how the system is performing for other modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and transit.

The experience of these other modes is often not defined by a metric like congestion or delay. Factors like the quality of built environment, including the presence of dedicated facilities and buffering from vehicle traffic, tend to be more indicative of how well these modes are performing for Gig Harbor residents. As such, LOS for these modes assesses existing infrastructure available for these users and identifies areas of the transportation system that are not safe or comfortable to navigate. LOS for pedestrians, bicycles, and transit is reported as red, yellow, and green. LOS Red indicates locations that need to be addressed due to a lack of dedicated amenities; LOS Yellow indicates the City's minimum standard for providing facilities for each mode; and LOS Green is aspirational and provides a long-term goal for the City.

PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Gig Harbor's pedestrian infrastructure varies across the city. While some areas boast nearly complete sidewalk coverage, other areas suffer from gaps that detract from a safe, continuous walking environment. Coverage is particularly critical on arterial streets, where traffic volumes and speeds are higher, as compared to local streets that generally experience lower traffic and speeds, allowing for easier pedestrian movement. Dense commercial areas and streets serving schools, parks, and churches are also key locations where safe pedestrian facilities are essential, as these areas tend to attract a larger number of vulnerable users.

To guide improvements, the City has established a Pedestrian Priority Network, which focuses on all principal and minor arterials, as well as collectors located within a CoLI or within a half-mile of a school. By prioritizing





pedestrian accommodations on these streets, the City aims to make walking easier and safer in and around major destinations. In addition to ensuring the presence of sidewalks or protected shoulders, safe pedestrian crossings are emphasized, particularly in downtown areas and within a quarter-mile of schools.

PEDESTRIAN LOS

The City uses LOS standards to measure pedestrian accommodations within the Pedestrian Priority Network. **Table 8** outlines the LOS standards, which assess whether streets offer pedestrian facilities on both sides, one side, or lack them entirely.

The City’s Public Works Standards already require all new or improved public roadways to have sidewalks on both sides. Additionally, in June 2024, the City adopted **Ordinance 12.24.040**, mandating the integration of “complete streets infrastructure” into public streets where feasible, reinforcing the City’s commitment to pedestrian safety and accessibility.

Table 8: Pedestrian Priority Network – LOS Standards

LOS Standards	Principal/Minor Arterials; Collectors (within CoLI or 0.5 mile of school)
	Pedestrian facilities* available on both sides of the street
	Pedestrian facilities available on one side of the street
	No pedestrian facilities available

* Pedestrian facility includes sidewalks and shoulders protected by a raised curb

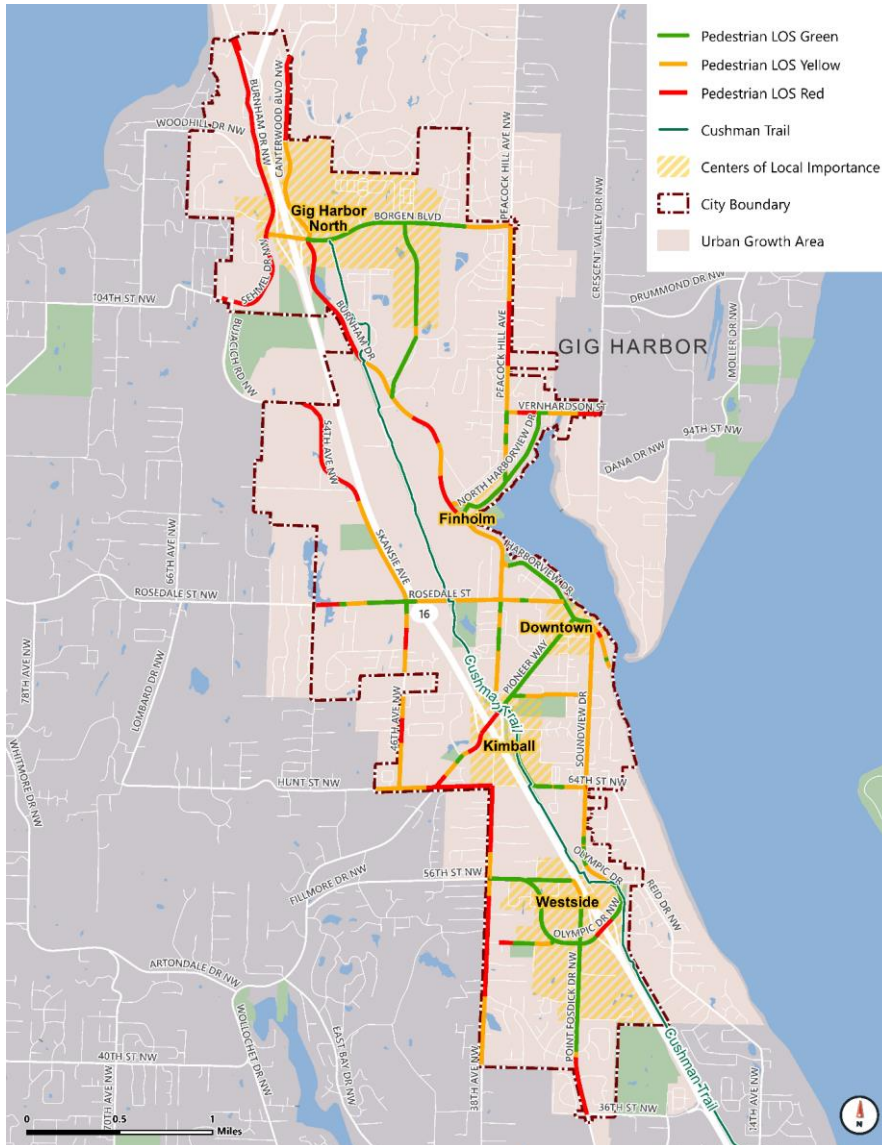
To achieve the highest level of pedestrian accommodation (LOS Green), all LOS Red and Yellow streets, as indicated in **Figure 24**, must be upgraded. Achieving LOS Yellow would mark significant progress in building out the pedestrian network, as it would involve improving all LOS Red streets. The City’s minimum standard for the Pedestrian Priority Network is LOS Yellow.

[Gig on the Go](#), Gig Harbor’s 2018 Active Transportation Plan, identifies a list of short-term and long-term projects that will help fill gaps in the pedestrian network and would improve the LOS of roadway segments.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The City recognizes that achieving pedestrian LOS Yellow may not be feasible everywhere shown in the Pedestrian Priority Network due to funding constraints, right of way needs, sensitive habitats, and topography. However, by setting this LOS standard, the City provides a vision for future pedestrian connectivity.





Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





BICYCLE PLAN

Gig Harbor offers a mix of bicycle infrastructure, with some areas like the Cushman Trail providing high-quality, protected bicycling environments suitable for all ages and abilities. However, other areas lack sufficient bicycle facilities. The City has established a **Bicycle Priority Network**, which includes all arterial and collector roadways. Prioritizing these roadways will enable residents and visitors to bike more comfortably between major destinations without needing to take longer, less direct routes. The current bicycle network, categorized using the City's LOS standards, is illustrated in **Figure 25**.

BICYCLE LOS

Bicycle LOS evaluates the presence and quality of bicycle facilities along or near roadways. The standards differ for arterials and collectors due to their distinct traffic characteristics, including speeds, volumes, and lane widths. **Table 9** outlines these LOS standards.

Table 9: Bicycle Priority Network - LOS Standards

LOS Standards	Arterials	Collectors
	Shared use path or a buffered bike lane on both sides of street.	Conventional bike lanes on either sides of street or a shared use path.
	Conventional bike lanes on both sides of the street, or a shared use path or buffered bike lanes within 700 feet.	Fog lines on both sides of the street or a shared use path or buffered bike lanes within 700 feet.
	None of the above facilities are provided, or facilities are on one side.	None of the above facilities are provided, or facilities are on one side.

Bicycle LOS Yellow and Green require bike lanes or similar facilities on both sides of the street as, unlike sidewalks, bike lanes cannot serve two-way traffic. Shared-use paths, which allow two-way travel, are always classified as Bicycle LOS Green. The City's Public Works Standards mandate bike lanes on both sides of all new and improved arterials and collectors. Furthermore, the June 2024 adoption of the complete streets ordinance further emphasizes the City's commitment to bicyclist accessibility and safety. The minimum standard for bicycle accommodation is LOS Yellow on all arterials and collectors.

[Gig on the Go](#), Gig Harbor's Active Transportation Plan, identifies a list of short-term and long-term projects that will help fill gaps in the bicycle network and would improve the LOS of roadway segments.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The City recognizes achieving bicycle LOS Yellow may not be feasible on all collectors and arterials due to funding constraints, right of way needs, sensitive habitats, and topography. However, by setting this LOS standard, the City provides a vision for future bicycle connectivity.



BICYCLE FACILITY TYPES

Buffered Bike Lane



Buffered bike lanes are conventional bicycle lanes paired with a designated buffer space separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent motor vehicle travel lane and/or parking lane. These facilities are established along roadways with high travel speeds, volumes, and/or truck traffic.

Fog Line



A fog line is a solid white line painted on the side of the roadway. This creates a designated space for people to ride their bike when there is not enough right-of-way for a conventional bike lane, and it designates the width of the outside travel lane. However, unlike conventional bike lanes, there is no bike pavement marking indicating preferential bicycle use.

Conventional Bike Lane



A conventional bike lane is a striped lane on a roadway that is designated for exclusive use by people riding bicycles. Conventional bike lanes include pavement markings indicating one-way bike use. These facilities are established along roadways where there is current or anticipated bicycle demand and where it could be unsafe for cyclists to ride in the travel lane.

Shared Use Path



Shared Use Paths are paved trails for the exclusive use of pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, and other active transportation users. They are wide enough for two-way travel. They are typically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space, barrier, curb, or exist in an independent corridor.



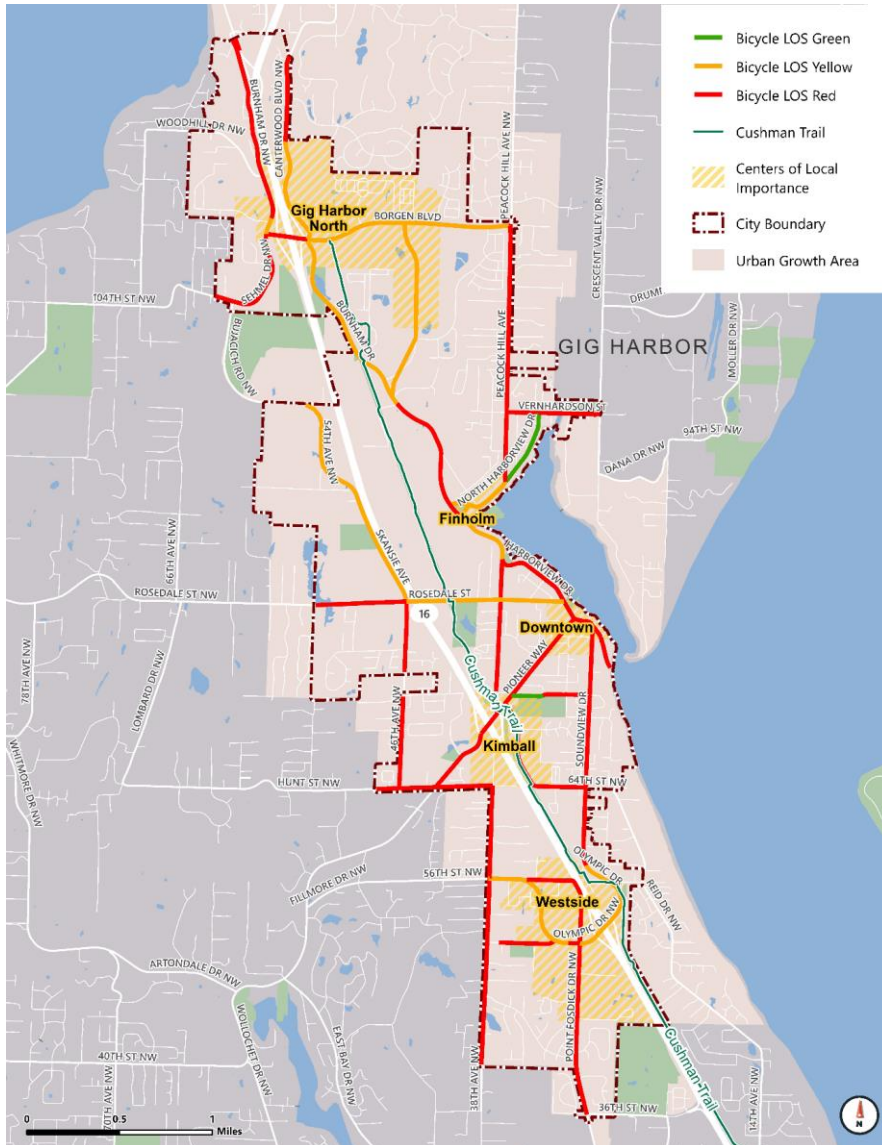


Figure 25: Existing Bicycle Level of Service

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





TRANSIT PLAN

The City aims to create corridors that are welcoming to transit and facilities that are comfortable for users. The existing transit system in Gig Harbor can be seen in [Figure 14](#). To increase transit use, the City can provide the following amenities:

- Street lighting
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities for connecting to transit stops
- Stop amenities, such as benches, shelters and real-time arrival information

TRANSIT LOS

Gig Harbor’s level of transit accommodation is defined based on the amenities in [Table 10](#). The City can reach the highest level of accommodation (LOS Green) by providing amenities such as benches, shelters, garbage cans, and lighting for transit and by ensuring the availability of sidewalks and marked crosswalks for pedestrians.

As a minimum target, the City can strive to provide transit LOS Yellow, which means providing transit stop amenities and pedestrian access improvements where feasible.

Table 10: Transit Accommodation - Stop Amenities and Pedestrian Access

LOS Standards	Transit Stop Amenities	Pedestrian Access
	Provides high quality stop amenities (benches, shelters, garbage cans, lighting)	Sidewalks and marked crosswalks serving all stops
	Provides transit stop amenities where feasible	Sidewalks and marked crosswalks serving stops where feasible
	No amenities	General lack of sidewalks and marked crosswalks

REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION

Effective coordination with regional transit agencies a top priority in this plan to ensure that the local and regional transportation systems complement one another, especially as each system expands. Pierce Transit is in the process of updating its long-range plan, which will have an impact on transit services in Gig Harbor. The City will continue to work with Pierce Transit and Sound Transit to provide transit alternatives for getting across town and efficient connections to neighboring cities.





AUTO AND FREIGHT PLAN

Nearly every street in Gig Harbor's roadway network is utilized at some point each day by residents and workers to access homes, jobs, and other destinations. Many of these streets are local streets, which do not see significant traffic volumes throughout the day. Other streets are an important part of the arterial and freight network, which provide critical connections across the city.

AUTO LOS

Auto LOS measures congestion by evaluating vehicle delays at intersections, with grades ranging from A (smooth traffic flow) to F (severe congestion and delays). These grades, based on the 2016 Highway Capacity Manual, help determine how well the roadway network is functioning and where improvements may be needed. [Table 11](#) presents the definitions of each LOS grade.

Table 11: Level of Service Definitions

Level of Service	Description	Control Delay (seconds/vehicle)	
		For signalized and roundabout controlled intersections	For unsignalized intersections
A	Free-flowing conditions	≤ 10	≤ 10
B	Stable operating conditions	10-20	10-15
C	Stable operating conditions, but individual motorists are affected by the interaction with other motorists	20-35	15-25
D	High density of motorists, but stable flow	35-55	25-35
E	Near-capacity	55-80	35-50
F	Over capacity, with delays	≥ 80	≥ 50

Source: Highway Capacity Manual, 6th Edition

The city's roadway network maintains a LOS standard of D for all functionally classified intersections, except for those in the downtown Harbor Area. In these intersections, an LOS F is acceptable. The Harbor Area intersections with an LOS F standard include:

- Harborview Drive & Austin Street
- N Harborview Drive & Peacock Hill Avenue NW
- Harborview Drive & Rosedale Street NW
- Harborview Drive & Pioneer Way
- Harborview Drive & Soundview Drive

For more details on Gig Harbor's auto LOS standards, refer to [Chapter 2](#).





CONNECTIVITY

The efficient movement of people and goods, referred to as mobility, is an important focus of any transportation system. Increased mobility not only increases access to jobs, shopping, and recreation, but can also benefit the city's economy and residents' quality of life.

Mobility is often mentioned in the context of connectivity, or the directness and density of connections between locations. A well-connected street grid disperses traffic flow and provides safe and convenient access for all, no matter the mode of travel. This is particularly important in Gig Harbor's CoLIs, where it is anticipated that people will be traveling by means other than their car. However, even outside of the city's centers, it is important that the transportation system be designed to accommodate all modes of travel to truly serve the diverse community that calls Gig Harbor home.

BARRIERS TO MOBILITY

Within the city, barriers to mobility can come from existing infrastructure or a lack of infrastructure. A prominent example of the former is SR 16, which runs through the center of city limits. Although SR 16 provides greater access to the region, it forms a constraint that effectively limits connections between the east and west sides of Gig Harbor to overpasses or underpasses. As a result, these grade-separated crossings have become network chokepoints, contributing to congestion and decreasing mobility.

Other features of the city's existing topography are cul-de-sacs and dead streets, which are prevalent within the residential areas. Currently, few local streets provide connections between collectors and arterials. As a whole, the lack of connections hinders mobility.

For active transportation users, a robust network of sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes improves mobility. Within the city, sidewalks are generally available on arterials, although there are some areas where sidewalks are missing or not wide enough to meet modern standards. Pedestrian accommodation at the SR 16 interchanges can be particularly challenging. For cyclists, the Cushman Trail is a great resource for north and south travel in Gig Harbor but beyond it, the city's existing bicycle network is more limited in its coverage and separation between modes. These limitations can lead to increased reliance on driving when a walking or biking trip would otherwise be preferable.

INVESTMENTS

The project list includes the Hunt Street Crossing, a grade separated crossing over SR 16 which would increase the network connectivity for all modes between the east and west of the city. [Figure 26](#) presents a conceptual design of this project. Moreover, through WSDOT's SR 16 congestion study, the City has expressed an interest in improving the interchanges at Wollochet Drive NW, Olympic Drive NW, and Borgen Boulevard to include pedestrian and cyclist safety and access improvements. Other projects to connect streets and add pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure are detailed in the capital project lists later in this chapter.





Figure 26: Hunt Street Crossing Conceptual Design

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024

Additional investments should be made in the context of a transportation system that is both functional and realistic, using performance metrics tied to the City's multimodal goals and the efficient movement of people and goods. **Table 12** is based on the Connections Chapter of the 1996 City of Gig Harbor Design Manual, which provides detailed guidance on building visual and functional links between districts and parcels in order to create a more cohesive character for Gig Harbor. The City also has Public Works Standards that guide connectivity.

Gig Harbor's 2024 Comprehensive Plan looks to accommodate growth while maintaining the city's unique character and high quality of life. These future roadway connections would strongly advance both of these objectives.





Table 12: Visual and Functional Connection Standards

Feature	Description	Guidelines for Existing Development	Guidelines for Annexation/Future Development
Activity Centers	Areas of concentrated activity where multiple uses are clustered in such a manner as to facilitate pedestrian movement and be mutually supportive of one another	1. Cluster development around a activity where multiple common outdoor space 2. Provide continuous pedestrian links between each building, site, and common area within activity center and which connect to outlying development 3. Buffer pedestrian areas from moving vehicles 4. Identify locations for common parking lots/garages 5. Incorporate transit stops into activity center design 6. Consider a master sign plan for off-premise directional signs of a unified design in activity centers 7. Coordinate all outdoor fixtures, furnishings, accessories, and right-of-way paving materials in activity centers 8. Incorporate mixed-use building into the activity center which incorporate residential units where practical	1. Identify existing centers in annexation areas 2. Link multiple centers with parkways 3. Confine new commercial development to activity centers 4. Develop master plan for new activity centers which incorporate all activity center standards as reviewed and approved by the Design Review Board
Parkways	Visually distinct roadways which connect activity centers and serve as gateways into defined areas of the city	1. Maintain established parkway setbacks 2. Select front and side yards on corner lots which maintain establish parkway setback 3. Assure similar setback opportunities on newly created lots 4. Reflect mass and scale of adjacent structures 5. Select fencing and wall materials carefully	1. Identify parkways in annexation areas 2. Link multiple activity centers with parkways
Parkways – Parcel development	Applies to all parcels having frontage on designated parkways	1. Maintain established parkway setbacks 2. Select front and side yards on corner lots which maintain establish parkway setback 3. Assure similar setback opportunities on newly created lots 4. Reflect mass and scale of adjacent structures 5. Select fencing and wall materials carefully	
Parkways – Right of way Development	The design of parkway streets so as to compliment the surrounding neighborhood	1. Provide “boulevard-type” landscaping with trees that are regularly-spaced and which preserve views 2. Design parkways for lower speeds by allowing intersecting streets and providing on-street parking 3. Minimize street width at crosswalks by minimizing turning radius at intersections and providing “neck-downs” at crosswalks 4. Provide visual emphasis to pedestrian crossings, i.e. differentiate crosswalk surfaces	





Feature	Description	Guidelines for Existing Development	Guidelines for Annexation/Future Development
Minor Streets	All local streets	1. Provide minor street connections between parkways 2. Incorporate alleys into street layout 3. Limit pavement widths in view basin area	
Harborview Drive Link	A designated parkway linking the downtown and head-of-the-bay activity centers	1. Identify points of interest with directories 2. Provide buffering along sidewalk 3. Provide visual continuity with fixtures and accessories 4. Enhance major intersections 5. Compliance with all other parkway standards	

KEY COMPONENTS

This section presents the key projects and programs that form the basis of this Transportation Element. These capital plans aim to create a transportation system that realizes Gig Harbor's vision, as outlined by the goals in Chapter 4:

- **Goal 1:** Gig Harbor's transportation network will provide safe and complete connections for all users, making active transportation modes like walking and biking reasonable options in all areas of the city.
- **Goal 2:** The City will plan a transportation system that efficiently accommodates growth.
- **Goal 3:** The City will prioritize transportation projects that connect and support strong, vibrant centers, as well as investments that connect the City to the region.
- **Goal 4:** The City considers the full costs of planning, permitting, construction, and maintenance in its transportation investment decisions, as well as how these investments impact the environment.
- **Goal 5:** The City's transportation planning process and investment decisions are well-understood by the community. The City actively coordinates with a broad range of groups to develop and ensure operation of the transportation system.

Guided by these goals, community input, and the layered network concept described in the previous chapter, the following project lists were developed. The project lists include a range of initiatives, including:

- **Concurrency-Related Projects:** Essential for maintaining intersection LOS, these projects involve improvements such as traffic signals, intersection channelization, and roadway extensions.
- **Active Transportation Projects:** Addressing pedestrian and cyclist needs, these initiatives include the construction of sidewalks, crossings, bike lanes, and trails.
- **Multimodal Projects:** Aimed at enhancing complete streets, these projects focus on integrating improvements that support all modes of transportation.



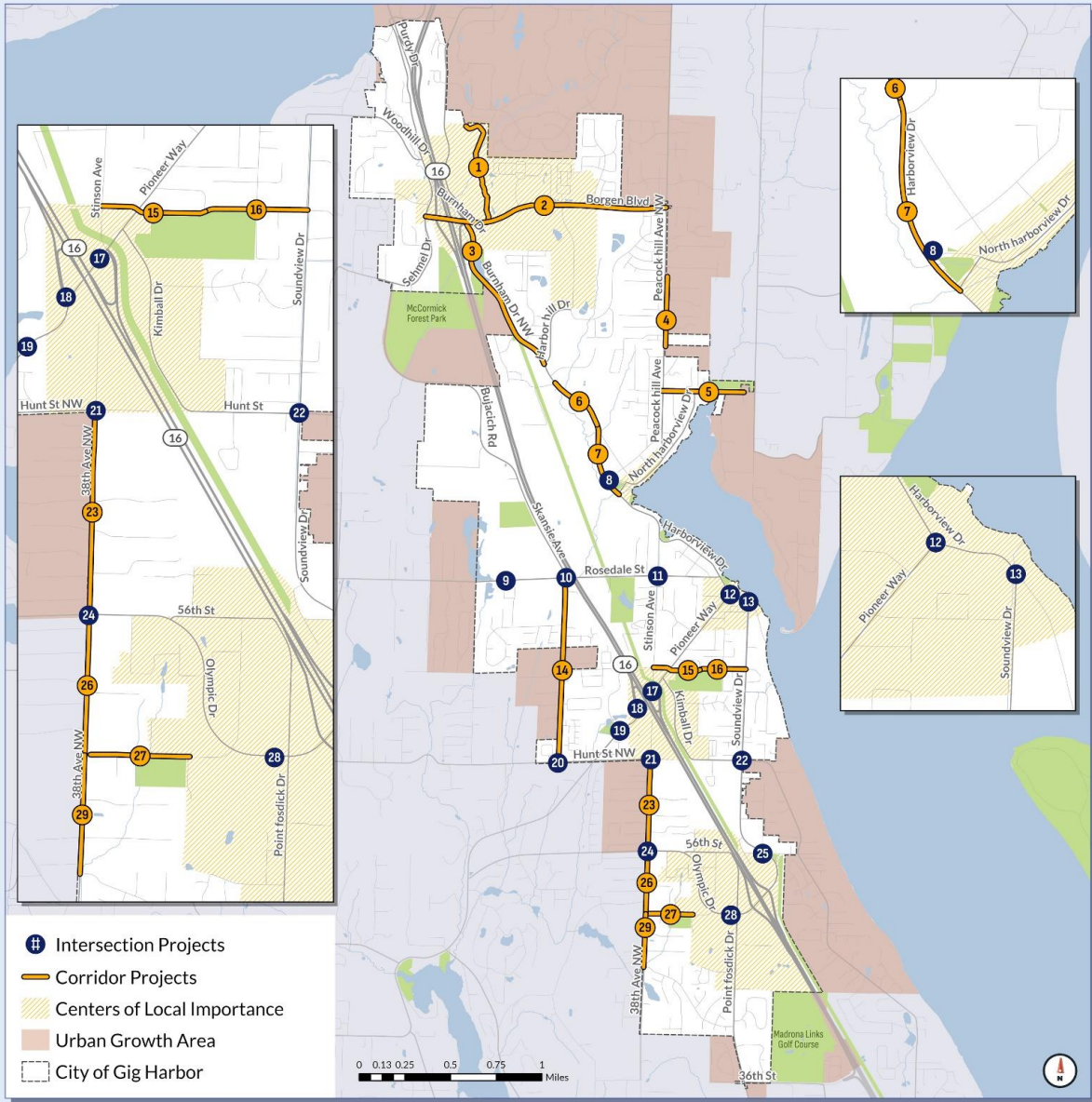


SHORT-TERM PROJECT LIST (2024 – 2030)

Figure 27 is a map of the short-term project list showing Gig Harbor's upcoming transportation investments and **Table 13** describes each project in detail. These projects are slated for design and/or construction over the next six years. The short-term project list was informed by public input in the 2018 Transportation Element, and most of these projects are included in the City's six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Conceptual designs for short-term projects are included in **Appendix F**, **Appendix G**, **Appendix H**, **Appendix I**, and **Appendix J**.



Short Term Project List



Corridor Projects

Map ID	Project Name	TIP ID
1	Cushman Trail Extension Phase 5A	20
2	Burnham Drive / Borgen Boulevard Corridor Study	
3	Burnham Drive Complete Street Improvements Phase 2	18
4	Peacock Hill Avenue Complete Street Improvements	8
5	Vernhardson Street Complete Street Improvements	26
6	Burnham Drive Improvements Phase 1A	1
7	Burnham Drive Complete Street Improvements Phase 1B	16
14	Skansie Avenue Complete Street Improvements	24
15	Grandview Street Improvements	
16	Grandview Street Improvements	23
23	38th Avenue Complete Street Improvements Phase 2	4
26	38th Avenue Complete Street Improvements Phase 1C	10
27	50th Street Court Complete Street Improvements	14
29	38th Avenue Complete Street Improvements Phase 1B	9

Intersection Projects

Map ID	Project Name	TIP ID
8	Austin Street / Harborview Drive Roundabout	
9	Rosedale Street / Schoolhouse Road Intersection Improvements	
10	Rosedale Street / Skansie Avenue Intersection Improvements	22
11	Rosedale Street / Stinson Avenue Roundabout	
12	Harborview Drive / Pioneer Way Intersection Improvements	11
13	Harborview / Soundview Intersection Improvements	
17	Wollochet Drive / SR-16 Westbound Right Turn Lane	5
18	Wollochet Drive / SR-16 Eastbound Right Turn Lane	6
19	Wollochet Drive / Wagner Way Intersection Improvements	2
20	Hunt Street / Skansie Avenue Intersection Improvements	12
21	Hunt Street / 38th Avenue Intersection Improvements (Potential Future Roundabout)	13
22	Soundview Drive / Hunt Street Intersection Improvements	15
24	38th Avenue / 56th Street Roundabout	
25	Olympic Drive / Hollycroft Street Intersection Improvements	27
28	Olympic Drive / Point Fosdick Right Turn Lane Extension	7

Figure 27: Short-Term Project List (2024 – 2030)
Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





Table 13: Short-Term Project List (2024 – 2030)

Project List Map ID	Name	Description	Project Type	Total Cost	2025 TIP ID
1	Cushman Trail Extension Phase 5A	This project will design Phase 5 of the Cushman Trail from the existing Borgen trailhead to the Pierce/Kitsap County line.	Active Transportation Projects	\$6,100,000*	20
2	Burnham Drive/Borgen Boulevard Corridor Study	This project will study the Burnham Drive/Borgen Boulevard Corridor to identify low-cost incremental improvements that could be made to roundabouts, such as restriping existing roundabouts. A long-term project may be identified from the corridor study, which could include full reconfiguration of the study corridor and existing roundabouts.	Multimodal Projects	\$250,000^	-
3	Burnham Drive Complete Street Improvements Phase 2	This project will reconstruct the roadway, including minor widening, turn lanes, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, storm sewer improvements, landscaped planter strips, and lighting.	Multimodal Projects	\$5,400,000*	18
4	Peacock Hill Avenue Complete Street Improvements	The project will construct half-street improvements along the west side of Peacock Hill, from 300 feet north of Ringold to 150 feet north of 105th Street Cour. It will add sidewalks where none exist, bridging a critical sidewalk gap. The project will also include illumination and other pedestrian, bicycle, and roadway improvements.	Multimodal Projects	\$3,230,000*	8
5	Vernhardson Street Complete Street Improvements	This project will include pavement restoration and/or overlay, storm sewer improvements, and the construction of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. It is possible to phase the project into two sections: one between Peacock Hill Avenue and North Harborview Drive, and the other between North Harborview Drive and the city limits.	Multimodal Projects	\$700,000*	26





Project List Map ID	Name	Description	Project Type	Total Cost	2025 TIP ID
6	Burnham Drive Improvements Phase 1A	This project will add a shared use path on Burnham Drive between the Eagles Club and 96th Street. The project includes half street improvements and a new bridge at 96th Street for fish passable culvert improvement.	Multimodal Projects	\$5,395,000*	1
7	Burnham Drive Complete Street Improvements Phase 1B	This project will construct a sidewalk or shared use path along Burnham Drive.	Active Transportation Projects	\$2,900,000*	16
8	Austin Street/Harborview Drive Roundabout	This project will construct a roundabout at the intersection of Austin Street and Harborview Drive.	Multimodal Projects	\$3,100,000^	-
9	Rosedale Street/Schoolhouse Road Intersection Improvements	This project will evaluate the feasibility of converting the existing signalized intersection to a roundabout and will construct ADA-compliant pedestrian facilities at the intersection. <i>The conceptual design for this project is included in Appendix F.</i>	Multimodal Projects	\$3,800,000^	-
10	Rosedale Street/Skansie Avenue Intersection Improvements	This project will widen the intersection of Rosedale Street and Skansie Avenue to provide a left-turn lane on the east leg or, alternatively, design and construct a roundabout. <i>The conceptual design for this project is included in Appendix G.</i>	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$2,200,000*	22
11	Rosedale Street/Stinson Avenue Roundabout	This project will identify near-term improvements to the roundabout at the intersection of Rosedale Street and Stinson Avenue and will study what right-of-way acquisition is required to increase the diameter of the roundabout.	Multimodal Projects	\$75,000^	-
12	Harborview Drive/Pioneer Way Intersection Improvements	This project will explore improvements to this intersection to improve operations, safety, and legibility for all modes of travel.	Multimodal Projects	\$140,000*	11





Project List Map ID	Name	Description	Project Type	Total Cost	2025 TIP ID
13	Harborview/Soundview Intersection Improvements	This project will update the intersection of Harborview Drive and Soundview Drive and add an ADA-compliant crosswalk. <i>The conceptual design for this project is included in Appendix H.</i>	Multimodal Projects	\$1,200,000^	-
14	Skansie Avenue Complete Street Improvements	This project will construct curbs and gutters as necessary, a landscaped planter strip or swale, storm sewer improvements, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks on both sides of the street. It will also include provisions for a future lighting project as the budget allows.	Multimodal Projects	\$800,000*	24
15	Grandview Street Improvements (McDonald Avenue to Stinson Avenue)	This project will include road improvements (including sidewalks), stormwater improvements, and lighting improvements.	Multimodal Projects	\$2,100,000^	-
16	Grandview Street Improvements (Soundview Drive to McDonald Avenue)	This project will include road improvements (including sidewalks), stormwater improvements, and lighting improvements.	Multimodal Projects	\$2,600,000*	23
17	Wollochet Drive/SR-16 Westbound Right Turn Lane	This project will construct a right turn slip lane on the westbound SR-16 on-ramp to relieve congestion on the Pioneer/Wollochet overpass. This project is included in a system of coordinated signals between Hunt Street and Kimball Drive along Wollochet Drive.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$1,106,000*	5
18	Wollochet Drive/SR-16 Eastbound Right Turn Lane	This project will construct a right turn lane on the SR-16 eastbound off-ramp approaching the signal. This project is included in a system of coordinated signals between Hunt Street and Kimball Drive along Wollochet Drive.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$1,590,000*	6
19	Wollochet Drive/Wagner Way Intersection Improvements	This project will construct a traffic signal or roundabout at Wollochet Drive and Wagner Way.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$1,227,000*	2





Project List Map ID	Name	Description	Project Type	Total Cost	2025 TIP ID
20	Hunt Street/Skansie Avenue Intersection Improvements	This project will construct a roundabout, signal, or other intersection improvement at the intersection of Hunt Street and Skansie Avenue. <i>The conceptual design for this project is included in Appendix I.</i>	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$1,930,000*	12
21	Hunt Street/38th Avenue Intersection Improvements (Potential Future Roundabout)	This project will design and construct intersection improvements. The intersection is currently planned as a roundabout.	Multimodal Projects	\$2,000,000*	13
22	Soundview Drive/Hunt Street Intersection Improvements	This project will construct new intersection control, currently conceptualized as a traffic signal, with associated non-motorized improvements to address poor sight distance and grade issues and improve operations. Coordination with Pierce County will be required for the east leg transition to match the existing conditions. <i>The conceptual design for this project is included in Appendix J.</i>	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$1,500,000^	15
23	38th Avenue Complete Street Improvements Phase 2	This project will complete the design and construction of a two- to three-lane section with left turn pockets, bicycle lanes, curbs and gutters as necessary, a landscaped planter strip or swale, a sidewalk on the east side of the roadway, and storm sewer improvements.	Multimodal Projects	\$7,188,000*	4
24	38th Avenue/56th Street Roundabout	This project will design and construct intersection improvements. The intersection is currently planned as a roundabout.	Multimodal Projects	\$2,000,000^	-





Project List Map ID	Name	Description	Project Type	Total Cost	2025 TIP ID
25	Olympic Drive/Hollycroft Street Intersection Improvements	This project will convert the existing two-way traffic on the spur street that connects Olympic Drive to Hollycroft Street in the southeast quadrant of the intersection to one-way northbound. Angled parking will be added to the spur to support the park located southeast of the spur.	Multimodal Projects	\$75,000*	27
26	38th Avenue Complete Street Improvements Phase 1C	This project will complete the design and construction of a two- to three-lane section with turn pockets, bicycle lanes, curbs and gutters on one or both sides as necessary, landscaped planter strips or swales, sidewalks, storm sewer improvements, and provisions for future lighting. Improvements will likely focus on the east side of the street and connect schools as well as the future Hunt Street Overpass.	Multimodal Projects	\$2,800,000*	10
27	50th Street Court Complete Street Improvements	This project will construct a new two-lane roadway with curbs, gutters, and sidewalks on one or both sides, along with street illumination, on-street parking, and associated stormwater and/or Low Impact Development (LID) improvements.	Multimodal Projects	\$2,000,000*	14
28	Olympic Drive/Point Fosdick Right Turn Lane Extension	This project will extend the right turn lane approximately 225 feet approaching Point Fosdick, traveling eastbound on Olympic Drive.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$510,000*	7
29	38th Avenue Complete Street Improvements Phase 1B	This project will complete the design and construction of a two- to three-lane section with turn pockets, bicycle lanes, curbs and gutters on one or both sides as necessary, landscaped planter strips or swales, sidewalks, storm sewer improvements, and provisions for future lighting.	Multimodal Projects	\$2,500,000*	9

* Cost estimate from the Gig Harbor 2025-2030 TIP

^ Cost estimate based on similar projects and need for right-of-way acquisition



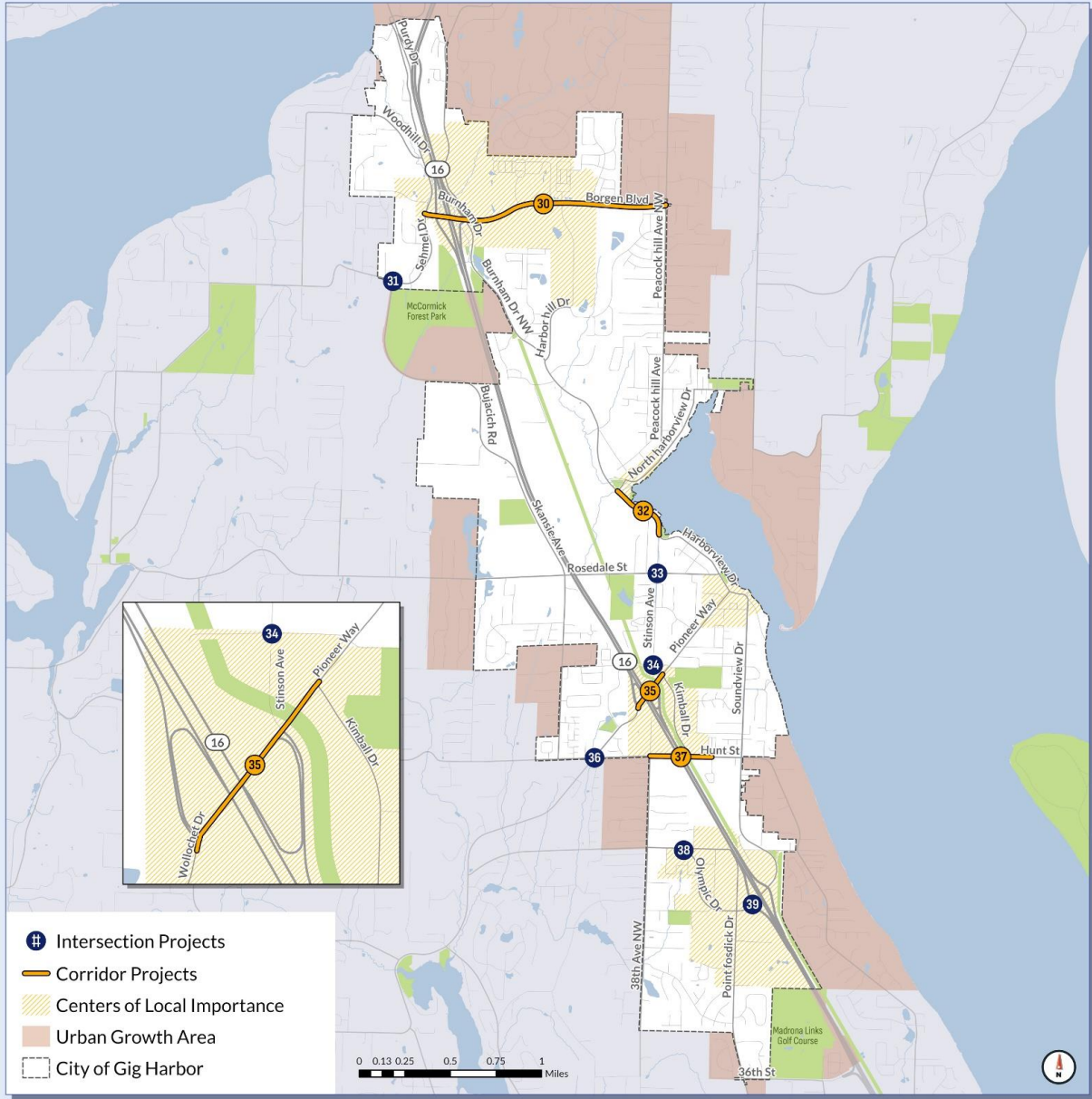


LONG-TERM PROJECT LIST (20-YEAR VISION)

Figure 28 is a map of Gig Harbor's potential transportation investments over the next 20 years, and **Table 14** describes each project in detail. This project list was developed in collaboration with City staff, incorporating public feedback from 2018, and refined further with input from 2024. Some projects are part of the City's six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), while others were designed in response to forecast models for 2044. The list includes roadway projects aimed at maintaining the City's LOS standards through 2044 and ensuring sufficient capacity to meet future demand. Some projects build upon earlier studies from the short-term list, while others represent larger investments requiring greater coordination, effort, and funding. Conceptual designs for long-term projects are included in **Appendix K** and **Figure 26**.



Long Term Project List



Corridor Projects

Map ID	Project Name
30	Burnham Drive / Borgen Boulevard Corridor Improvements
32	Harborview Drive Nonmotorized Improvements
35	Wollochet Drive Interchange Improvements
37	Hunt Street Overcrossing

Intersection Projects

Map ID	Project Name
31	Sehmel Drive / Bujacich Road Intersection Improvements
33	Rosedale Street / Stinson Avenue Roundabout Improvements
34	Stinson Avenue / Grandview Street Intersection Improvements
36	Wollochet Drive / Hunt Street Intersection Improvements
38	56th Street / Olympic Drive Intersection Improvements
39	Olympic Drive / SR-16 Intersection Improvements

Citywide Projects (Not Shown on Map)

Project Name
Citywide Bicycle Lane Network
Citywide Sidewalk Network
Citywide RRFBs and Midblock Crossings

Figure 28: Long-Term Project List (20-Year Vision)
Source: Fehr & Peers, 2024





Table 14: Long-Term Project List (20-Year Vision)

Project List Map ID	Name	Description	Project Type	Total Cost
30	Burnham Drive/Borgen Boulevard Corridor Improvements	This project would develop a full reconfiguration of the Burnham Drive/Borgen Boulevard interchange based on the improvements identified in the corridor study (included on the short-term project list). This may include redesigning existing roundabouts and/or considering interchange enhancements.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$25,000,000^
31	Sehmel Drive/Bujacich Road Intersection Improvements	This project would construct a new traffic signal and northbound right-turn lane, or single-lane roundabout.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$3,100,000^
32	Harborview Drive Nonmotorized Improvements	This project would construct shared-use path on east side of the roadway.	Active Transportation Projects	\$800,000^
33	Rosedale Street/Stinson Avenue Roundabout Improvements	This project would explore options for widening the roundabout at the intersection of Rosedale Street and Stinson Avenue.	Multimodal Projects	\$1,800,000^
34	Stinson Avenue/Grandview Street Intersection Improvements	This project would construct a new traffic signal or single-lane roundabout.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$3,800,000^





Project List Map ID	Name	Description	Project Type	Total Cost
35	Wollochet Drive Interchange Improvements	This project would continue discussions with WSDOT and state representatives to fund a long-range solution at the Pioneer Way/Wollochet Drive interchange. This project would connect with the existing projects that the city and private development are constructing in the near term, including the installation of a new signal at Wagner Way/Wollochet Drive and improvements to the SR-16 eastbound off-ramp and westbound on-ramps. The long-term project would consider reconfiguration of the SR-16 interchange, or replacement of the Wollochet Bridge, to improve vehicle operations and provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$11,500,000*
36	Wollochet Drive/Hunt Street Intersection Improvements	This project would construct a westbound right-turn lane on Hunt Street.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$500,000^
37	Hunt Street Crossing	This project would construct an extension of Hunt Street over SR-16. It would add a critical east-west connection over SR-16, reduce congestion at nearby interchanges, and provide new pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The Hunt Street extension would tie into a new roundabout at Kimball Drive on the east side of SR-16. <i>The conceptual design for this project is shown in Figure 26.</i>	Multimodal Projects	\$40,000,000^
38	56th Street/Olympic Drive Intersection Improvements	This project would explore traffic calming and safety improvements on Olympic Drive and 56th Street, and would construct a roundabout at the intersection of 56th Street and Olympic Drive to facilitate lower vehicle speeds and safer crossings. <i>The conceptual design for this project is included in Appendix K.</i>	Multimodal Projects	\$6,200,000^





Project List Map ID	Name	Description	Project Type	Total Cost
39	Olympic Drive/SR-16 Intersection Improvements	This project would work with WSDOT to identify long-term strategies that improve interchange operations, and align with the SR-16 Corridor Study.	Concurrency-Related Projects	\$1,450,000*
-	Citywide Bicycle Lane Network	The city would continue to design and construct bicycle facilities citywide.	Active Transportation Projects	Determined during budget
-	Citywide Sidewalk Network	The city would continue to design and construct sidewalks citywide.	Active Transportation Projects	Determined during budget
-	Citywide RRFBs and Midblock Crossings	This project would continue to improve the safety of midblock crossings citywide.	Active Transportation Projects	Determined during budget

* Cost estimate from the Gig Harbor 2025-2030 TIP

^ Cost estimate based on similar projects and need for right-of-way acquisition





PROGRAMMATIC INVESTMENTS

In addition to the short-term and long-term project lists, several ideas for programmatic improvements were generated by public outreach efforts. These concepts are listed in **Table 15** below and can support the continued implementation of this Transportation Element over time.

Table 15: Programmatic Investments to Support Implementation of this Plan

Program	Description
Parking Study	Perform a parking study in Downtown and Finholm to understand parking demand, availability, and management practices. Based on the findings, this could result in new public parking lots in the Downtown area and Finholm, and/or agreements that allow for the shared use of existing parking, such as church lots. <i>Note: This would require coordination with the Downtown Waterfront Alliance.</i>
Citywide Transit Master Plan	Develop a Citywide Transit Master Plan to identify priority areas for future transit service, including nearby schools, the senior center, Tacoma Community College, St. Anthony hospital, high density residential areas, and commercial areas. This Transit Master Plan should also address how Trolley service could be expanded and additional Park and Ride locations, such as one near St. Anthony hospital. <i>Note: This would require coordination with both Pierce Transit and Sound Transit. A new Park and Ride at St. Anthony would require coordination with the hospital, as the hospital site plan was designed to enable transit to access and turn around in the lot.</i>
Change Default Lane Width on Local Streets	Make 10-foot travel lanes the default lane width on local streets. Use the recovered space to add conventional bike lanes, a buffer to existing bike lanes, sidewalk buffers, or other appropriate features. <i>Note: This would require coordination with the Public Works Department, as this will require a change to the Public Works Standards.</i>
Temporary Street Closures for Festivals	Institute a policy enabling temporary street closures for events like Farmers Markets and festivals. This involves opening a city street for several hours for people to walk, bike, shop, and enjoy their community while reducing car travel on that street. A street becomes an open plaza, a performance space, a recreational space, and/or a space to connect with neighbors. Closures can be temporary for a few hours to a few days or can become permanent. These events encourage people walking or cycling to use space otherwise dedicated to vehicles and can increase the awareness of all users.
Tactical Urbanism and Demonstration Projects	Develop policy and guidance enabling short-term, community-led projects on Gig Harbor streets. Short-term projects provide an opportunity to test projects, collect data, build community support, and adjust as needed for long-term viability. Several projects included in this plan could be candidates for a temporary installation, such as bulb outs, shared streets, and bike lanes. Fayetteville, AR and Burlington, VT have guides that can serve as reference.
Traffic Calming Citywide	Where feasible, implement traffic calming measures. This could include a campaign like Seattle's "20 is Plenty" initiative, which lowered speed limits on non-arterial streets from 25 mph to 20 mph.





Program	Description
Speed Studies and Traffic Calming Projects	Conduct speed studies on arterials and major collector streets in Gig Harbor. Based on the findings, identify design projects that will achieve appropriate "target speed" on these roadways.
Complete Streets Ordinance	Consider adopting a Complete Streets ordinance directing City staff to design streets for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and persons of all abilities, while promoting safe operation for all users, including freight.
Green Parking Lots	While parking lots are a necessary reality, their large expanses of impervious surface generate stormwater runoff, air and water pollution, and excess heat. Green parking lots can dramatically enhance the appearance of parking lots in our communities, making them more comfortable and attractive areas to walk and cycle through. To address these challenges, update the development code to require that at least 15 percent of a parking lot's total site area be dedicated to green space. <i>Note: This would require a code amendment to the Design Manual.</i>





CHAPTER 6: IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

The recommended projects and programs of the Transportation Element were developed through a combination of technical methods (level of service and gaps analysis) and input from the community and stakeholders. Implementing the Transportation Element will require close coordination among the city departments, citizens, businesses, and other agencies within the region.

This Transportation Element provides the foundation for updating the City's six-year TIP and working toward the 2044 planning horizon. This Element should be viewed as a living document. While it can serve as the blueprint for transportation in Gig Harbor over the next several years, realistically, the plan is most useful over the next five years, at which point it should be updated.

OVERVIEW OF COSTS AND REVENUES

A key GMA planning requirement is the concept of fiscal restraint in transportation planning. A fiscally constrained and responsible Transportation Element must first allow for operation and maintenance of existing facilities, and then capital improvements. To introduce fiscal constraint into the plan, an inventory of revenues and costs was undertaken to identify funds that are likely to be available for capital construction and operations.

The proposed Transportation Element for the City of Gig Harbor contains \$185-205 million of transportation investments through 2044, which includes \$151-171 million in capital projects that will complete the layered network plan and accommodate future growth, in addition to \$34 million in ongoing maintenance to ensure that the city's network is kept in good condition. [Table 16](#) summarizes how this overall investment would be broken down by transportation improvement category. The capital project list includes many multimodal projects that support safe, non-motorized travel. These projects, such as the Hunt Street Crossing, are eligible for state and federal grants that would contribute substantially to the overall project cost.

Table 16: Costs of Gig Harbor Transportation Element (20+ years)

Project Needs	Description	Total Cost
Concurrency-Related Projects	Traffic signals, intersection channelization, roadway extensions	\$56 million
Multimodal Projects	Complete streets improvements	\$85-105 million
Active Transportation Projects	Sidewalks, crossings, bike lanes, trails	\$10 million
Maintenance	Overlay, pavement repair, ongoing repairs to maintain network condition	\$34 million
Total		\$185-205 million

It is worthwhile to note that the City of Gig Harbor has spent around \$5 million annually across transportation capital projects and operations in recent years. Depending on when capital projects were built, annual expenditures have ranged from \$3-7 million over the last 5 years.

The City's transportation revenues include those from outside sources and grants, general city funds, impact fees, hospital benefit zone, gas tax receipts, and a newly implemented Transportation Benefit District (TBD). If the City were able to maintain this level of revenue, approximately \$120 million could be spent on transportation over the





next 20 years, including roughly \$85 million in transportation capital investments once ongoing maintenance and operations are paid.

While the \$120 million in expected revenue is less than the total expected expenditures shown in the table above, the City's share of capital project costs could be significantly reduced, especially for multimodal projects like the Hunt Street Crossing, by securing state and federal grants. Many of these projects align with regional and national transportation goals, such as improving non-motorized travel and enhancing safety, which makes them strong candidates for external funding. By actively pursuing these grants, the City can leverage outside resources to cover a substantial portion of the project expenses, easing the financial burden on local funds and allowing more projects to be realized within the available budget.

In addition to pursuing external funding sources, the City is proactively addressing how to bridge the gap between costs and revenue to meet transportation needs over the 20-year period. To achieve this, the City will carefully prioritize projects and explore a range of options to ensure adequate funding, including:

- **Increasing the amount of revenue from existing sources**, including impact fees, transportation benefit district, or increased general fund revenues.
- **Adopting new sources of revenue** (see text box below).
- **Lowering the level of service standard**, and therefore reducing the need for some transportation improvements.

On the revenue side, the City has a good history of funding its transportation system with innovative sources. In 2006, the City enacted a hospital benefit zone, which funds infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of St. Anthony's Hospital. This program, which is estimated to generate almost \$60 million over 30 years, is one of the sources that funded the Harbor Hills extension.

In 2020, the City established a Transportation Benefit District (TBD), which funds transportation improvements within a designated area. A TBD is an independent taxing district that can impose specific taxes or fees through a vote of the people or through a district board action. Gig Harbor's TBD encompasses the entire city limits and enacts a 0.2% sales tax, which can only be used on transportation. In September 2024, City Council approved a 0.1% increase in the TBD sales tax, which would increase annual TBD revenue estimates to approximately \$3 million.

As part of the Transportation Element effort, the City is updating its transportation impact fees to advance eligible projects in this Element. This impact fee update will include an update to the project list, underlying growth assumptions, and perhaps the rate charged to development. The City will continuously research and implement other local revenue sources as necessary to support long-range transportation projects.





WHAT ARE POTENTIAL NEW REVENUE SOURCES?

Like all Washington State cities, Gig Harbor has limited dedicated transportation funding options, many of which the City is already using. Additional funding options the City may explore include:

- Proceeds from General Obligation Bonds
- Creation of Local Improvement Districts
- Reciprocal impact fees with adjacent jurisdictions, including Pierce County
- Property tax levy lid lift for transportation
- Business License Fees



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FORMER MAYOR KIT KUHN

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Roger Henderson
Brenda Lykins
Mary Barber
Ben Coronado
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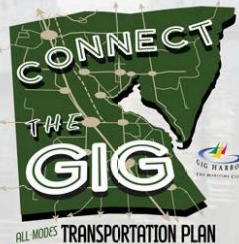
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Appendices

Appendix A: 2022 Intersection LOS Update Technical Memorandum

Appendix B: 2029 Intersection LOS Update Technical Memorandum

Appendix C: Traffic Operations Analysis Summary Technical Memorandum

Appendix D: 2018 Pop-Up Studio Community Input Summary

Appendix E: 2024 Survey Documentation

Appendix F: Rosedale Street NW & Schoolhouse Avenue NW Roundabout Improvement Conceptual Design

Appendix G: Rosedale Street NW & Skansie Avenue Signal Improvement Conceptual Design

Appendix H: Harborview Drive & Soundview Drive Intersection Improvement Conceptual Design

Appendix I: Hunt Street & Skansie Avenue Roundabout Improvement Conceptual Design

Appendix J: Hunt Street NW & Soundview Drive Signal Improvement Conceptual Design

Appendix K: 56th Street & Olympic Drive Roundabout Conceptual Design



13 Capital Facilities

13.1 Introduction

The Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan ensures that adequate facilities and services are available to serve both current residents and businesses, as well as future growth as outlined in the Land Use Element. Capital facilities typically have a long lifespan and include systems owned by the City, other public agencies, or private entities. This element outlines policies for managing, financing, and coordinating capital improvements for facilities and utilities the City operates and describes Gig Harbor's relationship with external urban service providers.

Additionally, the Capital Facilities Element ensures that these essential services—including water, sewer, stormwater, transportation, schools, parks, and emergency services—are available to meet the city's evolving needs efficiently, effectively, and equitably. These policies guide public agencies, including the City, and inform private development decisions to support anticipated growth while complying with the Growth Management Act.

Note that this element has significant crossover with other elements in the Plan, primarily:

- Essential Public Facilities (Chapter 8);
- Utilities (Chapter 9);
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (Chapter 11); and
- Transportation (Chapter 12);

However, note that other components of the Comprehensive Plan will also be impacted by this topic. Land use and housing may be affected by considerations of concurrency to ensure public facilities and services (primarily transportation) are available to serve new developments or have funding secured for completion.

13.2 Requirements

13.2.1 GMA Requirements

Capital planning is required by the GMA and must be coordinated with the City's larger land use planning process. Per [WAC 365-196-415](#), at a minimum, those capital facilities to be included in an inventory and analysis are:

- Transportation,
- Water systems,
- Sewer systems,
- Stormwater systems,

- Reclaimed water facilities,
- Schools,
- Parks and recreation facilities, and
- Police and fire protection facilities.

The GMA establishes five requirements for this element, which are to:

- Provide an inventory of facilities;
- List a forecast of needs;
- Show proposed locations and capacity of planned facilities;
- Provide a financing plan for needed facilities; and
- Reassess planned facilities if they cannot be provided and paid for.

13.2.2 VISION 2050

The VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy provided by the PSRC includes broad policies for capital facilities, primarily under transportation (MPP-T) and public services (MPP-PS). These include considerations of the following:

- **Environmental Protection and Resource Efficiency:** Investments in capital facilities will need to promote environmental conservation, public health, and resource efficiency in the provision of services. Communities should encourage renewable energy, water conservation, recycling, waste reduction, and demand-side measures to reduce the need for new investment.
- **Equitable Access and Affordability:** Planning efforts should ensure public services are affordable and accessible, particularly for underserved communities. Communities should prioritize investments that address disparities and improve service coordination.
- **Growth Management:** Urban growth should be guided by cities through the timing and phasing of services to support development, while limiting urban services in rural areas to prevent sprawling development patterns.
- **Resilience:** Communities should invest in resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, and disaster-preparedness as they relate to maintaining services in cases of severe disruption and long-term challenges with providing regular services. Note that these disruptions would include the expected effects of climate change on the community.

For more details, refer to the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy and associated policies.

13.2.3 Countywide Planning Policies

Under the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies, there are several considerations which must be incorporated in the development of the Capital Facilities Element:

- Capital facilities planning by the city must be coordinated with local education service providers and associated planning for facilities. (ED-3, ED-4, and ED-5)

- The city shall coordinate with other jurisdictions on capital investments to improve environmental quality that can achieve economic, human health, and natural benefits, especially as related to environmentally sensitive lands. (ENV-5 and ENV-10)
- Watersheds should be considered as part of capital facilities planning. (ENV-23)
- The siting of essential public facilities must be consistent with capital facilities planning and budgeting. (EPF-5).
- Needs for schools, sewer, water, parks, and roads within Urban Growth Areas must be incorporated through level of service (LOS) and concurrency standards in capital facilities plans. (UGA-12)
- The city must adopt measures to ensure that growth and development are supported by adequate public facilities and services through timing and phasing of capital investments. Special purpose districts shall conform to the element. (UGA-13)

In addition to these requirements, there are several additional requirements for investment transportation and parks that are examined in those respective sections.

13.3 System Conditions

13.3.1 Levels of Service (LOS)

Standards

The Capital Facilities Element identifies LOS standards for public services that are dependent on specific facilities. Level of service establishes a minimum capacity of capital facilities that must be provided per unit of demand or other appropriate measure of need. These standards are then used to determine whether a need for capacity improvements currently exists and what improvements will be required to maintain the policy levels of service under anticipated conditions over the life of the Comprehensive Plan.

Current level of service standards for capital facilities in Gig Harbor are summarized in Exhibit 2-1 below.

Concurrency

Concurrency is a key principle under the GMA. Requirements for concurrency ensure that public facilities and services are available to serve new developments. Under this policy framework, necessary improvements, particularly in transportation, are in place at the time of development or have funding secured for completion within six years of a development.

Local jurisdictions evaluate current LOS for public services and infrastructure versus standards to determine if existing systems can accommodate new development impacts or if additional facilities are needed. Transportation facilities are the only type of system where a drop below identified thresholds can result in development being denied according to statute, but note that the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies also require that these standards be established for schools, sewer, potable water, and parks.

Exhibit 13-1. Gig Harbor Level of Service Standards.

Capital Facility	LOS Standard	Provider	Reference
Roadways	(Insert from TE)	(Insert from TE)	(Transportation Element)
Pedestrian/Biking	(Insert from TE)	(Insert from TE)	(Transportation Element)
Transit	(Insert from TE)	(Insert from TE)	(Transportation Element)
Freight	(Insert from TE)	(Insert from TE)	(Transportation Element)
Parks	7.1 gross acres of general open space and 1.5 gross acres of active recreational area per 1,000 residents	City of Gig Harbor	2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
Potable Water	ERU targets by type. 30 psi throughout the distributions system during PHD.	City of Gig Harbor; individual water providers	2018 Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, Update April 2022
Sanitary Sewer	ERU targets by type. WWTP - limited capacity to treat wastewater. Water CRC process. Phase II WWP improvements.	City of Gig Harbor	Comprehensive Plan Utilities Element
Stormwater	On-site infiltration expected. Treatment as required by DOE Stormwater manual.	City of Gig Harbor	Comprehensive Plan Utilities Element
Fire Protection	Classification A: 1,000 gallons per minute (gpm) for two hours for single-family detached and duplex dwellings in residential zones. Classification B: Commercial and multi-family fire protection: 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm) for three hours for industrial, multi-family and commercial zones.	Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One Building and Fire Safety Department, City of Gig Harbor	2018 Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, Update April 2022
Library Services	0.62 sq. ft. per capita	Pierce County Library District	Pierce County Library 2030 Facilities Master Plan

13.3.2 Water Systems

Existing Capital Facilities

The City of Gig Harbor owns a percentage of its water utility. The rest of water services are provided through intergovernmental or interagency agreements. The City of Gig Harbor Water System, limited by its retail water service area (RWSA), is unique in that many residents within the City limits and the City's UGA receive water service from adjacent water purveyors. Approximately 35% of the population is within the City limits and the City's UGA receives water from the City, and the remainder within the City limits and City's UGA receive water from other water purveyors or from private wells. Exhibit 13-2 indicates multiple water management agencies serving the city and its UGA.

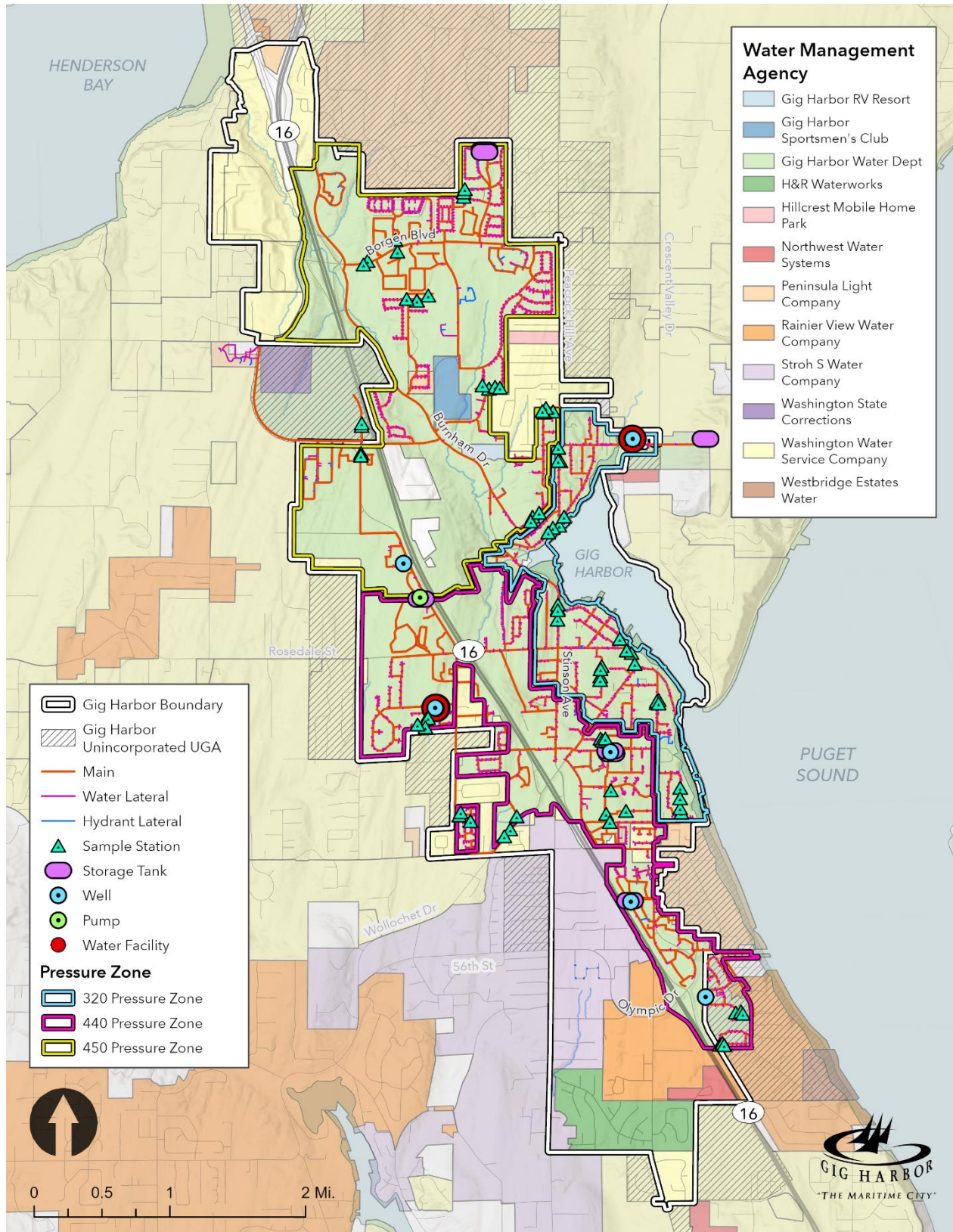
The City of Gig Harbor Water System was originally built in the late 1940's. Today, the City's RWSA encompasses approximately 4.45 square miles with 2,583 service connections end of year 2017 serving approximately 9,632 people. The city's water system is divided into three pressure zones. The City's water system contains six reservoirs, with a total capacity of 4.6 million gallons (MG). The city operates eight groundwater wells that supply water to its water service customers and has more than 43 miles of pipeline and six reservoirs located around the City. The City of Gig Harbor's water system boundary and adjacent purveyors are shown in Exhibit 13-2. Summaries of the City's well source supply and storage facilities are provided in Exhibit 13-3 and Exhibit 13-4, respectively, below. The city also provides wholesale water service to multiple customers outside the City's RWSA, and has an emergency intertie with one purveyor, Shore Acres.

It provides wholesale water service to customers outside the RWSA and has an emergency intertie with the Peacock Hill Water System. See Exhibit 13-2 for its RWSA and its existing water system facilities. The City also holds seven additive municipal purpose certificated water rights and one non-additive water permit.

The Water System Plan forecasts water demand within the RWSA to evaluate the system's ability to meet future water needs over the next ten to twenty years and identify priorities for system infrastructure projects. The City's current average day demand (ADD) is approximately 1.1 million gallons per day (mgd) and is expected to rise to 1.4-1.5 mgd by 2037. The current maximum daily demand (MDD) is approximately 2.5 mgd and is expected to rise to 3.1-3.6 mgd by 2037. With its current supply and water rights, the City has sufficient water rights to meet projected demand over the next twenty years. However, the City is exploring development of Well 9 to add redundancy to the water system.

As with most municipalities, the City's water distribution system has developed continuously as demands and the customer base have grown. This evolution has created a distribution system comprised of pipes of various materials, sizes, and ages. Some areas of the City have pipe materials, sizes, and age that do not meet current construction standards. A detailed description of the existing water supply system may be found in the City of Gig Harbor Water System Plan.

Exhibit 13-2. Gig Harbor Water System and Adjacent Purveyors.



Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

Exhibit 13-3. Inventory of Gig Harbor Wells

Well Number	Pressure Zone Served	Date Well Drilled	Maximum Instantaneous Flow Rate (gpm)	Well Pumping Capacity (gpm)
1 ¹	320	1951	400	0
2	320	1963	330	272
3	440	1978	625	626
4	320	1988	230	159
5	440	1990	500	524
6	440	1991	1,000	1,019
8	440	1965	30	12
10 ²	320	--	330 ²	0 ²
11	450	2013	-- ³	1,000
Total Gallons per Minute (gpm)			3,115	3,612

¹ Well 1 and Well 10 are inactive.

² Well 10 is a test well and supplemental to Well 2.

³ Well 11 is supplemental to system wells.

Sources: Gig Harbor Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, 2018-2022; BERK, 2024.

Exhibit 13-4. Water System Storage Facilities

Name	Zone Served	Year Constructed	Nominal Volume (MG)
East Tank	320	1963	0.23
Twin Harbor Heights Tank No. 1	320	1962	0.25
Twin Harbor Heights Tank No. 2	320	1973	0.23
Shurgard Tank	440	1979	0.53
Skansie Tank	440	1989	1.13
North Gig Harbor Tank	450	2006	2.23
Total Storage (MG)			4.60

Sources: Gig Harbor Comprehensive Water System Plan Update, 2018-2022; BERK 2024.

Washington Water Service

A subsidiary of California Water Service Group, Washington Water Service (WWS) provides water utility services to 38,000 customers in the region and is the largest investor-owned water utility in the State. WWS operates the NW Regional Office in Gig Harbor, with numerous system connections that serve the Gig Harbor community and Kitsap Peninsula region. See Exhibit 13-5.

The WWS water service in Gig Harbor is divided into three service areas – East Pierce (formerly Rainier View Water), Gig Harbor, and Stroh's. In 2020, WWS acquired Rainier View Water Company, which provided water services adjacent to WWS East Gig Harbor operations. In 2023, WWS acquired Stroh's Water Company, which provided water service in the central and southwest Gig Harbor area to approximately 900 customers.

Peninsula Light Water

Along with electricity, Peninsula Light Company provides water services to Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula to consolidate the independent water systems in the area. It has more than 3,000 water service members in its 112-square mile region.

Thurston PUD

Thurston PUD provides water services to parts of Gig Harbor through the Qual Run 667 connection. The connection consists of two groundwater wells that produce over 16.7 million gallons of water and have 136,000 gallons of storage capacity. It serves approximately 200 water connections, with each household using an average of 226 gallons per day. Annual consumption is approximately 16.3 million gallons of water.

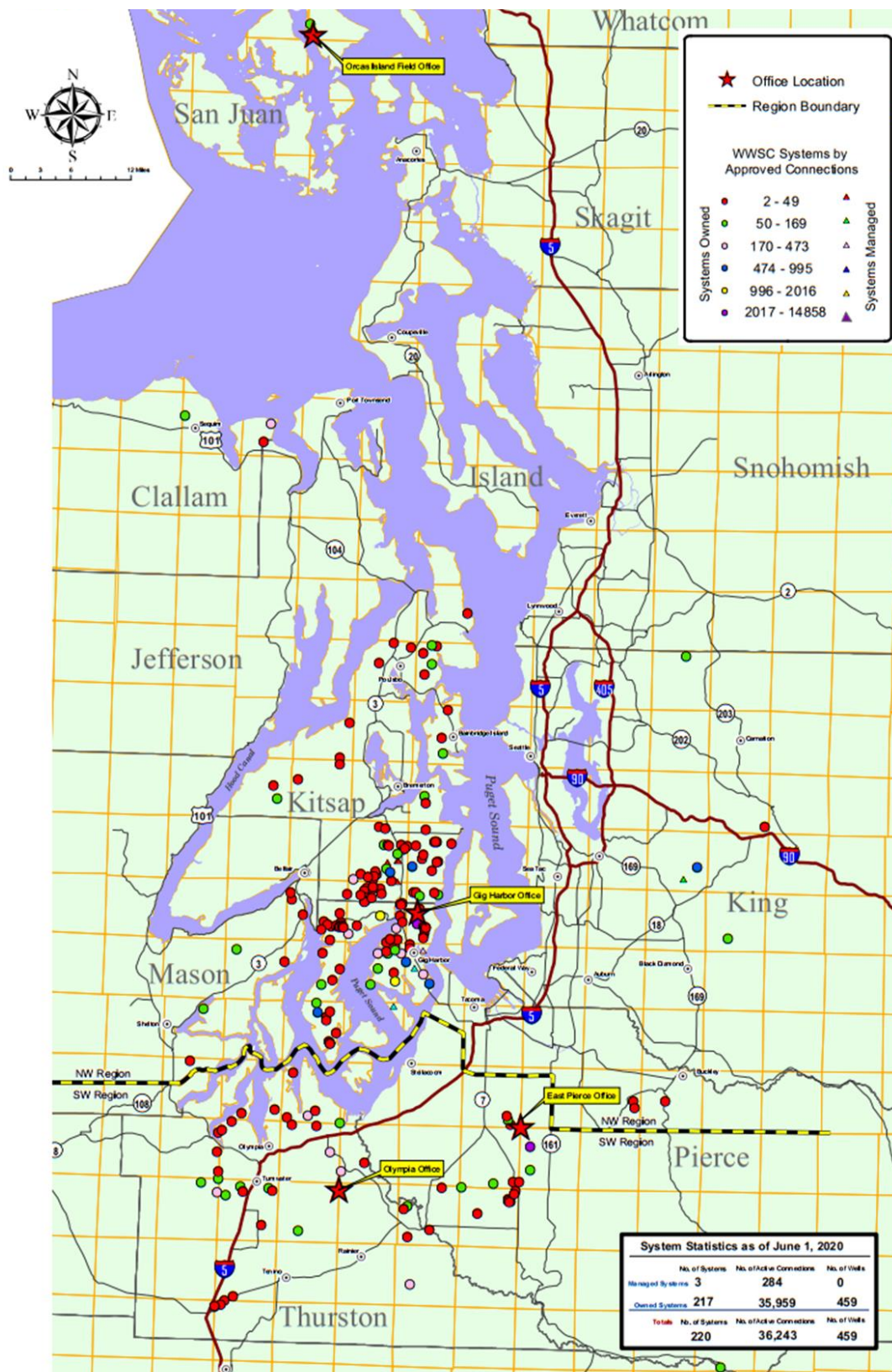
Level of Service

The City introduced a code requirement in January 2001 through Ordinance #862 for most new development and redevelopment projects to request a portion of capacity of the City's water system through the water capacity reservation certificate (CRC) process. Each CRC reserves a specific number of gallons per day based on the current value of an equivalent residential unit (ERU). Because the City has limited capacity to withdraw water, the City identifies—by way of the water CRC process—projects to which the City's water system has capacity to provide water.

The City's Water System Plan identifies the City's current annual water rights at 11,450 ERUs and a projected water demand in 2028 at 6,778 ERUs. Based on annual water rights the City has capacity to serve water beyond the next six years.

Analysis of the existing storage facilities in the City of Gig Harbor Water System Plan indicates that the City can meet all of its storage needs through the 20-year planning horizon with existing facilities by nesting standby storage and fireflow storage. Consequently, the City is not currently planning for additional storage facilities in the 20-year planning horizon.

Exhibit 13-5. Washington Water Service System Locations, 2020



Source: Washington Water Service, 2020.

Future Needs

The City's water system plan forecasts future needs based on future population growth. As discussed in the previous section, the City has sufficient water rights to meet projected demand over the next twenty years. However, systemwide, the City aims to meet the maximum daily water demand. The City is developing a new deep aquifer well to meet this goal. The deep aquifer well is identified as Well 11, located adjacent to the City Maintenance Facility, and will produce up to 1,000 acre-ft per year and 1,000 gallons per minute. This will add redundancy to make the water distribution more reliable. The City has also replaced undersized pipes and the older asbestos cement (AC) water mains with either ductile iron pipe or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe. Overall, these have resulted in a robust water system for the City.

13.3.3 Wastewater Systems

Existing Capital Facilities

Sanitary sewer service in the City of Gig Harbor is owned, operated, and maintained by the City. The wastewater division is in the Public Works Department of the City.

The City of Gig Harbor developed its first Wastewater Comprehensive Plan (WWCP) more than 30 years ago and has regularly updated the WWCP since. The Washington State Department of Ecology requires the city to have a “general sewer plan” per WAC 173-240. Further, RCW 35.67.030 directs the city to update the plan based on capital improvements. The WWCP is not an element of the City Comprehensive Plan but is instead adopted by reference.

Gig Harbor’s original collection system, constructed in 1974-1975, served the downtown area and an area south of downtown. The original system was called Utility Local Improvement District (ULID) #1 and included six lift stations. ULID #2 was constructed to the south of ULID #1 in 1988 to serve south Gig Harbor including portions of Soundview Drive, Harbor Country Drive, Point Fosdick Drive, and Olympic Drive. ULID #3 was constructed north of ULID #1 in 1992 to serve North Gig Harbor including the area along Burnham Drive north of Harborview Drive, the Washington State Women’s Corrections Center off Bujacich Drive, and portions of the Purdy area including the Peninsula School District campus in Purdy.

Further expansions of the City’s collection system were built under development agreements and as mitigation conditions of proposed development through the state environmental policy act (SEPA) process. As of 2018 the City’s collection system consisted of approximately 150,000 feet of gravity sewers, 32,000 feet of sewer force mains, and 17 lift stations.

With a service area of 1,800 acres, the system provides sewer services within the city limits and to select developments in the UGA, such as Canterwood Estates and the Washington Corrections Center for Women. Outside of the UGA, the City owns, operates, and maintains an on-site septic system for the 24-unit Shorecrest Development, located on Ray Nash Drive NW. The City also treats septic effluent from a 68-unit housing development on Wollochet Bay in unincorporated Pierce County. Within the City’s UGA, there are individual residential on-site septic systems on select parcels; the City hopes to connect these parcels to the City sewer system by 2050.

The wastewater system includes 57 miles of sanitary sewer lines. Its collection system includes 213,000 lineal feet of gravity and force main pipe sewers and 18 lift stations. See Exhibit 13-6 for a map of the major sewer system lines. The City of Gig Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located on five acres west of the intersection of Harborview Drive and North Harborview Drive, treats millions of gallons of wastewater each year. Built in 1975 with major upgrades in 2009 and 2016, the WWTP has increased capacity and improved reliability to adequately serve the City’s current residents and future growth. Its current daily average flow is approximately 1.1 MGD (million gallons per day). Future improvements are anticipated to increase the WWTP’s loading limit to 2.4 MGD, which exceeds the 20-year flow and waste load planning projections.

The City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is located on five acres, west of Harborview Drive at its intersection with North Harborview Drive. The original WWTP was brought online to provide secondary

treatment of municipal sewage in 1975 with a design capacity of 0.45 million gallons per day (MGD) and an average organic loading of 700 lbs BOD₅/day. The WWTP was expanded in 1996 to its current capacity of 1.6 MGD, and an average organic loading of 3,400 lbs BOD₅/day. In 2009, the City performed a major upgrade to the WWTP to expand capacity. In 2010, the outfall was removed from the inner harbor and extended and relocated into Colvos Passage to a depth of 191' below sea level in the Puget Sound. In 2016, the City completed Phase II of its major upgrade to the WWTP to increase capacity and improve reliability. The final upgrade added ultraviolet disinfection, odor control for the digester system, a second redundant fine screen, an eductor waste dewatering structure, process water pumping system and other ancillary support equipment.

The WWTP consists of the following major components: influent flow meter, degritter, influent screens, anoxic basins, aeration basins, blowers, secondary clarifiers, return activated sludge pumps, waste activated sludge pumps, sludge thickener, aerobic digester, digested sludge pumps, sludge dewatering centrifuge, odor control, UV disinfection, chlorine contact tank, process water pumps and effluent discharge pumps. Effluent from the WWTP is piped through an outfall that discharges into Colvos Passage in the Puget Sound. The WWTP also operates and maintains a state accredited lab for the purpose of process control and NPDES testing requirements.

The WWTP's current daily average flow is approximately 1.1 MGD. The designed and constructed improvements will exceed the 20-year planning horizon flow and waste load projections. An interim NPDES permit was issued in March of 2015, with the 1.6 MGD loading limit, and during the final phases of construction with the final permit of 2.4 MGD. The 2.4 MGD loading limit was contingent upon completion and certification of the constructed improvements. See Exhibit 13-6 for the sewer system map.

In addition to sewer service within the Gig Harbor UGA, the City of Gig Harbor owns, operates, and maintains a septic system for the Shorecrest residential Development along Ray Nash Drive NW located about 5 miles west of the City. The Shorecrest septic system is a 12-unit development with an on-site septic system and pressurized community drainfield and is located outside the City's UGA.

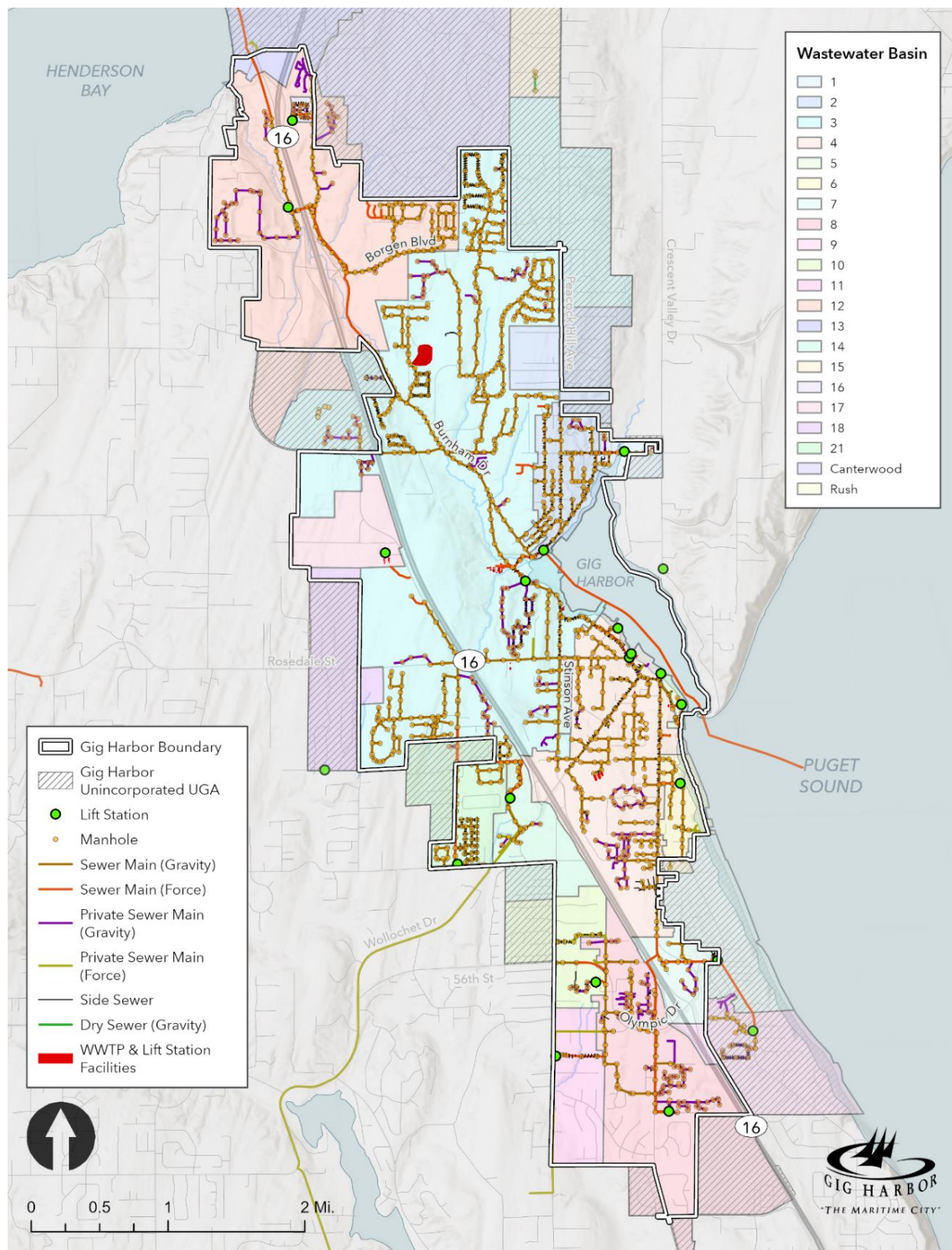
The City of Gig Harbor has entered a contract with the Wollochet Harbor Sewer District to provide wastewater treatment for septic tank effluent produced in the District. The contract allows for the District to discharge an average annual flow of 16,400 gallons per day. The point of discharge is the Wagner Way lift station.

Level of Service

The City introduced a requirement in May 2006 through Ordinance #1044 for most new development and redevelopment projects to request a portion of the treatment capacity at the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) through the sewer capacity reservation certificate (CRC) process. Each CRC reserves a specific number of gallons per day for treatment at the wastewater treatment plant based on the current value of an equivalent residential unit (ERU) since the WWTP has limited capacity to treat wastewater, the City identifies by way of the sewer CRC process those projects that the City's WWTP has adequate public wastewater facilities to treat and discharge treated effluent.

With the completion of the WWTP Phase II upgrade improvements in 2016, the City can collect and treat the design flow of 2.4 MGD.

Exhibit 13-6. City of Gig Harbor Sewer System Map



Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

Future Needs

The City has used a demographics forecasting allocation model (DFAM) to forecast future population growth on undeveloped and underdeveloped parcels within the City’s urban growth area (UGA). The primary input to the DFAM was a result of the City’s Buildable Lands Analysis. The resulting population growth was then correlated to the generation of sewer flows to provide an estimate of the distribution of sewer flows throughout the City’s UGA. These forecasted flows and descriptions of future wastewater needs are described further in the City’s Wastewater Comprehensive Plan.

The City regularly updates its Wastewater Comprehensive Plan to assess existing and future capacity of the sewer system, identify specific wastewater utility infrastructure improvements and determine how best to provide wastewater services to the Gig Harbor community over a 20-year growth period. It analyzes potential strategies to promote water resource management and environmental sustainability, such as a reclaimed water program, and identifies improvements to the wastewater system needed over the next 20-year planning period.

Future needs identified by the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan focus on the full build-out of its sewer services to the limits of the UGA. By 2050, it assumes that all unsewered developed parcels and new developments are sewerred. See Exhibit 13-7 for the demographic forecast allocation model WWTP used to estimate its sewerred and non-sewerred build-out. Exhibit 13-8 shows the anticipated wastewater flow projections. See the Capital Facilities Element for further details on future capital improvement projects related to the wastewater utility, costs, funding, and approximate schedule to address these projections.

Exhibit 13-7. Gig Harbor UGA Demographics Based on Adjusted Growth Rates by Sewer Connection

Year	Single-Family Households		Multifamily Households		Employment		Prison	School
	Sewered Units	Non-Sewered	Sewered	Non-Sewered	Sewered	Non-Sewered	Inmates	Enrollment
2017	2,035	2,889	1,580	1,225	18,929	9,635	738	5,970
2037	5,674	1,184	2,446	739	30,859	9,492	894	8,949
Build-Out	7,608	0	3,466	0	45,517	0	996	10,356

Sources: Gig Harbor Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Update, 2018; BERK, 2024.

Exhibit 13-8. Average Sanitary and Peak Flow Estimates, 2017 – Build-Out

Category	Unit Wastewater Flows	2017		2037		Build-out	
		Sewered	ADWF (GPD)	Sewered	ADWF (GPD)	Sewered	ADWF (GPD)
Single-Family Residential	134 gpd per unit	2,035	272,659	5,674	760,337	7,608	1,019,481
Multi-Family Residential	134 gpd per unit	1,580	211,720	2,446	327,783	3,466	464,385
Employment	18 gpd per person	18,929	340,720	30,859	555,459	45,517	819,298
Prison	100 gpd per person	738	73,800	894	89,436	996	99,600
School	20 gpd per person	5,970	119,400	8,949	178,972	10,356	207,120
Wollochet Harbor	---	---	11,000	---	11,000	---	11,000
Average Dry Weather Flow			1,018,299		1,911,988		2,609,884
Sanitary Peak Flow			1,527,449		2,867,982		3,914,826

Source: Gig Harbor Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Update, 2018.

The City's collection system is planned at full build-out to expand to the limits of the UGA. The collection system has been divided into a total of 21 topographic basins, also known as sewer basins. At build-out each sewer basin will have one sewer pump station and a mixture of sewer gravity mains and sewer force mains. The design and construction of undeveloped and underdeveloped sewer basins may be financed by developers as conditions of SEPA or land use approval, and/or utility local improvement districts (ULIDs).

As noted above in the description of the existing capital facilities, the City's core area has an established sewer collection system. Some areas within the City's UGA can have sewer flows conveyed using gravity to existing sewer lift stations. However, in most areas the future development of the City's sewer collection system will occur in areas beyond the City's core area. These areas have a topographic low point where wastewater must be collected and pumped and may require construction of a new sewer pump station, also known as a lift station. Only one lift station shall be utilized in each sewer basin.

In situations where a new sewer lift station must be constructed two scenarios exist. The first scenario is where no lift station is in the sewer basin. The proposed development activity shall design and construct a new developer funded, and designed to City Standards, lift station that will collect sewer flows from the proposed development and all future development upstream in the sewer basin.

The second scenario is where an existing lift station is already located in the sewer basin but the proposed development activity is located lower in elevation than the existing lift station. The proposed development activity shall design and construct a new developer funded and designed to City Standards a lift station that will collect sewer flows from the existing lift station, the proposed development, and all future development upstream in the sewer basin. The existing lift station would then be demolished.

Due to the potential for mechanical and electrical failures and the complications that arise when these failures occur, developments shall maximize gravity flows while minimizing the use of lift stations and grinder pumps.

Only developments lower in elevation than an existing lift station or gravity main AND lower in elevation than the path of sewer main construction may use, upon approval of the Public Works Director, use grinder pumps in lieu of constructing a new lift station.

The City's Wastewater Division provides continuous maintenance of the existing collection system. Future needs of the existing collection system are mostly limited to projects requiring rehabilitation of the lift stations. Infiltration & Inflow (I&I) impacts capacity in the collection system, and interflow of stormwater runoff resulting from rainfall appears to be the primary factor. The existing forcemains and gravity pipelines have adequate capacity for current and future wastewater flows. A third of the existing lift stations are beyond useful life and will require equipment or capacity upgrades to meet expected growth. The repair and rehabilitation projects are addressed in the CIP of this plan. It is estimated that the future dry weather flow in the collection system will increase compared to the total flows (including I&I) that currently exist in the collection system. Funding for the ongoing maintenance of the existing collection system, including rehabilitation of existing lift stations and replacement of existing sewer mains is funded by utility general facility charges and utility rates.

Future Wastewater Treatment Plant Needs

With the successful completion of the final phase of upgrades, the City of Gig Harbor WWTP has high confidence in its ability to collect and treat the design flow of 2.4 MGD, with the upgrades being able to meet and exceed the City's 20-year plan for meeting capacity requirements. Efforts focused on maintenance, repair and replacements should occur over the next four years with planning for future capital improvements in the timeframe of 2028 and beyond.

Reclaimed Water Investigation

The State has identified reclaimed water as an important water resource management strategy that can offer benefits related to potable water supply, wastewater management, and environmental enhancement. The City has acknowledged the State's acceptance and promotion of reclaimed water as being a viable and important water resource management tool through the adoption of a comprehensive plan goal for the wastewater utility to explore options to create reclaimed water.

13.3.4 Stormwater Systems

Existing Capital Facilities

The Puget Sound and in particular Gig Harbor, Henderson Bay, and Wollochet Bay are the receiving water bodies of the City of Gig Harbor's storm system. The stormwater system consists of catch basins, pipe, drainage ditches, natural streams such as Donkey Creek, Crescent Creek, and McCormick Creek, wetlands, ponds, and stormwater management facilities providing flow control and water quality treatment of storm runoff. The Operations and Maintenance Department is responsible for approximately 49 stormwater ponds (of which 13 are publicly owned), 4,583 catch basins, 16 miles of drainage ditch, seven bioretention swales, two miles of stormwater detention system pipe, two rain gardens, 49 stormwater vaults and 72 miles of storm drainage pipe. This inventory has grown over the past decade with the continuing development and annexations to the City.

Proper development and regular maintenance of the City's stormwater infrastructure is critical to assuring proper function, effective control of stormwater discharges and water quality, and minimized effects upon receiving water environments and downstream property. Responsibilities for facility inspection and maintenance are determined by facility ownership, and is performed by the City's Public Works Department, homeowner associations, business owners, and property management companies. Regularly scheduled maintenance and inspections best assure timely correction of deficiencies.

As a permittee under a Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, the City is required to satisfy specific obligations in establishing local stormwater development standards, perform facility inspections and maintenance, participate in water quality monitoring, provide related public involvement and education opportunities, and report annually on stormwater programs and activities. The City's obligations have increased with successive permits; by example, in 2016 the City adopted and updated its stormwater regulations incorporating low impact development (LID) techniques as the preferred approach to site development. It is anticipated the City's obligations will again increase under the next permit renewal.

Level of Service

The level of service for the City's stormwater infrastructure was evaluated while updating the Comprehensive Stormwater Plan. The level of service analysis encompasses both the hydraulic capacities in storm drains and the effects upon the network of creeks.

Storm system modeling was performed at a planning level to identify system needs under future full build-out land use conditions. The City selected ten torn trunk lines to be analyzed. These trunk lines were selected based on known past conveyance and/or sedimentation problems and possible future system impacts due to development. The storm drainage capacity within these trunk systems was evaluated on their ability to convey the peak runoff from the 25-year return period discharge. The City's stormwater infrastructure is sufficient to convey stormwater runoff under buildout conditions; local improvements to storm drain networks are defined to assure the necessary capacity, as discussed below under Future Needs and the Capital Improvement Program.

Storm drainage outfalls along the harbor shoreline were also analyzed to determine if capacities are sufficient for runoff from future buildout and redevelopment within their tributary basins. The storm drainage capacity within these outfall systems was evaluated on their ability to convey the peak runoff from the 25-year and the 100-year return period discharge. Outfall capacities were found to be sufficient to convey stormwater runoff under buildout conditions for the 25-year return period discharge, with three outfalls found to be under capacity at buildout. Outfalls from most of the largest drainage systems do not have capacity to convey the 100-year discharge. The outfall capacity analysis was performed to inform consideration of an alternative policy that would disallow waiving of flow control requirements for developing or redeveloping properties that discharge to city drainage systems upstream from outfalls.

Further, the City's stormwater management standards and guidelines regulating future development and redevelopment require such projects control runoff to undeveloped site conditions, thereby preserving the current levels of service in City storm drainage systems.

Future Needs

There are several locations where discharges approach or exceed the hydraulic capacity of storm drains, and other locations where culverts present a block to fish passage. A list of recommended storm system capital improvement projects is identified in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) of the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan update. In 2008, the City initiated a Stormwater General Facility Charge to fund stormwater CIP projects; this charge was most recently updated in 2015.

The scope of improvements identified in the stormwater CIP encompasses capacity improvements, fish passage and habitat improvements, and corrective maintenance and facilities.

13.3.5 Schools

The City of Gig Harbor is served by the Peninsula School District #401 for educational purposes. The PSD manages and maintain their public infrastructure through an adopted Six Year Facilities Plan, last updated in August 2014. The Peninsula School District #401 Capital Facilities Plan is hereby adopted by reference within the City of Gig Harbor's Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the plan are available for public review.

Exhibit 13-9 details school enrollment counts by grade level, for 2021 through 2024. Exhibit 13-10 details school district staff counts for 2021 through 2024.

Exhibit 13-9. K-12 Peninsula School District Enrollment, 2021-2024

FTE Enrollment Counts	Average 2021-2022	Budget 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024
Kindergarten	565.47	696.00	634.00
Grade 1	563.73	573.00	626.00
Grade 2	657.84	594.00	612.00
Grade 3	613.82	691.00	620.00
Grade 4	617.89	641.00	717.00
Grade 5	656.00	644.00	673.00
Grade 6	596.75	672.00	676.00
Grade 7	622.78	602.00	722.00
Grade 8	642.03	686.00	628.00
Grade 9	703.27	661.00	685.00
Grade 10	724.43	709.00	719.00
Grade 11 (excluding Running Start)	586.49	582.00	731.00
Grade 12 (excluding running start)	490.41	601.00	606.00
Subtotal	8,040.91	8,352.00	8,649.00
Running Start	356.68	360.00	344.00
Dropout Reengagement Enrollment	14.43	20.00	19.00
ALE Enrollment	167.85	123.00	0.00
Total K-12	8,579.87	8,855.00	9,012.00

Sources: Peninsula School District F195 [Budget](#), 2023-2024; BERK, 2024.

Exhibit 13-10. K-12 Peninsula School District Staff Counts

Staff Counts	Average 2021-2022	Budget 2022-2023	Budget 2023-2024
General Fund FTE Certificated Employees	673.43	646.26	648.619
General Fund FTE Classified Employees	346.17	370.98	339.812

Sources: Peninsula School District F195 [Budget](#), 2023-2024; BERK, 2024.

13.3.6 Park and Recreation Facilities

Existing Capital Facilities

The City of Gig Harbor owns 36 park properties ranging in size from 0.06 of an acre to 30 acres. Included in that total are four designated trails that range from 0.2 of a mile to 6 miles in length. Park profiles on each city park facility are included in the 2016 Park Recreation and Open Space Plan as Appendix A to that plan.

The Gig Harbor park classification system includes: neighborhood parks, waterfront parks, natural parks and trails. Open spaces are designated as open space properties, undeveloped park lands, or other properties. Exhibit 13-11 documents the City's existing park facilities.

Neighborhood Parks are developed for both passive and active recreation, and are accessible by walking, biking, or driving. They have support facilities such as restrooms and parking. These parks may typically include athletic fields, sports courts, trails, playgrounds, open space, and picnicking facilities.

Waterfront Parks are located on the shoreline and provide a mix of water related uses and forms of access to the shoreline. These parks typically include historic structures or uses that are planned for preservation in keeping with the City's maritime heritage. The City actively works to balance uses within these parks to provide a mix of recreation opportunities, historic preservation, and community gathering spaces.

Natural Parks preserve critical areas, urban forests and historic sites for future generations and include low impact recreational uses. Such sites are often developed with ancillary uses that are compatible with or support the primary preservation of the sites key features, such as the garden program located at Wilkinson Farm Park or the hatchery program located at Donkey Creek Park.

Trails include both linear trails (measured in miles) and trail support facilities (measured in acres). Trails are off-street transportation and recreation options either paved or unpaved that connect two points and are often located in a utility or undeveloped road right of way. While many of the City's parks provide access trails that loop through a park site, trails are linear in nature. The City has also designated one on-street trail, Harborview Trail, due to the importance of this corridor for recreational use and as a connector between waterfront parks.

Undeveloped Park Lands are properties acquired or owned by the City for park purposes, which have not yet been developed. These properties are anticipated to be developed into parks in the future and will be move to the appropriate classification as they are developed.

Open Space Properties are natural lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, open space, or buffering. These lands are typically characterized by critical areas such as wetlands, slopes, and shorelines; significant natural vegetation, shorelines, or other environmentally sensitive areas. This classification is used for preserved lands which are not currently planned for development into parks due to physical constraints or other limitations.

Other Properties include lands which do not presently provide park, recreation or open space amenities but are in City ownership and could be redeveloped for such uses in the future. These sites are not presently planned for redevelopment.

Exhibit 13-11. Existing Park Facilities

Park Name	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Acreage
Parks			
Anchich Waterfront Park	Special Use Waterfront	Waterfront Park	0.78
Austin Park	Special Use Waterfront	Waterfront Park	1.38
Bogue Viewing Platform	Special Use Waterfront Mini-Park	Waterfront Mini-Park	0.15
Civic Center Green (incl. Stake Park)	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	6.55
Crescent Creek Park (incl. BMX & volleyball courts)	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	10.89
Eddon Boat Park	Special Use Waterfront	Waterfront Park	3.88
Gig Harbor Sand Spit	Special Use Waterfront Mini-Park	Waterfront Mini-Park	1.21
Gig Harbor Sports Complex	Undeveloped	Community Park	22.14
Jerisich Dock (at Skansie Brothers Park)	Special Use Waterfront Mini-Park	Waterfront Mini-Park	0.56
Kenneth Leo Marvin (KLM) Veterans Memorial Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	5.58
Maritime Pier	Special Use Waterfront Mini-Park	Waterfront Mini-Park	0.72
Old Burnham Properties	Undeveloped	TBD (Counted as Natural Area)	20.31
Old Ferry Landing Park	Special Use Waterfront Mini-Park	Waterfront Mini-Park	0.31
Peninsula Light Fields	Special Use Miscellaneous	Special Use Facility	9.11
Shaw Park	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	1.76
Skansie Brothers Park	Special Use Waterfront	Waterfront Park	2.59
Subtotal Parks			87.92
Natural Areas and Trails			
Adam Tallman Park	Natural Area	Natural Area	11.84
Austin Park – Tidelands: tx'aaalqəł Estuary	Natural Area	Natural Area	7.07
Donkey Creek Park	Natural Area	Natural Area	1.04
Grandview Forest Park	Natural Area	Natural Area	8.58
Harbor Hill Open Space (south of Shaw Park)	Natural Area	Natural Area	20.14

Park Name	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Acreage
Soundview Forest	Natural Area	Natural Area	1.54
Wilkinson Farm Park	Natural Area	Natural Area	17.74
Cushman Trailhead – 96 th Street	Trail	Trail	0.28
Cushman Trailhead - Borgen	Trail	Trail	0.18
Cushman Trailhead - Grandview	Trail	Trail	0.45
Cushman Trailhead - Hollycroft	Trail	Trail	0.60
Finholm View Climb	Trail	Trail	0.35
Subtotal Natural Areas & Trails			69.81
Total Acreage			157.74

Sources: City of Gig Harbor PROS Plan 2022; BERK, 2024.

It should be noted that this inventory includes only City of Gig Harbor parks and open spaces; the Gig Harbor Peninsula is served by a variety of park and recreation service providers, and a detailed inventory of all public facilities on the Peninsula is not included in this plan. Information taken from the County's geographic information system indicates more than 900 acres of park, recreation and open space lands exist in public ownership on the Gig Harbor Peninsula.

Level of Service

The City established levels of service for the park system in the 2016 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2016 Park Plan) to maintain and improve upon existing levels of service (ELOS). Planned levels of service (PLOS) were established for each category of park, and for the system to assure a variety of recreation opportunities will be available as the City grows. The level of service standards adopted by the City for the park system are expressed as the number of acres (or miles) per 1000 residents for a particular classification of park. Exhibit 13-12 documents existing levels of service (ELOS) and proposed levels of service (PLOS).

Exhibit 13-12. 2018 Parks Levels of Services and Measure of Needs

Park Type	Current Inventory	2018 Standard (ac/1000)	Current LOS (ac/1,000)	Attainment to Standard	2021 Surplus / (Deficit)
Neighborhood Park	7.3 acres	5.0 acres /1,000	4.7 acres/1,000	93.2%	(4.1 acres)
Community Park	48.7 acres				
Special Use Waterfront	11.6 acres	1.0 acres /1,000	1.0 acres/1,000	96.3%	(0.4 acres)
Natural Areas	88.3 acres	5.25 acres/1,000	7.3 acres/1,000	139.8%	25.1 acres
Park & Open Space Totals	155.9 acres	11.25 acres/1,000	13.0 acres/1,000	115.2%	20.5 acres
Trails	10.2 miles	1.17 miles/1,000	0.8 miles/1,000	72.1%	(3.9 miles)

Sources: City of Gig Harbor PROS Plan 2022; BERK, 2024.

Future Needs

The Park Plan utilized levels of service based on the total City population and considered both current and projected levels of service based on anticipated population growth. The population projection, used in this section, reflects the City's most recent population allocation of 10,500 residents in the year 2030. This population projection reflects the slowdown in growth that has occurred since 2008 and reflects a change in regional population allocations designed to locate future housing near employment centers. The 2030 population allocation in combination with the PLOS allows the City to calculate the amount of park land needed to achieve the planned service level, as shown in Exhibit 13-13.

Exhibit 13-13. Existing and Proposed Parks Level of Service Standards

Park Type	2018 Standard (ac/1,000)	Proposed 2022 Standard	2021 Surplus/ (Deficit)	2035 Surplus / (Deficit)*
Neighborhood Park	5.0 acres / 1,000	5 acres / 1,000	(4.1 acres)	(9.6 acres)
Community Park				
Special Use Waterfront	1.0 acres /1,000	-	N/A	N/A
Natural Areas	5.25 acres / 1,000	-	N/A	N/A
Park & Open Space Totals	11.25 acres/1,000	5 acres/1,000	(4.1 acres)	(9.6 acres)

Sources: City of Gig Harbor PROS Plan 2022; BERK, 2024.

Future needs for park, recreation and open spaces are also tied to achieving the expressed desires of this community. In the Park Plan update process several key themes emerged which guided the creation of the acquisition and development plan. Key themes included trail development, expanding partnerships to leverage City funds, pursuing the acquisition of additional land in developing areas, and improving public access to natural features.

To meet the future demand the City plans for park improvements include both land acquisitions and development projects within existing parks or undeveloped lands. Specific facility improvements required to accommodate the upcoming six-year planning period are listed in the 2022 Parks Plan.

13.3.7 Police, Fire Protection, and Emergency Medical Services Facilities

Police

Police services are provided by the Gig Harbor Police Department, which serves the citizens of Gig Harbor and other community members within the jurisdiction. This includes a Police Chief, Lieutenant, four Patrol Sergeants, one Detective Sergeant, two Detectives, and 16 Patrol Officers. Additional staff includes two Police Services Specialists and one Property/Evidence Technician.

The City utilizes three contract jails. Dispatch service is provided by South Sound 911. Additional opportunities include participation in our Bicycle Unit, Marine Services Unit, and a variety of multi-jurisdictional teams.

Fire and EMS

Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One, with Station 51 located within the city as a 24-hour staffed station (typically 6–7 officers and one battalion chief), as well as nine other stations (both 24-hour and non-staffed), a district maintenance shop located in Purdy, and the Swede Hill training campus at Station 50. District headquarters is located at 10222 Bujacich Road NW outside of the city. The total service area for the district includes unincorporated Pierce County on the peninsula as well as Fox Island, covering an area of 54 square miles.

The current 2021 Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One Capital Facilities Plan is adopted by reference under this element. According to this Plan, future capital investments are primarily focused on upgrading existing facilities and reusing existing sites for new facilities, as opposed to identifying new sites for purchase and development. While the current stations are in good locations and have been maintained well over time, all the current fire stations do not meet Immediate Occupancy seismic standards (indicating that they will experience damage during earthquakes and may not be functional afterwards). There are also concerns with operational deficiencies related to fire protection, electrical, and HVAC systems, as well as the need for compliance with ADA accessibility requirements.

Proposed improvements under the Capital Facilities Plan include:

- Additional facilities and improvements at the existing Swede Hill Training Campus, including a new five-story training tower, a support building with classrooms and offices, an expansion to the auto extrication area, and additional parking;
- Renovations/major additions to support eight existing fire stations;
- A replacement of one existing fire station with a new facility at the same location; and
- An addition to the existing district maintenance shop building.

For Gig Harbor, the Plan notes that Station 51 not appropriately sized given the call volume and levels of staffing needed to support emergency response at this location. Given that the cost of improving the existing facilities are not cost-effective, the Plan proposes the development of a new station and logistics building on the site for an estimated cost of \$40.6 million (2020 dollars), with an anticipated start of construction in late 2026.

13.4 Capital Facilities Planning

13.4.1 Overview

A Capital Facilities Program (CFP) is a six-year plan for the completion of capital improvements that are supportive of the City's population and economic base as well as near-term (within six years) growth. Capital facilities are funded through several funding sources which can consist of a combination of local, state, and federal tax revenues.

The CFP is intended to support the land-use element by providing the facilities necessary to achieve the community's vision as established in the plan. Note that any changes in land use or housing density can significantly impact related plan elements, especially the capital facilities plan. This interconnection necessitates a cohesive and consistent approach across all elements, ensuring checks and balances for the successful execution of the Comprehensive Plan.

Under RCW [36.70A.070\(3\)](#), the Element must identify the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital facilities. It is expected that the city will fund the identified capital projects through a combination of grants and other funding sources. These grants typically cover about 80–90% percent of project costs, and the city has been successful in securing such funding over the years.

Gig Harbor's 2023-2024 budget document includes 6-year capital improvement programs (CIPs) for each project over the City's main capital funds. CIP supports the city's Comprehensive Plan. Each 6-year CIP is based on the specific capital planning document described in each fund. This section describes capital facilities improvements for water, wastewater, and parks system as identified in the City's budget. Capital funds related to transportation improvements are separately discussed under the Transportation Element and Transportation Improvement Plan.

13.4.2 Financial Assumptions

The following assumptions about the future operating conditions in the city operations and market conditions were used in the development of the six-year capital facilities program:

- The City will maintain its current fund accounting system to handle its financial affairs.
- The cost of running local government will continue to increase due to inflation and other growth factors while revenues will also increase.
- New revenue sources, including new taxes, may be necessary to maintain and improve city services and facilities.
- Capital investment will be needed to maintain, repair, and rehabilitate portions of the city's aging infrastructure and to accommodate growth anticipated over the next twenty years.
- Public investment in capital facilities is the primary tool of local government to support and encourage economic growth.
- A consistent and reliable revenue source to fund necessary capital expenditures is desirable.
- A comprehensive approach to review, consider, and evaluate capital funding requests is needed to aid decision makers and the citizenry in understanding the capital needs of the city.

Capital improvements will be financed through the following funds:

- General Fund
- Capital Improvement Fund
- Capital Development Fund
- Enterprise Funds

13.4.3 Revenues

State statutes set out the powers local governments have for funding capital and other projects. There are four generic types of local government project funding: taxes, fees, grants, and dedicated funds from State revenues. The following is a description of funding sources.

Tax Base and Fees

The City's tax base has shown an increased growth from 2020 to 2024 and is anticipated to continue to see growth between 1-3% through the addition of new construction as well maintaining the valuation tax for existing real property each year. Although this is important to the overall fiscal health of the city, capital improvements are funded primarily through non-tax resources. Taxes include property tax, retail sales and use tax, real estate excise tax, lodging excise tax, leasehold excise tax, commercial parking tax, business and occupation tax, gambling tax, admission tax, local option sales tax, utility tax, emergency medical services tax, fire districts tax, parks and recreation services tax, flood control special purpose district tax, storm drainage payment in lieu of assessment tax, utility revenue bonds and property tax excess levy. Fees include various user fees and impact fees.

Revenue by Fund

The City's capital projects are funded through several options as follows:

- General Fund
- Capital Improvement and Capital Development Funds
- Street and Street Capital Funds
- Enterprise Funds

13.4.4 Capital Improvements

The six-year CIP list includes proposed project funding allocation across the next six years as of the adoption of the budget and does not include projects that have already been completed. The following tables include current projects provided under city planning for the following systems:

- Streets/Transportation (Exhibit 13-14)
- Water (Exhibit 13-15)
- Wastewater (Exhibit 13-16)
- Stormwater (Exhibit 13-17)
- Parks and open space (Exhibit 13-18)

Exhibit 13-14. Transportation System Improvements

Obj #	Project Name	Project Costs (2025 dollars)					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Annual Totals =							

Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

Exhibit 13-15. Water System Improvements

Project Name / Description	Project Costs (2025 dollars)						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
N-01 Canterwood Blvd NW and Bering St NW	\$200,000	\$800,000	-	-	-	-	-
N-02 Sehmel Dr NW and Burnham Dr NW	-	-	-	-	-	\$400,000	\$1,901,000
N-03 Vernhardson St and Burnham Dr NW	\$100,000	\$500,000	-	-	-	-	-
U-07 Reid Drive NW between 56th Street NW and 55th Street NW	-	-	-	\$150,000	\$400,000	-	-
U-08 Deer Creek Lane	-	-	-	\$90,000	-	-	-
ST-01 Tank Recoating	\$600,000	-	-	\$700,000	-	\$1,109,000	-
S-01 Well 9 and PRV Station	\$555,000	\$1,755,000	-	-	-	-	-
S-03 Water Treatment System (Well 6)	-	\$200,000	\$2,500,000	-	-	-	-
S-04 Conjunctive Supply Strategy	-	-	\$280,000	-	-	-	-
R-01 Asbestos Cement Water Line Replacement Program	\$600,000	\$1,000,000	-	\$600,000	\$2,350,000	-	-
G-01 Water System Plan Update	-	-	\$250,000	\$350,000	-	-	-
G-02 Reuse and Reclaimed Water Study Phase Two	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$60,000
G-04 Public Works Decant Facility (Water Capital Portion)	\$100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
G-06 Water Share of Satellite Reuse Plant in WW Basin 12	-	-	-	-	-	\$984,000	\$5,067,000
Wellhouse #5 and #6 Rebuild	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-
Civic Center Backup Generator (Water Capital Portion)	\$67,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operations Center Fueling Station (Water Capital Portion)	\$96,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wellhouse #3 Rebuild	-	-	-	-	-	\$450,000	\$2,900,000
Total =	\$2,818,000	\$6,255,000	\$3,030,000	\$1,890,000	\$2,750,000	\$2,943,000	\$9,928,000

Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

Exhibit 13-16. Wastewater System Improvements

Project Name / Description	Project Costs (2025 dollars)						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
LS 1 Improvements	\$1,150,000	\$2,200,000	-	-	-	-	-
LS 2 Improvements	-	-	-	\$300,000	-	-	-
LS 3A Jockey Pump Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LS 5 Improvements	\$380,000	\$2,600,000	-	-	-	-	-
LS 8 Improvements	-	-	\$400,000	-	-	-	-
LS 10 Improvements	-	-	\$250,000	\$1,700,000	-	-	-
LS 11 Improvements	-	-	\$150,000	\$750,000	-	-	-
LS 13 and 16 Pump and Control Improvements	\$55,000	\$250,000	-	-	-	-	-
LS 13 Improvements	-	-	-	-	\$320,000	\$2,500,000	-
LS 14 Improvements	\$800,000	\$2,600,000	-	-	-	-	-
LS 16 Improvements	-	-	-	-	\$300,000	\$2,200,000	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 1	-	\$27,000	-	-	-	-	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 2	-	-	-	\$29,000	-	-	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 5	-	\$27,000	-	-	-	-	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 8	-	-	\$25,000	-	-	-	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 10	-	-	\$31,000	-	-	-	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 11	-	-	-	\$30,000	-	-	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 13	-	-	-	-	-	\$30,000	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Install Flow Meter- LS 16	-	\$27,000	-	-	-	\$26,000	-
Future LS 17A & Forcemain	-	-	-	-	-	\$500,000	\$2,500,000
WWTP Improvements	\$40,000	-	\$869,000	-	-	-	-
Nutrient Removal General Permit Improvements	\$69,000	\$74,000	\$80,000	\$86,000	\$94,000	\$100,000	\$109,000
Reuse & Reclamation Studies	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$60,000
Remove sag in gravity pipe on N. Harborview	-	-	\$300,000	\$1,700,000	-	-	-
Upsize gravity pipe on Harborview Dr	-	-	-	\$500,000	\$1,422,000	-	-
Bypass at Burnham Dr/Harborview Dr	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$190,000
Upsize gravity pipe on Burnham Dr	-	-	-	\$260,000	\$3,203,000	-	-
I&I Repairs Manholes/ Pipeline	-	-	\$250,000	-	-	-	-
Annual Replacement, Rehabilitation, and Renewal	\$91,000	\$93,000	\$96,000	\$99,000	\$102,000	\$104,000	\$108,000
38th Ave Dry Sewer	\$1,300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-

Project Name / Description	Project Costs (2025 dollars)						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Operations Shop Re-side & Expansion (Wastewater Capital Share)	-	\$20,000	\$45,000	-	-	-	-
Civic Center Fire System & Intrusion Upgrades (Wastewater Capital Share)	-	\$17,500	-	-	-	-	-
Operations Center Fueling Station (Wastewater Capital Share)	\$96,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Civic Center Backup Generator (Wastewater Capital Share)	\$67,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
WWTP Digester Upgrades	\$500,000	\$3,000,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total =	\$4,548,000	\$10,935,500	\$2,496,000	\$5,454,000	\$5,441,000	\$5,460,000	\$2,967,000

Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

Exhibit 13-17. Stormwater System Improvements

Project Name / Description	Project Costs (2025 dollars)						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2018-01 WWTP Cr Reroute to Donkey Cr	5,000,000	4,600,000	-	-	-	-	-
2018-02 Crescent Creek Culvert Replacement	-	-	-	-	700,000	700,000	4,000,000
2018-03 PW Decant Facility (Storm Capital Share)	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
2018-04 38th Garr Cr Box Culvert	-	-	-	-	450,000	600,000	700,000
2018-06 50th St Box Culvert	-	-	-	-	350,000	400,000	500,000
2018-07 Annual NPDES Permit Implementation Expenses	32,000	34,000	36,000	38,000	41,000	43,000	46,000
2018-08 Stinson Ave Stormwater Replacement and Extension	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	-
2018-10 Outfall to Marine Waters Study & Permitting	150,000	150,000	-	-	-	681,000	-
2018-12 Pipe Slip Line Mountainview to Peacock	8,200	85,500	-	-	-	-	-
2018-13 Pipe Slip Line Vernhardson	8,300	85,000	-	-	-	-	-
2018-14 Pipeline Upgrade Program	-	-	36,000	37,000	38,000	39,000	40,000
2018-15 Stormwater Comprehensive Plan Update	-	-	200,000	-	-	-	-
Operations Shop Re-side & Expansion (Storm Capital Share)	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-
Civic Center Fire System & Intrusion Upgrades (Storm Capital Share)	-	17,500	-	-	-	-	-
Operations Center Fueling Station (Storm Capital Share)	96,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Civic Center Backup Generator (Storm Capital Share)	67,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burnhan Dr Culvert Replacement	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total =	6,711,500	4,992,000	272,000	75,000	2,079,000	2,463,000	5,286,000

Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2024.

Exhibit 13-18. Parks and Open Space System Improvements

Obj #	Project Name	Project Funding Allocation					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
PD-1	Gig Harbor North Sports Complex Ph 1B	\$4,250,000	\$1,000,000				
PD-2	Public Works Operations Center - Building Construction	\$1,050,000					
PD-3	Gig Harbor North Trails	\$75,000	\$75,000				
PD-4	Cushman Trail Connection to N. Harborview Dr.	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$550,000			
PD-5	Crescent Creek Park - Master Plan, Phase 1A Conceptual Design/Construction	\$130,000	\$95,000				
PD-6	Shaw Park Analysis and Remediation	\$30,000	\$65,000				
PD-7	Skansie Netshed Improvements	\$330,000					
PD-8	Cushman Trail Phase 5A Study		\$85,000				
PD-9	Gig Harbor Sports Complex Phase 2 and 3 - Feasibility Study	\$60,000	\$60,000				
PD-10	Commercial Fishing Homeport	\$3,200,000					
	KLM Veterans Memorial Park Ph 2 (Trail Development and Roller Slide)			\$80,000	\$280,000		
	Harborview Waterfront Trail / Pioneer Way Streetscape			\$120,000	\$500,000		
	Old Burnham Properties - Master Plan			\$80,000			
	Wheeler Pocket Park Development			\$60,000	\$120,000	\$350,000	
	Jerisich Dock Float Extension				\$150,000	\$500,000	
	Cushman Trail Phase 5A - Design/Construction				\$600,000	\$5,000,000	
	Wilkinson Farm Park - Master Plan/Development				\$90,000	\$250,000	\$2,000,000
	Maritime Pier Development					\$400,000	\$3,500,000
Annual Totals =		\$9,225,000	\$1,480,000	\$890,000	\$1,740,000	\$6,500,000	\$5,500,000

Source: City of Gig Harbor, 2023.

13.4.5 Implementation and Monitoring

The six-year schedule of improvements shall be the mechanism the City will use to base its timing, location, projected cost, and revenue sources for the capital improvements identified for implementation in the other comprehensive plan elements.

Monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensuring the effectiveness of the Capital Facilities Plan element. This element will be reviewed annually and amended to verify that fiscal resources are available to provide public facilities needed to support LOS standards and plan objectives. The annual review will include an examination of the following considerations to determine their continued appropriateness:

- Any corrections, updates and modifications concerning costs, revenue sources, acceptance of facilities pursuant to dedication which are consistent with this element, or to the date of construction of any facility enumerated in this element;
- The Capital Facilities Element's continued consistency with the other element of the plan and its support of the land use element;
- The priority assignment of existing public facility deficiencies;
- The City's progress in meeting needs determined to be existing deficiencies;
- The criteria used to evaluate capital improvement projects to ensure that projects are being ranked in their appropriate order or level of priority;
- The City's effectiveness in maintaining the adopted LOS standard and objectives achieved;
- The City's effectiveness in reviewing the impacts of plans of other state agencies that provide public facilities within the City's jurisdiction;
- The effectiveness of impact fees or fees assessed new development for improvement costs;
- Efforts made to secure grants or private funds, as available, to finance new capital improvements;
- The criteria used to evaluate proposed plan amendments and requests for new development or redevelopment;
- Capital improvements needed for the latter part of the planning period for updating the six-year schedule of improvements; and
- Concurrency status.

13.5 Goals and Policies

► CF-1 Plan for effective, cost-efficient services for city residents and businesses.

- CF-1.1 Provide a six-year schedule under the Capital Improvement Program for the planning and costing of all major capital improvement projects.
- CF-1.2 Prioritize capital improvements based on the following criteria:
 - a) The investment is needed to correct existing deficiencies, replace needed facilities or to provide facilities required for future growth;
 - b) The investment contributes to lessening or eliminating a public hazard;
 - c) The investment contributes to minimizing or eliminating any existing condition of public facility capacity deficits;
 - d) The investment is financially feasible;
 - e) The investment conforms with future land uses and needs based upon projected growth;
 - f) The investment will not generate public facility demands that exceed capacity increases under the six-year Capital Improvement Program; and
 - g) The investment will not have a detrimental impact on the local budget.
- CF-1.3 Recognize the urban growth area as the sanitary sewer service area.

► CF-2 Ensure that the development of new capital facilities is fiscally sustainable.

- CF-2.1 Coordinate capital investments to minimize life-cycle costs to the city and the public.
- CF-2.2 Allocate sewer and water connection fee revenues to capital improvements related to expansion of these facilities.
- CF-2.3 Consider funding measures that require developers to provide a fair-share contribution to public facility improvements commensurate with the impacts of the development.
- CF-2.4 Adopt annual capital budgets as part of the annual budgeting process that consider the six-year capital improvement program.
- CF-2.5 Secure external funding, including public grants and private funds as available, to help finance capital improvements.
- CF-2.6 Ensure that fiscal policies to direct expenditures for capital improvements are consistent with other Comprehensive Plan elements.
- CF-2.7 Review and update this element and the Land Use Element as required if probable funding falls short of meeting the identified needs of this plan, including a reassessment of improvement needs, priorities, level of service standards, and revenue sources.

► **CF-3 Provide city infrastructure and facilities that are efficient and safe and enhance local quality of life and human and environmental health.**

- CF-3.1 Ensure that public services are available from the city, property developers, private providers, and others to support demands derived from new development at adopted level of service standards.
- CF-3.2 Encourage the joint development and use of cultural and community facilities with other governmental or community organizations in areas of mutual concern and benefit.
- CF-3.3 Promote the conservation, preservation or revitalization of commercial and residential areas within the downtown business area and along the shoreline area of Gig Harbor
- CF-3.4 Coordinate land use decisions and financial resources with capital improvement planning to maintain and improve adopted level of service standards, and support future facility needs.
- CF-3.5 Plan for the provision and extension of capital facilities in Shoreline Management Areas consistent with the goals, policies and objectives of the city's Shoreline Master Program.
- CF-3.6 Ensure that benefits of capital investments to overburdened communities and historically disadvantaged populations are prioritized.

14 Arts + Culture

14.1 Introduction

The arts and cultural activities are essential for accomplishing larger community goals, including economic vitality, quality education, and community design. Investment in the arts is an investment in making Gig Harbor a better place to live, work, and visit.

This element also recognizes the role of the arts, as well as creative cultural, historical, and educational engagement in creating and preserving the quality of life that has drawn people to Gig Harbor. Within the context of the City of Gig Harbor's Comprehensive Plan; culture, alongside the arts, refers to the shared values, beliefs, customs, traditions, and creative expressions of the city while also promoting diversity and inclusivity. Culture encompasses the unique character and identity of Gig Harbor, as shaped by its history, its demographics and community spirit.

The Arts and Culture element includes supporting all aspects of community that contribute to a rich and vibrant quality of life:

- the visual arts (e.g., paintings, sculptures, photography)
- the performing arts (e.g., music, dance, theater)
- the literary arts (e.g., poetry, fiction, journalism)
- ancestral and folk craft traditions
- cultural heritage and history
- community events and festivals
- community spirit (building connections, social cohesion, and a sense of belonging among residents)
- recognizing the importance of preserving and celebrating local culinary traditions, supporting local food systems, and fostering a vibrant food culture that contributes to the community's character and quality of life
- preserving any element of language and dialect unique to Gig Harbor.

Of particular interest is to incorporate a recognition of the history of the city and area into local arts and culture. The city's maritime history, which continues even today, is important to acknowledge and celebrate as a basis for the development of the historical downtown.

We also acknowledge that we are located on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe, who have lived on and cared for these lands since time immemorial and continue to do so today. Local arts and culture in Gig Harbor must appropriately and respectfully elevate these stories to assist in whatever way possible to support this community.

This Arts & Culture Element identifies ways in which the city's goals and aspirations can be realized through inclusion of the arts and culture in comprehensive planning. The vision for the city's arts and cultural future is expressed here, identifying relationships with other city policies, and presenting specific policies and strategies the city may pursue to realize desired outcomes.

14.2 Using this Element

The City of Gig Harbor hopes to explore the expansive potential of local arts and culture, addressing the community's needs for artistic involvement and expression and recognizing how powerful the arts can be in achieving multiple community aspirations. This element serves multiple roles and audiences, seeking to:

- Clarify city policy related to the arts and culture;
- Guide decision-making and future investments by other city departments, the Gig Harbor Arts Commission, and other local groups and organizations;
- Identify complementary policies and community initiatives, including land use, community design, transportation, economic development, parks and recreation, and capital facilities.

Arts and culture are more than just enjoyable activities - they are vital elements of what makes Gig Harbor special. This element of Gig Harbor's Comprehensive Plan focuses on how we can use the arts and culture to make our city a better place for everyone:

- **Creativity + Economic Vitality:** Support creative businesses, individuals and initiatives that bring jobs, innovation, and vibrancy to our city. Arts and culture are not just nice to have - they can be a big part of what makes Gig Harbor unique and economically strong.
- **Public Art + Community Design:** Sponsor public art, art that speaks to Gig Harbor's identity – with sculptures, murals, and installations. Great design and art in public spaces help build pride and a sense of belonging among residents and it helps to have Gig Harbor stand out. It is like a friendly nod from our town, saying, "This is Gig Harbor!"
- **Education + Engagement:** We believe in lifelong learning and want to support opportunities for everyone to engage with the arts and other cultural endeavors. Whether it is through classes in public schools, workshops, or community events, we want to foster a culture where learning and participation in the arts and culture are valued.
- **Spaces + Places:** Support the formation and maintenance of welcoming spaces for cultural and artistic activities, events, and connections that bring us together. Spaces and places that would help our cultural scene thrive, from maker spaces to performance venues to art galleries.
- **Culture + Heritage:** Our past shapes our future. We will work to preserve and share our city's history, traditions, and cultural legacy; while integrating it into our development plans. These activities help to ensure a strong sense of roots and community.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensure that the arts and cultural initiatives are accessible, representative, and inclusive of diverse peoples, perspectives, ages, and abilities.

14.3 History

The arts and cultural activities have long played an important role in establishing Gig Harbor's visual identity and pride of place. In 1999, the idea for a memorial celebrating Gig Harbor's maritime history spurred the formation of a group that championed the installation of such a feature and later became the city's first Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) in 2001. Since then, the GHAC has helped lead and support a wide range of arts and cultural activities, including art fairs, festivals, concerts, theatrical and dance performances, workshops, and lectures – all helping to draw tourists to Gig Harbor and boosting local revenues. In addition, the GHAC has led to the commission of numerous artworks in the city, including several important installations at City Hall and sculptures at the Bogue Viewing Platform, Maritime Pier, and in Ancich Park.

Gig Harbor incorporated arts-related policy in its 2012 comprehensive plan's parks and recreation element. In February 2018, the City Council approved a work plan including the goal to create a separate and distinct arts and culture element for the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan.

The 2018 work plan also has led to the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), which reviewed numerous other regional and state arts and culture plans, reports, and economic studies. The CAC's research identified the following goals and potential outcomes applicable to Gig Harbor including:

- Arts, culture, and creativity contribute to the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of communities;
- Arts and culture nurture creative thought and expression and encourage an exchange of ideas among residents;
- The arts provide tools for accomplishing larger community goals, such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design;
- The arts help strengthen the cultural fabric of communities and enrich the lives and spirits of residents;
- Arts and cultural activities contribute to local prosperity by providing employment, attracting out of town visitors, and boosting sales tax revenues;
- Arts and cultural programs can enhance the image of a community, thereby attracting new businesses and workers;

The CAC, with the help of the city's Tourism & Marketing Department, also created a widely distributed and successful survey regarding arts and culture values in Gig Harbor. Findings from this questionnaire show strong support for the idea that arts and culture are essential in creating a healthy, vibrant, and prosperous city.

These and other findings show that Gig Harbor residents understand and support the value of arts and culture as a means of strengthening the community and fostering economic growth.

14.4 The Gig Harbor Arts Commission

The Gig Harbor Arts Commission (GHAC) plays a pivotal role in local culture by supporting and promoting the arts and arts organizations. The commission, established under GHMC [2.49.030](#), oversees the acquisition and placement of public art, fosters arts and cultural programs for the enrichment of residents and visitors,

encourages an environment for the success of working artists, and strengthens new and existing arts organizations. The Arts Commission supports the following statements:

- The arts provide tools for accomplishing larger community goals, such as economic vitality, quality education, and community planning and design.
- Arts and culture are essential to the continued growth and development of our community's economy, education, and quality of life. Support of the arts is an investment in making our community a better place to live.
- The arts help strengthen our cultural fabric and enrich the lives and spirits of our residents.
- Arts and cultural programs are a powerful economic development tool in their ability to enhance Gig Harbor's image and thereby entice new businesses to locate here.
- The arts can be a source of civic pride and Gig Harbor is a place where residents and visitors alike can be engaged and inspired.

14.5 Goals and Policies

► **AC-1 Create an environment for artistic and cultural activities to flourish to benefit local quality of life.**

- AC-1.1 Provide leadership in the arts and culture by advocating for the development of various arts and cultural activities that benefit residents.
- AC-1.2 Collaborate with the city's Direct Marketing Organization and Pierce County Tourism to enhance local artistic, historic, and cultural tourism.
- AC-1.3 Partner with local Tribal Nations in the promotion of traditional and contemporary Indigenous arts, ensuring that these cultural expressions are both visible and celebrated throughout our public spaces.
- AC-1.4 Establish a city arts fund to provide grants for artists, writers, performers, and nonprofit organizations offering creative and cultural experiences in the community.
- AC-1.5 Monitor needs and trends in community arts and culture to keep policies and programs relevant and up to date.

► **AC-2 Maintain and enhance the city's public art program to create visible landmarks and cultural points of reference that reinforce local identities, cultures, and character.**

- AC-2.1 Advocate for creative public spaces such as display areas, performance spaces, and other public venues to serve residents and visitors.
- AC-2.2 Create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy and incorporate unique city landmarks into this system.
- AC-2.3 Explore expanding the Public Art Fund to acquire and manage public art such as commissioned works, temporary installations, direct purchases, and community projects.
- AC-2.4 Encourage the integration of high-quality public art into new development projects.
- AC-2.5 Provide oversight and support for community resources dedicated to arts and culture.
- AC-2.6 Develop selection criteria for public art that addresses the physical context and provides opportunities for local artists to participate.

► **AC-3 Foster an arts and cultural environment that sparks curiosity and invites exploration by residents and visitors.**

- AC-3.1 Support quality arts education, including schools and the community college, as well and foster life-long learning to integrate the arts into the community.
- AC-3.2 Foster partnerships between the city, the business community, and arts and culture organizations to support arts and cultural programming.

AC-3.3 Pursue opportunities for public engagement with artists, conservators, and historic preservationists to allow the community to observe and learn from their work.

► **AC-4 Encourage adequate, affordable, and appropriate spaces for artistic and cultural activities for all.**

AC-4.1 Identify short- and long-term arts and cultural facility needs and priorities to address these needs.

AC-4.2 Encourage new venues for different cultural and artistic activities, such as visual and performing arts centers, marketplaces, performance and exhibition spaces, and maker spaces.

AC-4.3 Advocate for current and future arts-related businesses and support facilities such as open studio spaces, maker spaces, and live-work housing.

► **AC-5 Identify, preserve, and advance cultural heritage and history.**

AC-5.1 Preserve and reuse historic and cultural sites in partnership with local entities devoted to preservation.

AC-5.2 Encourage historical interpretation to be integrated with adaptive reuse of historical and cultural sites.

AC-5.3 Promote tourism through geographical, cultural, and historic themes that complement other strategies.

AC-5.4 Support cultural interpretation and learning through art.

15 Implementation

15.1 Introduction

Gig Harbor's Comprehensive Plan is implemented through numerous actions, including day-to-day operations, capital investments, review of new development projects, and related system plans. Planning is an ongoing process, and the Comprehensive Plan is a living document that responds to changing laws, local circumstances, and evolving community values.

The success of the comprehensive planning effort is determined by how the Plan is implemented. Successful implementation requires necessary mechanisms to support monitoring, amendments, and ongoing administration, which are established through the Implementation Element. The purposes of these implementation approaches include ensuring:

- The effective, fair, and impartial administration and enforcement of the Comprehensive Plan and its implementing ordinances and programs;
- Regular reviews and amendments of the Comprehensive Plan are provided that are consistent with state law; and
- The Comprehensive Plan continues to reflect the needs and desires of the Gig Harbor community.

15.2 Purpose and Use of the Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan provides a guide and general framework for development in Gig Harbor that reflects community desires. The goals and policies contained in the Plan will encourage and inform public and private investments in development but, by themselves, will not ensure that Gig Harbor becomes the community it wants to be. The City of Gig Harbor will use the Plan to help focus, design, and interpret needed ordinances, incentives, regulations, policies, and programs adopted to implement it.

The Comprehensive Plan will not be relied upon in reviewing applications for specific development projects, except when reference to the Comprehensive Plan is expressly required by an applicable development regulation.

15.3 Goals and Policies

Consistency

- ▶ **IM-1 Ensure that the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan complies with state, regional, and county requirements.**
 - IM-1.1 Ensure the Comprehensive Plan is consistent with the provisions of the GMA.
 - IM-1.2 Ensure consistency of the Comprehensive Plan with the PSRC MPPs and Pierce County CPPs.
 - IM-1.3 Maintain clear documentation and references with regards to how the Comprehensive Plan integrates and fulfills these requirements.
- ▶ **IM-2 Ensure consistency and coordination between the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Plans of Pierce County and Tacoma**
 - IM-2.1 Consider aligning policies that apply to common areas or issues with neighboring communities.
 - IM-2.2 Rely on consistent population projections, planning horizons, and other relevant data that are consistent with practices in Pierce County and Tacoma.
 - IM-2.3 Circulate Plan updates and amendments to Pierce County, Tacoma, and other jurisdictions as needed.
- ▶ **IM-3 Ensure that the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan is an internally consistent document with clear steps for implementation.**
 - IM-3.1 Develop an implementation strategy for the Comprehensive Plan that includes regulatory and non-regulatory measures needed.
 - IM-3.2 Ensure the implementation strategy for the Comprehensive Plan considers necessary changes to the Gig Harbor Municipal Code.
 - IM-3.3 Include a schedule for the adoption or amendment of the development regulations identified in the implementation strategy.
 - IM-3.4 Ensure that the implementation strategy is a public document available for review.

Public Engagement

- ▶ **IM-4 Promote active engagement by residents and stakeholders in an open and transparent planning process, especially vulnerable populations and members of overburdened communities.**
 - IM-4.1 Implement procedures for accessible public participation with the Comprehensive Plan and associated documents, including:

- a) Widespread distribution of proposals,
- b) Opportunities for submitting written comments,
- c) Public meetings with effective notice,
- d) Ensuring environments for open discussion,
- e) Maintaining communication programs,
- f) Coordinating information services, and
- g) Responding thoughtfully to public feedback.

IM-4.2 Use diverse and accessible methods to communicate effectively with all members of the public throughout the planning process.

IM-4.3 Strive for inclusive community engagement, drawing in groups previously underrepresented in planning discussions.

IM-4.4 Demonstrate how public comments have been incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan and development regulation legislative actions.

IM-4.5 Record all public meetings held for outreach for planning.

IM-4.6 Clearly reference the sources of data used in the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations.

► **IM-5 Coordinate updates and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan based on a regular schedule.**

IM-5.1 Revise the Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plans and development regulations for compliance with GMA requirements by December 31, 2024, with subsequent reviews conducted on or before June 30, 2034 and every 10 years thereafter.

IM-5.2 Coordinate a five-year periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan by December 31, 2029, and provide the Department of Commerce a progress report detailing implementation conducted for the Comprehensive Plan to that date.

IM-5.3 Create a Climate Change and Resiliency Element as part of the initial implementation progress report due by December 31, 2029, pending availability of funding.

IM-5.4 Limit amendments and revisions to the Comprehensive Plan to no more than once annually.

IM-5.5 Permit emergency amendments to the Comprehensive Plan more frequently than once per year when necessary to address immediate concerns vital to the community's health, safety, and welfare.

Tribal Coordination

- ▶ **IM-6 Foster collaborative and respectful coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes whose reservations or ceded lands are within Pierce County.**
 - IM-6.1 Engage in good faith negotiations to develop a memorandum of agreement with any federally recognized Indian Tribe about collaboration and participation in the planning process upon receiving a Tribal resolution indicating their interests within Pierce County and intent for collaboration.
 - IM-6.2 Coordinate and collaborate on planning efforts with Tribes in areas of mutual interest, based on the guidelines and commitments established in the memorandum of agreement.
 - IM-6.3 Provide options for communication and engagement for Tribes which are not subject to a memorandum of agreement but have reservations or ceded lands in the city.

15.4 Implementation Strategies

The purpose of this element is to identify specific strategies the City may implement to achieve goals and policies identified in each element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Implementation strategies are listed for each element:

- Land Use (15.4.1)
- The Harbor (15.4.2)
- Community Development (15.4.3)
- Environment (15.4.4)
- Housing (15.4.5)
- Economic Development (15.4.6)
- Essential Public Facilities (15.4.7)
- Utilities (15.4.8)
- Shoreline Management (15.4.9)
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (15.4.10)
- Transportation (15.4.11)
- Capital Facilities (15.4.12)
- Arts and Culture (15.4.13)

Strategies may relate to multiple elements but are listed under the primary element which they support with related elements noted.

These strategies include the following descriptions:

- A description of the strategy itself.
- The identification of **related elements** that would also need to be considered as part of actions.
- The **expected leads and major partners** associated with carrying out the action itself that would need to be engaged as part of implementation.
- The **anticipated timeline** for the action, which outlines both when the action should occur and whether it would be an ongoing action. Note that short-term would be 0–5 years, medium-term 5–10 years, and long-term 10+ years.
- **Potential funding sources** to support the action, both internal sources to the city and funding from government, nonprofit, and private sources.

15.4.1 Land Use

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
LU-A	Identify properties inconsistently zoned for their land use designations and develop a strategy for rezoning these properties consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.		Community Development	Short-Term
LU-B	Establish methodology for tracking status of implementing activities to support the required 5-year monitoring report.	All	Community Development	Short-Term
LU-C	Establish minimum density standards of four dwelling units per acre in residential areas to discourage underdevelopment of land resulting in reduced capacity for housing	Housing	Community Development	Short-Term
LU-D	Monitor development to determine whether assumptions made in the Comprehensive Plan regarding development remain valid. Report to the Council the results of monitoring, and highlight thresholds at which departures from projected population, dwelling unit, and employment growth warrant consideration of amendments to land use designations.	Housing; Economic Development	Community Development	Short-Term / ongoing; Medium-Term
LU-E	Require Health Impact Assessments and similar equity-focused tools to guide the land use process and identify how development and infrastructure may impact overburdened or historically disadvantaged community members.	All	Community Development	Short-Term / Ongoing
LU-F	Develop a process to ensure that neighborhood amenities and public benefits provided for increased residential development address the needs of the community, particularly for low-income and disadvantaged residents	Housing	Community Development	Short-Term / Ongoing
LU-G	Conduct outreach to overburdened communities through accessible public meetings, virtual platforms, multilingual materials, and community partnerships to involve them in land use decision making and work to mitigate the negative impacts of public and private development.		Community Development	Short-Term / Ongoing
Additional Strategies				
LU-H	Coordinate with Peninsula School District and Public Works on location of new schools based on growth, available land, and essential public services.	Public Services; Essential Public Facilities; Capital Facilities	Public Works; Peninsula School District	Medium-Term / Ongoing

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
LU-I	Update the Comprehensive Plan on a regular basis to ensure it continues to reflect community values and desires as they change over time	All	Community Development	Medium-Term; Minor Revisions annually
LU-J	Monitor the provision of public services in areas of increased residential development density	Housing, Public Services, Essential Public Facilities, Capital Facilities	Public Works	Medium-Term
LU-K	Monitor and update the Urban Forest Management Plan to designate suitable open space and preservation areas.	Environment; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Public Works;	Parks, Community Development, Public Works, Puyallup Tribe	Short-Term; ongoing
LU-L	Revise urban plans and policies to incorporate strategies that support public health (e.g., non-motorized connections and infrastructure improvements, higher-density housing, etc.)	Parks; Transportation; Housing	Community Development; Parks; Transportation	Medium-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.2 The Harbor

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
HB-A	Coordinate with Pierce Transit and relevant public transit agencies to identify specific Harbor needs that can contribute to a multimodal transportation plan that meets the diverse mobility needs of its community members and contribute to equitable non-motorized travel through The Harbor, including the establishment and maintaining of paratransit and microtransit.	Transportation	Public Works; Pierce Transit	Short-Term / Ongoing
HB-B	Update the transportation plan with specific project investments within The Harbor that balances vehicular mobility with safe, accessible, and integrated non-motorized transportation to ensure equitable service levels for all users.	Transportation	Public Works	Short-Term / Ongoing
HB-C	Identify opportunities for traffic calming, improved pedestrian crossing projects, streetscapes, and sidewalk widening	Transportation	Public Works	Short-Term / Ongoing
HB-D	Update development regulations for waterfront developments to include amenities that support inclusive, accessible public space. Amenities include docks, paths, walkways, and picnic and seating areas	Land Use; Shoreline Management	Community Development	Short-Term
HB-E	Coordinate with downtown businesses, property owners, and community groups to define specific economic development goals in relation to The Harbor and provide support for local small businesses and inclusive spaces.	Economic Development	Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Short- to Medium-Term
HB-F	Develop a plan in collaboration with local Tribal partners to support and enhance the Indigenous and commercial maritime cultural heritage of The Harbor. Engage with local Tribal partners on cultural heritage projects that center Indigenous voices and include educational initiatives that raise awareness, with integration in community events.	Arts & Culture	Community Development; Local Tribal Partners	Short-Term
Additional Strategies				

Implementation Strategies	Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
HB-G Update development standards to encourage sustainable low-impact land development and building practices, as well as landscape standards that support views of the bay and usage of native vegetation	Land Use; Community Design	Community Development	Short-Term
HB-H Identify the existing publicly owned shoreline properties in The Harbor. Develop a plan to establish a system of public properties along the waterfront of The Harbor	Shoreline Management; Land Use	Community Development	Short- to Medium-Term
HB-I Update design standards and development regulations that define the character of historic neighborhoods within The Harbor and create vibrant community spaces.	Community Design	Community Development	Short- to Medium-Term
HB-J Develop an innovative parking strategy for The Harbor that supports economic development with adequate visitor and commercial parking.	Transportation; Economic Development	Public Works; Community Development	Short- to Medium-Term
HB-K Develop a plan that identifies local organizations to collaborate with to enhance The Harbor community.	Economic Development	Community Development; Local Tribal Partners	Short-Term
HB-K Install distinctive physical features, such as artwork, lighting, landmark building and monument forms, and others to produce a gateway effect in The Harbor neighborhood. Consider ways to incorporate public art and signage to celebrate its history and the community.	Community Design; Arts and Culture; Transportation	Community Development; Public Works; Gig Harbor Arts Commission	Long-Term
HB-L Update development regulations to encourage street-level commercial and retail uses	Land Use; Community Design; Transportation	Community Development; Public Works	Short-Term
HB-M Identify key improvements and features that support commercial and recreational boating and water activities at The Harbor	Community Design	Community Development	Medium-Term
HB-N Identify trail opportunities for pedestrian links to the public park system.	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space	PenMet; Public Works; Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Short-to-Medium Term
HB-O Identify and implement local business attraction, retention, and expansion strategies targeted to economic sectors that could support additional local employment.	Economic Development	Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Short- to Medium-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.3 Community Design

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
CD-A	Apply and enforce design standards to that prioritize people-oriented architectural, site, and street design that allows all community members to enjoy the space, especially marginalized groups such as low-income community members, older adults, and people with disabilities.	Land Use; Housing; Economic Development; Transportation; The Harbor	Community Development	Short-Term; Ongoing
CD-B	Coordinate with Pierce Transit and relevant agencies on identifying investments that promote pedestrian and non-motorized transportation connections and user-friendly bus stops and addressing barriers.	Transportation	Public Works; Pierce Transit	Short-Term
CD-C	Prioritize infrastructure access in neighborhoods that have underserved or low-income populations to work towards equitable access to transportation options for all community members.			
CD-D	Update commercial development regulations to incorporate outdoor common space that is accessible and welcoming to all, including those with mobility challenges.	Land Use	Community Development	Short-Term
Additional Strategies				
CD-E	Identify a list of significant vistas, view corridors and visually sensitive areas as possible designation sites for increased landscaping, including waterfront views	The Harbor; Land Use	Community Development	Short- to Medium-Term
CD-F	Identify and develop a project list and schedule to support city gateway development with formal landscaping, information kiosks, public art, or civic structures	The Harbor; Arts and Culture; Transportation	Community Development; Public Works; Gig Harbor Arts Commission	Long-Term
CD-G	Revise and update development code in areas with increasing density including changes in lot and building orientation, yard size, and setbacks, with consideration of historic development patterns.	Land Use	Community Development	Short-Term

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
CD-H	Establish a Historic Conservation Area to encourage local preservation and maintain the character of historical areas of the city.	The Harbor; Arts and Culture; Economic Development	Community Development; Historic Preservation	Medium-Term
CD-I	Consider adoption of a unifying design theme for street facilities, buildings, and public spaces to help foster a sense of neighborhood or community identity. Ensure any adopted design themes respect and reflect the history of Gig Harbor's communities and foster a welcoming and inclusive environment	Land Use; Arts and Culture; Transportation	Community Development; Public Works	Long-Term
CD-J	Identify desirable through-block linkages to increase connectivity and encourage development in partnership with private development projects or by securing access through purchase or easements.	Transportation	Community Development; Public Works	Long-Term
CD-K	Continue to monitor and refine tree retention regulations and landscaping stands to foster local natural conditions in design and the human experience, and to mitigate the impacts of climate change (e.g., urban heat)	Land Use; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Environment; Climate	Community Development; PenMet	Ongoing
CD-L	Define and establish development and design standards for the waterfront, including the preservation of historical structures. Include standards that activate the public realm of the waterfront and develop it as a center for outdoor activities.	Land Use; The Harbor; Arts & Culture; Economic Development	Community Development	Short-Term
CD-M	Identify a list of financial incentives such as low-interest loans, tax credits or grants to contribute to the preservation of structures that have historic, architectural, and/or cultural significance.	Arts & Culture; The Harbor; Economic Development	Community Development	Medium-Term
CD-N	Develop a façade and streetscape improvement program.	Arts and Culture; Transportation	Arts Commission; Public Works; Community Development	Medium-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.4 Environment

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
EN-A	Develop performance and development standards for critical areas or areas that are subject to moderate and severe environmental hazards. Develop a program to enforce these standards.	Land Use; Shoreline Management	Community Development	Medium- to Long-Term
EN-B	Update development regulations to promote clustered development patterns to preserve the development and conservation of natural open space areas.	Land Use; Parks	Community Development	Short-Term / Ongoing
EN-C	Participate in State and regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory and measurement frameworks to measure progress toward achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions.	Transportation; Land Use	Community Development; Public Works	Short-Term / Ongoing
EN-D	Implement and develop a process to periodically monitor the adopted Climate Action Plan for its alignment with community goals, progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and how it is enhancing climate resilience	Capital Facilities; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Transportation	Community Development; Public Works	Short-Term / Ongoing
EN-E	Develop a process to ensure infrastructure investments account for climate change impacts, particularly for overburdened communities and vulnerable populations. Develop strategies within the Climate Action Plan that help address these impacts and the equity and social justice implications of climate change.	Capital Facilities; Utilities	Public Works	Short-Term; Ongoing
Additional Strategies				
EN-F	Participate in interjurisdictional efforts which may be implemented from time to time concerning the natural environment. This includes consideration of environmentally sensitive areas, fish and wildlife habitat areas, fish and wildlife corridors, aquifer recharge lands, critical forestlands, unique or important open space areas, and other lands worthy of preservation within the Gig Harbor Planning Area which are deserving of public reclamation, restoration, acquisition, preservation, and inclusion within the City's open space system.	Transportation; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space	Public Works; Community Development	Short- to Medium-Term
EN-G	Update development regulations for performance standards and control zones around retention pond dams and tidal beaches.	Shoreline Management	Community Development	Medium-Term

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
EN-H	Identify and maintain wetland preservation, protection, and restoration program associated with shorelines.	Shoreline Management	Community Development; Public Works	Short-Term / Ongoing
EN-I	Adopt updated regulations for acceptable noise levels in residential developments.	Land Use	Community Development	Medium-Term
EN-J	Update commercial and residential building development regulation standards to encourage energy-efficiency improvements	Land Use	Community Development	Short- to Medium-Term
EN-K	Develop a robust outreach campaign to promote education of the causes and impacts of climate change, which would include printed and online materials and informational workshops. These materials should be accessible and available in multiple languages.	Land Use; Shoreline; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Transportation	Community Development	Short-Term
EN-L	Maintain and update maps and inventories of aspects that pertain to the natural environment, including (but not limited to) critical areas	Land Use; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Shoreline	Community Development; GIS	Medium-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.5 Housing

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
HO-A	Explore infill development incentives to facilitate investment in existing neighborhoods with vacant or under-utilized land and to promote the construction of diverse housing types at a variety of income bands.	Land Use	Community Development	Short-Term / Ongoing
HO-B	Review production trends (permitted and constructed) in related to adopted housing targets and consider revising land use regulations if production trends are below the pace needed to meet adopted housing targets, particularly in meeting the housing needs of extremely-low, very-low, and low-income community members. Submit data to Pierce County annually for preparation of annual growth monitoring reports	Land Use	Community Development	Short-Term / Ongoing;
HO-C	Annually review and reassess strategies the City can implement to address affordable housing funding gaps.		Community Development	Annually
HO-D	Update regulations to offer density bonuses or other incentives for developers to incorporate affordable housing. Ensure these affordable units are in areas with access to essential services, transit, and employment opportunities, promoting housing equity by preventing the concentration of affordable units in low-amenity areas.	Land Use	Community Development	Short-Term; Ongoing
HO-E	Apply the findings from the Displacement Risk Analysis to identify strategies that help mitigate displacement risks, particularly in areas with higher displacement risk. Create an anti-displacement plan that establishes key strategies and regular evaluation and monitoring of its effectiveness.		Community Development	Short-Term; Ongoing
HO-F	Identify and build a database of available surplus city property and in support of affordable housing development. Determine public service investment to increase the amount of city surplus property adequate for affordable housing Collaborate with other government agencies and local institutions to identify their surplus land.	Land Use; Essential Public Facilities; Utilities; Capital Facilities	Community Development; Public Works	Short-Term; Ongoing

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
HO-G	Provide clear and accessible information on the ADU permitting process, financing options, and design considerations to empower homeowners to explore ADU development opportunities.		Community Development	Short-Term
HO-H	Consider adopting a pre-approved set of ADU plans.		Community Development	Short-Term
HO-I	Explore and evaluate potential programs that incentivize market-rate and affordable housing, such as the Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption program		Community Development	Short- to Medium-Term
HO-J	Review development and zoning standards and amend to encourage more flexibility and innovative housing production to support the development of affordable housing	Land Use; Community Design	Community Development	Medium-Term
Additional Strategies				
HO-K	Explore, identify, and promote development and financial incentives related to renovation of historical structures	The Harbor; Community Design; Land Use	Community Development	Medium-Term
HO-L	Work with the Fire Department to streamline site and subdivision standards, allowing, for example, narrower roads and turn-arounds, and reduced parking requirements, to facilitate more efficient land usage and reduce land and building development costs, keeping in mind the need to maintain minimum life safety standards.	Capital Facilities	Community Development; Gig Harbor Fire; Public Works	Short- to Medium-Term
HO-M	Periodically survey housing conditions and promote housing rehabilitation in targeted areas or across the city. Develop marketing materials for interested community members that promote home upkeep, renovation, and rehabilitation to preserve naturally occurring affordable housing		Community Development; Housing, Health, and Human Services Program	Ongoing
HO-N	Program regular infrastructure maintenance for the City's residential neighborhoods	Capital Facilities	Community Development; Public Works	Ongoing
HO-O	Review small lot single family zoned areas to determine if sufficient land is available to meet a variety of household types at various income bands.	Land Use; Community Design	Community Development	Medium-Term
HO-P	Actively participate in regional efforts, such as SSHA3P, that assist in the provision of affordable housing in Gig Harbor and the South Sound region		Community Development	Ongoing

Implementation Strategies	Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
HO-Q Explore, identify, and pursue external funding sources and support housing preservation and affordable housing development programs.		Community Development	Short-Term / Ongoing

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.6 Economic Development

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
EC-A	Develop an Economic Development and Marketing strategy to guide local actions that impact business attraction, retention, and expansion. Incorporate an equity focus to ensure vulnerable and marginalized populations have access to employment opportunities in local industries.	Land Use; The Harbor; Community Development Transportation; Utilities	Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term
EC-B	Develop a commercial and industrial site inventory that identifies major sites that could accommodate local employment opportunities	Land Use	Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term / Ongoing
EC-C	Coordinate with Pierce County, public agencies, and local businesses on marketing projects to attract new businesses to Gig Harbor	Community Design; The Harbor; Arts and Culture	Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce; Pierce County	Short-Term / Ongoing
EC-D	Develop a plan that encourages and supports local business development. This would include strategies that support small business flexible financing and management assistance, identify incubator facilities or affordable commercial spaces, and streamline permitting and licensing processes		Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term / Ongoing
EC-E	Partner with Pierce County, local educational institutions, and other organizations to further develop workforce development programs tailored for underrepresented groups, such as low-income individuals. Prioritize skill development for industries that offer living wage jobs.		Community Development; Pierce County; Tacoma Community College; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Medium-Term / Long-Term
Additional Strategies				
EC-F	Maintain site-selection resources and engage with local economic development organizations on marketing efforts to help match available commercial and industrial spaces with specific needs of businesses looking to relocate or expand.	Land Use	Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term / ongoing
EC-G	Promote small business financing and management assistance and training programs		Community Development; Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce	Medium-Term

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
EC-H	Coordinate efforts with Public Works to identify sites with significant public benefits and identify necessary supporting infrastructure to accommodate additional employment	Essential Public Facilities; Capital Facilities; Utilities; Transportation	Public Works	Medium-Term / Long-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.7 Essential Public Facilities

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
EF-A	Create and maintain an inventory of current and planned “essential public facilities” that is aligned with the standards and project lists from the Washington State OFM.	Transportation; Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Short-Term / Ongoing
EF-B	Coordinate with Pierce County and neighboring jurisdictions to identify countywide essential public facilities	Transportation; Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Short-Term
EF-C	Conduct periodic assessments to ensure all city services and utilities comply with the Comprehensive Plan and effectively meet community needs.	Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Short-Term / Ongoing
EF-D	Create a site-suitability evaluation tool to support the siting of future essential facilities	Transportation; Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Short-Term
EF-E	Create and introduce a review process to regularly analyze the impacts of essential public facilities. This process should incorporate an equity lens to assess distribution of these facilities in underserved neighborhoods to ensure that marginalized communities are not overburdened by the placement of these facilities	Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Short-term
Additional Strategies				
EF-F	Regularly review the need for demand management strategies and conservation measures to address increases in service demand.	Transportation; Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Long-Term
EF-G	Periodically review the provision of urban services and utilities to the city’s Urban Growth Area (UGA) to determine if service delivery is optimal.	Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Medium-Term
EF-H	Maintain a transparent and efficient process for siting essential public facilities that considers environmental and community impacts.	Transportation; Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	
EF-I	Maintain and regularly revise the city’s Capital Improvement Program.	Transportation; Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Short-Term / Ongoing

Implementation Strategies	Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
EF-J Describe site, building, and design standards for essential public facilities to ensure compatibility with surroundings. Include an engagement process to confirm that siting does not create additional harm, particularly on overburdened communities.	Capital Facilities; Utilities; Public Services	Public Works	Medium-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.8 Utilities

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
UT-A	Maintain an inventory of utility facilities in GIs in coordination with private utility providers.	Essential Public Facilities; Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works; Long-Range Planning; private utility providers	Short-Term / Ongoing
UT-B	Maintain a comprehensive schedule to manage and update data on utility corridors and facilities with private utility providers.	Essential Public Facilities; Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works; Long-Range Planning; private utility providers	Short-Term / Ongoing
UT-C	Develop materials and engage with utility providers to ensure that the siting, placement, and planning of all utility facilities align with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. Incorporate an equity lens to ensure utility providers understand and consider the needs of low-income and historically marginalized community members, as well as the potential siting impacts for these communities.	Essential Public Facilities; Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works; private utility providers	Short-Term / Ongoing
UT-D	Maintain an integrated stormwater management program and system in compliance with national, state, and county standards.		Public Works	Short-Term; Ongoing
UT-E	Coordinate a Water System Plan for the City Water Service Area.	Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works	Short-Term; Ongoing
UT-F	Maintain a Sewer Comprehensive Plan to identify needed wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years. Identify infrastructure investment that ensures underserved neighborhoods receive necessary upgrades and that there is equitable investment in sewer services.	Essential Public Facilities; Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works	Short-Term; Ongoing
UT-G	Engage the local community, particularly those who are low-income or historically marginalized, in the siting process to ensure these facilities are fairly distributed.			
Additional Strategies				

Implementation Strategies	Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
UT-H Coordinate with Peninsula Light Company on the undergrounding of utility feeder and distribution lines to minimize community impact and ensure that is consistent with protection of public's health, safety, and wellness.	Essential Public Facilities; Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works	Moderate-Term
UT-I Update siting guidelines to improve flexible and allow for maximum solar access where practical.	Essential Public Facilities; Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works	Long-Term
UT-J Develop a utility conservation plan in partnership with private utility providers to reduce future needs for additional infrastructure and minimize demand for nonrenewable resources	Public Services; Capital Facilities; private utility providers	Public Works; private utility providers	Moderate Term
UT-K Update road standards to minimize impervious surfaces, surface water quality impacts, and the use of pavement construction materials	Transportation; Public Facilities	Public Works; Transportation	Moderate Term
UT-L Conduct a cost-benefit analysis on the use of Local Improvement Districts (LIDs) to support needed upgrades to local stormwater facilities	Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works	Moderate-Term
UT-M Update stormwater management design standards to provide environmental protection, promote efficiency, and maintain adequate storage levels	Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works	Moderate-Term
UT-N Develop a schedule plan to upgrade substandard water systems and provide sufficient fire water flows, with consideration of prioritizing access for communities with historical underinvestment.	Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works	Long-Term
UT-O Conduct an analysis on the use of reclaimed water in the City.	Public Services; Capital Facilities	Public Works	Moderate-Term
UT-P Update landscaping standards for development regulations to encourage landscaping design and irrigation systems with lower water demands.	Public Services; Capital Facilities; Land Use	Public Works;	Moderate-Term
UT-Q Develop a schedule and identify funding to plan for the capacity expansion of the wastewater treatment plant	Public Services; Capital Facilities;	Public Works	Moderate Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.9 Shoreline Management

Implementation Strategies	Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies			
SM-A Regularly update the Shoreline Master Program consistent with state requirements and any changes to best available science	All	Community Development	Medium-Term
SM-B Update development regulations in waterfront areas to require private developments to provide clear access and visibility for tenants, water users, and community members. Encourage public amenities that are consistent with a development, inclusive and accessible by all community members, and reflective of the needs and desires of community members.	Land Use; The Harbor; Community Design	Community Development	Short-Term
SM-C Review and monitor design standards to control scale, construction methods and materials, drainage patterns, site coverage and other features that impact shoreline and waterfront use. Maintain stringent standards governing the development of associated improvements (e.g., parking areas, sidewalks, stormwater facilities).	Land Use; The Harbor; Community Design; Capital Facilities; Transportation; Environment	Public Works; Transportation; Community Development	Short-Term
Additional Strategies			
SM-D Continue to develop and enhance recreation and tourism uses along Gig Harbor Bay to encourage public access and enjoyment of this resource and provide economic opportunities.	Land Use; The Harbor; Community Design; Economic Development	Community Development	Medium-Term
SM-E Review and update zoning code to support a mixed-use waterfront on Gig Harbor Bay that includes commercial uses such as commercial fishing, boating, marine shops and services, restaurants, and retail shops, as well as residential uses that are uniquely able to capitalize on the bay's appeal and associated ecosystems.	Land Use; The Harbor; Community Design; Economic Development	Community Development	Medium-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.10 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
PR-A	Regularly update the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan, and revise the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Element and related implementation strategies as needed for consistency with the plan.	All	Parks	Short-Term / Ongoing
PR-B	Acquire and develop additional parkland to serve the city's growing population and improve equitable access to facilities and recreational programming citywide. Coordinate with other agencies and non-profit recreational providers on meeting recreational needs of residents. Prioritize investment in geographically underserved areas and in historically marginalized communities.	Capital Facilities	Parks; Peninsula School District; PenMet; Pierce County	Ongoing
PR-C	Ensure recreational services are response to the community's demographics (e.g., child or senior specific programs, culturally competent programs).	Arts and Culture	Parks	Ongoing
PR-D	Develop a high-quality system of park trails and corridors to increase connectivity of the City's trail network. Include acquisition of new trails and maintenance of current trails.	Transportation	Parks	Short-Term
Additional Strategies				
PR-E	Improve existing parks to conform to ADA standards and ensure universal accessibility.		Parks	Medium-Term / Ongoing
PR-F	Clearly identify areas of programmatic responsibility between the City and other agencies that provide recreational programming to ensure there is no overlap in resource allocation or that gaps in services are not present.		Parks; Peninsula School District; PenMet; Pierce County	Ongoing
PR-G	Explore other funding mechanisms, including local funding options and federal and state grants, to support implementation of parks and recreation projects and programs		Parks; PenMet	Ongoing
PR-H	Explore other acquisition tools and methods, including direct purchase methods, landowner incentive measures, and other land protection options, to acquire parkland and protect open space.		Parks; PenMet	Short-Term; Ongoing

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
PR-I	Regularly review and update Park Impact Fee rates and methodologies to support the expansion of the parks system to meet growth in demand.		Parks; PenMet	Medium-Term
PR-J	Identify parks, structures, and spaces eligible for designation as historic places to ensure they are preserved for the future and planned for long-term preservation and maintenance by the city.	Arts & Culture	Parks; PenMet	Medium-Term; Ongoing
PR-K	Provide sufficient financial and staff resources to maintain and improve park maintenance standards, with an increase in per acre spending.		Parks; PenMet	Short- to Medium-Term; Ongoing
PR-L	Perform an annual park audit and inventory updates using GIS data as a starting point		Parks; PenMet	Short-Term; Ongoing
PR-M	Update the LOS standard for Parks to encompass four community-desired recreational components outlined in the PROS plan		PenMet; Parks	Short- to Medium-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.11 Transportation

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.12 Capital Facilities

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
CF-A	Maintain an updated inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, including the locations and capacities of such facilities.	Essential Public Facilities; Utilities; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space;	Public Works; Community Development; PenMet	Short-Term; Ongoing
CF-B	Monitor capital facilities for adherence to adopted LOS guidelines. Regularly update the needs projections and finance plan based on LOS standards and guidelines, forecasted growth in the Comprehensive Plan, and other relevant considerations.	Essential Public Facilities; Utilities; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space;	Public Works; Community Development; PenMet	Short-Term; Ongoing
CF-C	Formalize a consistent process to review and prioritize capital projects so investments are equitable across the city. Prioritize underserved areas and historically marginalized populations to avoid amassing insufficient capital facilities in vulnerable communities.	Essential Public Facilities; Utilities; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space;	Public Works; Community Development; PenMet	Short-Term;
Additional Strategies				
CF-D	Develop a plan and schedule to explore, identify, and pursue external funding sources, including public grants and private funds, to finance capital improvements	All	Public Works; Community Development; PenMet	Short-Term; Ongoing
CF-E	Coordinate with other jurisdictions and community organizations on the use of cultural and community facilities		Public Works	Medium-Term
CF-F	Coordinate to ensure public facilities are available or planned in connection with and in support of affordable housing development sites	Housing	Public Works; Community Development	Short-Term; Ongoing

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

15.4.13 Arts and Culture

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
High-Priority Strategies				
AC-A	Collaborate with the city's Direct Marketing Organization and Pierce County Tourism to determine arts and cultural priorities in the city and tourism promotion.	Economic Development	Gig Harbor Arts Commission; Pierce County Tourism; Gig Harbor Tourism and Marketing Department	Short- to Medium-Term
AC-B	Develop a plan to engage the community on arts and culture priorities. Actively involve local community organizations that represent or serve marginalized groups to ensure these priorities are reflected in the plan.	Economic Development; The Harbor; Community Design	Gig Harbor Arts Commission; Gig Harbor Tourism and Marketing Department; Community Development	Short-Term / Ongoing
AC-C	Identify current and future arts and cultural facility needs and priorities to inform new venues and spaces that are equitably located and are inviting, accessible, and accommodate all community members, especially those with mobility needs.	Land Use; Economic Development; The Harbor; Community Design	Gig Harbor Arts Commission; Community Development	Short- to Medium-Term
Additional Strategies				
AC-D	Establish a city arts fund to provide grants to local artists, ensuring funding criteria prioritizes support for artists from underrepresented communities.	Economic Development	Gig Harbor Arts Commission	Medium-Term
AC-E	Create a cohesive wayfinding and interpretive signage strategy and incorporate unique city landmarks into this system.	Community Design; The Harbor	Community Development; Gig Harbor Arts Commission; Tourism and Marketing Department	Medium-Term
AC-F	Develop selection criteria for public art that addresses the physical context, represents various cultural narratives and communities, and provides opportunities for local artists to participate, particularly for local and underrepresented artists.	The Harbor; Community Design; Economic Development	Gig Harbor Arts Commission; Community Development	Short-Term

Implementation Strategies		Related Elements	Leads / Major Partners	Anticipated Timeline
AC-G	Foster partnerships with the city, business community, arts and culture organizations, public schools and community college and develop a plan with initiatives to support arts and culture programming and education. Prioritize collaboration with organizations that serve marginalized populations and ensure the initiatives respond to those needs.	Community Design	Community Development; Gig Harbor Arts Commission; Tourism and Marketing Department; Peninsula School District; Tacoma Community College	Medium- to Long-Term
AC-H	In partnership with local entities, identify historic and cultural sites for preservation and reuse. Engage with community organizations and members that have been historically marginalized to understand which sites are significant to them.	Land Use; Community Design; The Harbor Economic Development;	Community Development; Gig Harbor Arts Commission; Tourism and Marketing Department	Medium-Term

Note: Short-term = 0–5 years; Medium-term = 5–10 years; Long-term = 10+ years. Anticipated leads, major partners, timeline, and funding sources subject to change.

Sources: City of Gig Harbor, 2024; BERK, 2024.

16 Glossary

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). A dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family housing unit, or duplex, triplex, fourplex, townhome, or other permitted housing unit. These can be “attached” which is located within or attached to the primary unit, or “detached” which consists partly or entirely of a building that is separate from the primary unit and is on the same lot.

Affordable Housing. Residential housing for households where monthly housing costs, including utilities other than telephone, do not exceed thirty percent of the monthly income of the household. Affordable housing is typically defined with respect to different income levels based on area median income, with 80% of median income (considered “low income”) typically used as the threshold for affordable rental housing.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Act is a 1990 federal law designed to prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities and guarantee equal access to jobs, transportation, public facilities, and services.

Area Median Income (AMI). The household income that is assumed to be the median for a household within an area. For the purposes of housing, this is projected by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and is assumed to represent the median income for a family household of four people. With respect to these calculations, Gig Harbor is assumed to be part of the Tacoma, WA HUD Metro Fair Market Rent Area.

Best Available Science (BAS). The most up-to-date information available for planning and development decision-making, which is defined and required by the Growth Management Act as per RCW [36.70A.172](#).

Buffer. An area contiguous with a critical area that is required for the integrity, maintenance, function, and stability of that critical area.

Capital Facilities. Capital facilities are tangible assets that have a long useful life and include city and non-city operated infrastructure, buildings, and equipment. Under WAC [365-196-415](#), at a minimum, those capital facilities to be included in an inventory and analysis are transportation, water systems, sewer systems, stormwater systems, reclaimed water facilities, schools, parks and recreation facilities, and police and fire protection facilities.

Center of Local Importance (CoLI). A Center of Local Importance is designated to identify a local center or activity node that is consistent with regional and local planning. Such an area is intended to promote compact, pedestrian-oriented development with a mix of uses, proximity to diverse services, and a variety of appropriate housing options, or are otherwise located in an established industrial area.

Climate Adaptation. Actions taken to adapt to unavoidable impacts because of climate change.

Climate Change. The change in global and regional climate patterns apparent from the mid- to late-twentieth century onward and attributed to increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide from the use of fossil fuels.

Climate Resilience. The ongoing process of anticipating, preparing for, and adapting to changes in climate and minimizing negative impacts to our natural systems, infrastructure, and communities.

Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Comprehensive Plan, or Plan. A generalized coordinated land use policy statement of the governing body of a county or city that is adopted pursuant to Chapter [36.70A](#) RCW.

Concurrency. A state planning requirement to ensure that needed services and facilities are in place by the time development is completed and to be occupied, or that funding has been committed to provide such services within 6 years, as per RCW [36.70A.070](#)(6)(b) and WAC [365-196-840](#).

Consistency. A measure of whether any feature of the Comprehensive Plan or a regulation is incompatible with any other feature or a plan or a regulation. The Growth Management Act addresses consistency in three ways: (1) internal consistency of comprehensive plans, (2) consistency of zoning and regulations with the comprehensive plan, and (3) consistency with other jurisdictions.

Cost Burden. A measure of the percent of household income spent on housing and housing-related expenditures. Households that spend more than 30% of their gross income on housing, including utilities, are considered “cost-burdened”, while households spending more than 50% of their gross income are considered “severely cost-burdened”.

Cottage Housing. Detached residential units on a lot with a common open space that either: (a) is owned in common; or (b) has units owned as condominium units with property owned in common and a minimum of 20% of the lot size as open space.

Cottage. A detached, primary dwelling unit with a footprint of 1,000 square feet or less.

Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs). Under the Growth Management Act, counties and cities are required to collaboratively develop countywide planning policies to set the general framework for coordinated land use and population planning under RCW [36.70A.210](#).

Courtyard Housing. Up to eight attached dwelling units arranged on two or three sides of a yard or a court.

Covered Employment. Employment covered under state unemployment insurance which is identified as part of labor statistics in the state. Covered employment does not typically include self-employed workers, proprietors, and other non-insured workers.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). An ordinance provided under city code to protect the functions and values of ecologically sensitive areas while allowing for reasonable use of private property, through the application of best available science; implement the GMA and the natural environment goals of the Comprehensive Plan; and protect the public from injury and loss due to slope failures, erosion, seismic events, volcanic eruptions, or flooding.

Critical Areas. Areas and ecosystems that require protection of resources important to the natural environment, wildlife habitats, and sources of fresh drinking water. Under RCW [36.70A.030](#)(6), there are five types of critical areas: (a) wetlands; (b) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; (c) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; (d) frequently flooded areas; and (e) geologically hazardous areas.

Density. A measure of the intensity of residential development, usually expressed as the number of people, jobs, or housing units per acre.

Development Regulation. Controls placed on the development or land use activities including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances, critical areas ordinances, shoreline master programs, official controls, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances.

Displacement. The relocation of current residents or businesses from their current location due to external factors. Displacement can be physical (e.g., the demolition or removal of a housing unit), economic (e.g., relocation due to rising rents), and/or cultural (e.g., ongoing displacement in a local cultural community hastened due to fewer social connections).

Duplex. Two primary attached dwelling units on a lot in any configuration intended for two separate households. Note that a single-family dwelling unit with an attached or detached accessory dwelling unit is not a duplex.

Dwelling Unit. One or more rooms located within a structure, designed, arranged, occupied, or intended to be occupied by one or more persons as living accommodations.

Easement. A grant by the property owner to the public, a corporation, or persons, of the use of land for a specific purpose and on or over which the owner will not erect any permanent improvements which serve to interfere with the free exercise of that right.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A document that identifies potential environmental impacts of a proposed project or action, as required under the State Environmental Protection Act. This can include potential impacts on earth, water resources, plants and animals, land use patterns and environmental justice, plans and policies, population and employment, housing, aesthetics, cultural and historic resources, transportation, public services, and utilities.

Essential Public Facility. Capital facilities of a countywide or statewide nature which have characteristics that make them extremely difficult to site. Essential public facilities include, but are not limited to, sewage treatment plants, reservoirs, electrical substations and transmission lines, local airport and port facilities, landfills and solid waste transfer stations, senior high schools, community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, correctional institutions, special population diagnostic or treatment facilities, opioid treatment programs (including both mobile and fixed-site medication units), recovery residences, harm reduction programs (excluding safe injection sites), and inpatient facilities (including substance use disorder treatment facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, community facilities, and secure community transition facilities), stormwater retention or detention facilities serving large drainage basins, and major transit facilities.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR). A measure of development intensity calculated as the gross building area of qualifying improvements on a site divided by the net area of a parcel of property. This is typically expressed as a decimal (not as a percentage).

Fourplex. A building consisting of four primary attached dwelling units intended for four separate households on a lot in any configuration.

Frequently Flooded Areas. Lands in the floodplain subject to a 1% or greater chance of flooding in any given year. These areas could include, but are not limited to, streams, lakes, wetlands and their associated floodplains, flood fringes or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodway. A flood hazard area consists of the floodplain, flood fringe, and FEMA floodway.

Future Land Use. Policy designations in the Comprehensive Plan that describe use types, densities, and intensities allowed in different areas of the city.

Future Land Use Map (FLUM). A required component of the Comprehensive Plan that shows the proposed physical distribution and location of the various land uses during the planning period.

Geologically Hazardous Areas. Areas that may not be suited to development consistent with public health, safety, or environmental standards, because of their susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events. Types of geologically hazardous areas include erosion, landslides, and seismic hazards.

Goal. A broad, general statement of the community's desired long-term future state. Goals indicate what ought to exist in the community or what is desired to be achieved in the future.

Growth Management Act (GMA). The 1990 State Growth Management Act (Chapter [36.70A](#) RCW), as amended. This statute provides the basis for much of the urban planning in the state of Washington and includes requirements for comprehensive planning for communities.

Habitat. The place or type of site where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.

High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV). A motor vehicle with two or more people traveling in it. This may include carpools, vanpools, and transit.

Household. A group of people, related or unrelated, living within the same housing unit. This can include a person living alone, a family, or roommates.

Impervious Surface. A surface that cannot be easily penetrated by water, such as buildings or concrete paving.

Income-Restricted Housing or Rent-Restricted Housing. Housing units subject to a regulatory agreement, covenant, or other legal document on the property title requiring them to be available to households that can document their incomes as being at or below a set income limit and are offered for rent or sale at below-market rates.

Infill Development. Projects that build new structures on vacant or underutilized land in areas that were previously developed, typically without demolishing existing structures.

Infrastructure. Public and private physical assets that provide services necessary to support existing and future development, such as roads, public buildings, schools, parks, transportation, water, sewer, surface water and communication systems.

Level of Service (LOS). A measure of the performance of a public facility in providing necessary functions to meet public needs and expectations.

Location Quotient. The ratio of the proportion of local employment in a sector to the proportion of regional employment in the sector.

Major Transit Stop. A stop on a high-capacity transportation system such as commuter rail stops, stops on rail or fixed guideway systems, and stops on bus rapid transit routes.

Manufactured Home. A structure designed and constructed to be transportable in one or more sections and built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities that include plumbing, heating, and electrical systems contained therein.

Manufactured Housing Community. A site divided into two or more manufactured home lots for sale or lease and intended for permanent residential use.

Market-Rate Housing. Housing which is bought, sold, and/or rented in the open market with no restrictions on the purchase price or rent charged.

Middle Housing. Buildings that are compatible in scale and, form, and character with single-family detached houses and contain two or more attached, stacked, or clustered homes including duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhouses, courtyard apartments, and cottage housing.

Mixed Use Development. A project that combines more than one general category use on a site, such as residential, office, or retail. This can include “vertical” mixed-use where these uses are found in the same structure, or “horizontal” mixed-use where different uses are found in adjacent buildings on the same site.

Mode Split. The proportion of trips that use different modes of transportation.

Mode. A particular category of travel, such as walking, bicycling, driving alone, carpool/vanpool, bus/transit, ferry, or airplane.

Municipal Code or the **Gig Harbor Municipal Code (GHMC).** The local law of the municipal corporation of Gig Harbor, duly enacted by the proper authorities, prescribing general, uniform, and permanent rules of conduct relating to the corporate affairs of the municipality.

Multicounty Planning Policy (MPP). An official statement adopted in VISION 2050 to provide guidance for regional decision-making, as well as a common framework for countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plans.

Multifamily Housing or **Apartment.** A structure containing five or more attached dwelling units located on a lot.

Multimodal. Issues or activities which involve or affect more than one mode of transportation, such as transportation connections, choices, cooperation, and coordination of various modes.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). A federal permit program created in 1972 by the Clean Water Act which addresses water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the US.

Nonconforming Use. The use of a land or structure which was lawful when established but no longer conforms to current regulations. Typically, nonconforming uses are permitted to continue, subject to certain restrictions.

Nonmotorized Transportation. Any mode of transportation that utilizes a power source other than a motor, such as bicycling or walking.

Nonpoint Source Pollution. Pollution that enters water from dispersed and uncontrolled sources (such as surface runoff) rather than through pipes.

On-Street Parking. Parking provided within the public right-of-way of a street.

Open Space. A parcel or area of land that is unimproved and devoted to the preservation of natural resources, the managed production of resources, and/or passive or low-impact recreation.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). Subsidized, leased housing with no limit on length of stay intended for people who need comprehensive support services to retain tenancy and admissions practices that can lower barriers to entry related to rental history, criminal history, and personal behaviors. Permanent supportive housing is paired with off-site voluntary services for behavioral health and physical health conditions intended to help residents retain their housing and be a successful tenant in a housing arrangement, improve their health status, and connect them with community-based health care, treatment, or employment services.

Planned Action. A planned action is a development project whose impacts have been addressed by an Environmental Impact Statement associated with a plan for a specific geographic area before individual projects are proposed. Such up-front analysis of impacts and mitigation measures then facilitates environmental review of subsequent individual development projects.

Planning Period. The 20-year period following the adoption of a comprehensive plan, or such longer period as may have been selected as the initial planning horizon by the planning jurisdiction.

Plex. A building that consists of two to six primary attached dwelling units intended for separate households on a lot in any configuration.

Point Source Pollution. A source of pollutants from a single, identifiable point of conveyance such as a pipe. For example, the discharge pipe from a sewage treatment plant is a point source.

Policy. A principle, protocol, or proposal for action that supports a related goal. Policies are decision-oriented statements that guide the legislative or administrative body while evaluating a new project or proposed change in ordinance.

Public Facilities and Services. Facilities, infrastructure, and services that provide a specific public benefit, including sanitary and storm sewer systems, water supply, energy, public safety, and emergency services, schools, libraries, and other facilities. These facilities and services are provided by governments, contracted for or by governments, or provided by private entities subject to public service obligation.

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). The PSRC is a regional planning and decision-making body for growth and transportation issues in King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Under federal

transportation law, the Council is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for regional transportation planning and programming of federal transportation funds in the four counties. It is also the designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the four counties. PSRC manages the adopted regional growth strategy, VISION 2050 (see below).

Redevelopable Land. Non-vacant parcels currently in use with structures and improvements on the site, but not considered to be at their “highest and best use”. These sites are potential locations for new projects where existing improvements on the site are demolished and new buildings and improvements can be constructed.

Regional Growth Strategy. The approach for distributing population and employment growth within the four-county central Puget Sound region included as part of VISION 2050.

Regulation. A rule or directive found in city ordinances or the municipal code that meets the public interest and need and supports the community’s framework vision, guiding principles, and goals and policies.

Right-of-Way. The right-of-way is the right to pass over the property of another. It refers to a strip of land legally established for the use of pedestrians, vehicles, or utilities.

Shoreline Master Program (SMP). Local land use policies and regulations that guide the public and private use of Washington shorelines under the State Shoreline Management Act (Chapter [90.58](#) RCW).

Single-Occupancy Vehicle (SOV). A motor vehicle occupied only by a driver.

Single-Family Attached Housing. A primary dwelling unit designed for occupancy by one household located on a lot and sharing at least one wall with another attached dwelling unit.

Single-Family Detached Housing. A primary dwelling unit designed for occupancy by one household located on a lot and not sharing any walls with other primary dwelling units.

Special Needs Housing. Housing that is provided for persons, and their dependents who, by virtue of disability or other personal factors, face serious impediments to independent living and who require special assistance and services in their residence. Special needs housing may be permanent, long term or transitional basis.

Species of Local Importance. Those species of local concern due to their population status or their sensitivity to habitat manipulation, or that are game species.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The State Environmental Policy Act, or Chapter [43.21C](#) RCW, is the state law passed in 1971 requiring State and local agencies to consider environmental impacts in the decision-making process.

Stormwater. Water that falls as rain and flows across the ground, which is typically directed to drains in an urban area to collect the water and eventually direct it to streams, lakes, or other large water bodies.

Streetscape. The physical and aesthetic characteristics of a street, including elements such as structures, access, greenery, open space, view, lighting, etc.

Townhouse. One of multiple attached primary dwelling units that extend from foundation to roof and that have a yard or public way on not less than two sides.

Transit. Motorized public transportation, including public bus, bus rapid transit, and commuter rail.

Tree Canopy. The layer of leaves, branches, and stems that provide tree coverage of the ground when viewed from above. See also urban forest.

Transitional Housing (TH). A facility that provides housing and supportive services for up to two years to individuals or families experiencing homelessness to enable them to move into independent living and permanent housing.

Transition Plan. A plan under the ADA that is required under [28 CFR 35.150](#) to outline the steps necessary to make city facilities more accessible and provide a schedule for compliance under the ADA.

Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ). A unit of geography that is typically used for transportation and utility modeling.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM). A program used to maximize travel choices for people and encourage a more efficient use of transportation systems. These strategies are meant to reduce congestion, ease traffic, and improve the range of transportation options available by encouraging carpooling, biking, public transit, or telecommuting.

Trip Generation. The number of trips made to and from each type of land use by day. Trip generation provides the linkage between land use and travel.

Trip. A one-direction movement which begins at an origin and ends at a destination, which is the typical unit of transportation planning.

Triplex. A building consisting of three primary attached dwelling units on a lot in any configuration intended for three separate households.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The federal agency responsible for housing programs. HUD sets income limits for metropolitan areas and counties across the country that determine eligibility for income-restricted housing units.

Undevelopable Land. Land unsuitable for development due to site conditions and not considered as part of the inventory of development capacity in the city.

Urban Growth Area (UGA). An unincorporated area designated under the Growth Management Act to accommodate projected growth over the next 20 years. A UGA may include areas that are provided urban services, such as sanitary sewer and water.

Urban Growth. Growth that makes intensive use of land for the location of buildings, structures, and impermeable surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the primary use of land for the production of food, other agricultural products, or fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources, rural uses, rural development, and natural resource lands designated pursuant to RCW [36.70A.170](#). When allowed to spread over wide areas, urban growth typically requires urban governmental services. "Characterized by

urban growth" refers to land having urban growth located on it, or to land located in relationship to an area with urban growth on it as to be appropriate for urban growth.

Urban Forest. The trees and associated understory plants existing in the city, extending across public property, private property, and the right of way including parks and natural areas, as well as the trees along streets and in yards.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). A measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles for a specified period. For transit, the number of vehicle miles operated on a given route, line, or network during a specified period.

VISION 2050. The long-range growth management, environmental, economic, and transportation strategy for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties. It was adopted by the Puget Sound Regional Council in October 2020 and is endorsed by more than 100 member cities, counties, ports, state and local transportation agencies, and Tribal governments within the region.

Watershed. All the land and water that drains toward a particular river, stream, or other body of water. A watershed includes hills, lowlands, and the body of water into which the land drains.

Wetlands. Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas to mitigate the conversion of wetlands if permitted by the city.

Zoning Overlay. Areas that are subject both to underlying regulations from a zoning district and additional requirements imposed by an overlay district. The overlay district provisions apply if they conflict with the provisions of the underlying zone.

Zoning. A category of land use regulations that manage the use and development of land for distinct, identified areas.

4 Community Design

4.1 Introduction

Designing a Vibrant Community

The way our community looks and feels affects how we experience it and interact with each other. Good design invites us to engage, sparks curiosity, and fosters connections. Unfortunately, recent development trends have prioritized private spaces over communal ones, leading to a lack of character and community spirit.

The Importance of Community Design

When design is neglected, city planning becomes a piecemeal process, overlooking how developments fit together and impacts the community. This can result in:

- Towns without central gathering spaces
- Downtowns without vitality
- Cities without unique identities
- Communities without a sense of belonging

Gig Harbor's Strengths and Opportunities

Luckily, Gig Harbor has retained much of its small-town charm. In 1992, we asked citizens what they loved about our community and what they'd like to change. They valued our town's scale, historic architecture, and natural beauty. We've adopted goals and policies to ensure future development will enhance these qualities.

Guidance for Community Design

The following goals and policies serve as guidelines for development, aiming to preserve and enhance Gig Harbor's character. While specific guidelines and zoning code updates will follow, these goals and policies will help shape our community's future:

4.2 Goals and Policies

CD-1 Strengthen connectivity between people and places

- CD-1.1 Require new commercial development to incorporate outdoor people-oriented common spaces for public use.
- CD-1.2 Design and encourage new commercial and residential development by creatively

- CD-2 Provide for pedestrian and non-motorized transportation connections in the city.**
- CD-1.6 **Promote the use of windows, glass facades, or other transparent materials, on the exterior of buildings, particularly on street-level frontages to facilitate visibility, and enhance the connection between exterior and interior activities.**
 - CD-1.7 **Encourage outdoor vending in common areas to provide color, activity, and a sense of vibrancy to commercial areas.**
 - CD-1.8 **Provide for displays of public art and space for temporary uses as part of common areas.**
 - CD-2 Provide for pedestrian and non-motorized transportation connections in the city.**
 - CD-2.1 **Mandate wherever possible** connections between new developments and existing uses with connecting paths and sidewalks.
 - CD-2.2 **Promote pedestrian access through corridors and gateways that address barriers to movement.**
 - CD-2.3 **Minimize impervious areas designed exclusively for motor vehicles.**

CD-2.4	Coordinate with Pierce Transit on providing user-friendly bus stops in the city with regular service, supporting amenities, and consistent wayfinding.
CD-2.5	Develop a master trails plan for the City to support a pedestrian and non-motorized transportation network between recreational, commercial, and residential areas.
CD-3	Enhance the local sense of place by maintaining and enhancing historically significant structures, views, and cultural resources.
CD-3.1	Identify significant vistas, view corridors, and view termination points.
CD-3.2	Preserve the visual quality of corner lots and view terminal points by discouraging asphalt-intensive uses on these parcels without screening or landscaping.
CD-3.3	Designate visually sensitive areas for highly visible or prominent sites that would require increased landscaping and screening of visually distracting.
CD-3.4	Encourage larger areas of greenery to provide a greater visual impact.
CD-3.5	Explore the implementation of Dark Sky standards to reduce light pollution, preserve night sky visibility, and enhance views of natural features by promoting appropriate lighting designs that minimize glare and protect scenic vistas.
CD-4	Encourage a sense of arrival into the city and specific neighborhoods.
CD-4.1	Develop city gateways with formal landscaping, information kiosks, public art or civic structures at intersections near freeway off-ramps and arterials entering the city.
CD-4.2	Identify and develop gateways for neighborhoods to distinguish and highlight these areas with elements such as signage, landscaping, public art and architectural elements designed to reflect the distinct characteristics of the surrounding neighborhood.
CD-4.3	Encourage collaboration with local resident, businesses and stakeholders in the design process to ensure gateways are representative of the neighborhood's identity and values.
CD-4.4	Ensure that gateway designs facilitate clear wayfinding, directing visitors to key destinations while reinforcing the neighborhoods unique identity.
CD-4.5	Limit freeway exposure and visibility of development and encourage Washington Department of Transportation to plant trees as a visual buffer along SR 16
CD-5	Promote architectural styles that reflect the city's historical and natural context and human-scale design.
CD-5.1	Encourage pitched, varied roof lines for new structures and discourage boxy, single-mass buildings in lower-density neighborhoods.
CD-5.2	Encourage building designs with a visual and functional distinction between the ground floor and higher levels.
CD-5.3	Encourage mixed-use structures that provide good form, neighborhood character, and public benefits.

CD-5.4 Promote the use of primary structures as focal points on a site through distinctive design and higher building heights, [where appropriate](#).

CD-5.5 Review the Gig Harbor Design Manual and update to distinguish between designs that are appropriate for low-density neighborhoods versus high-density or commercial areas.

CD-5.6 Ensure that design standards encompass higher density construction while preserving neighborhood compatibility.

 **CD-6 Encourage distinctive building and site designs to distinguish and enhance neighborhoods.**
CD-6.1 Develop [community-based](#) neighborhood design standards and guidelines that reflect the existing characteristics of these neighborhoods and enhance local neighborhood quality.

CD-6.2 Consider the following individual neighborhood design areas for detailed design standards or guidelines, as designated on the Neighborhood Design Areas Map: Revise the map and/or nomenclature?

a) View Basin. (*Millville, Finholm, Downtown Core distinctive*)

b) Soundview.

c) Gig Harbor North.

d) Peacock Hill.

e) Rosedale/Hunt.

f) Westside.

g) Bujacich Road / NW Industrial.

CD-6.3 Consider the following elements as part of neighborhood design standards and guidelines:

a) Natural Vegetation and Topography

b) Trails, Parks and Open Space

c) Sidewalks and Circulation

d) Parking and Building Orientation

e) Historical Buildings and Uses

f) Building to Building Relationships

g) Housing Patterns

h) Architectural Quality and Character

i) Site Amenities

CD-7 Maintain and incorporate local natural conditions into design.

CD-7.1 Incorporate existing vegetation into new residential developments and encourage site designs that preserve *native* vegetation currently on the site.

CD-7.2 Retain high-quality native trees and *ground layer vegetation*

where feasible.

CD-7.3 Encourage native and *drought resistant* plantings.

CD-7.4 Provide for buffers and clustered open spaces that are consistent with the scale of development and needs for screening.

CD-7.5 Encourage property owners to preserve native forest communities and tree canopies and maintain the health of trees and vegetation on their land.

- CD-7.6** Maximize opportunities for creating usable, attractive, and well-integrated open space in new developments.
- CD-7.7** Respect existing topography and minimize visual impacts of site grading.
- CD-8 Residential developments should be designed to support and enhance local quality of life in Gig Harbor.**
- CD-8.1** Provide for the parking necessary for residents and visitors while minimizing impacts to safety, aesthetics, and the environment.
- CD-8.2** Consider changes to lot and building orientation, yard size, and setbacks in areas with increasing residential density to support existing character and maintain high quality in the local built environment.
- CD-8.3** Encourage sustainable land development and building practices in new residential projects.
- CD-9 Preserve views to the waterfront.**
- CD-9.1** Identify associated visual points of interest and their point of reference from prominent public places and from individual parcels.
- CD-9.2** Incorporate points of interest associated with waterfront views into building and landscape design.
- CD-10 Establish design standards for the waterfront to ensure compatible land uses, architecture, and neighborhood design.**
- CD-10.1** Preserve historical structures along the waterfront related to the city's rich history in the fishing industry.
- CD-10.2** Encourage modern interpretations of historical building designs in new construction.
- CD-10.3** Ensure compatibility in form and scale with historical structures and landmarks along the waterfront.
- CD-10.4** Encourage building materials that complement Gig Harbor's historical structures.
- CD-11 Develop the waterfront as a place of outdoor activity.**
- CD-11.1** Encourage outdoor activities along the commercial waterfront zones with outdoor dining locations, play areas, spaces for civic events, and other public space [for persons of all abilities](#).
- CD-11.2** Develop public art displays at the waterfront.
- CD-11.3** Design protective features to improve the comfort of outdoor public spaces and allow them to be used year-round.

CD-11.4 Minimize asphalt coverage and hard surfaces along waterfront, especially with respect to parking.

CD-11.5 Use treatments and materials such as colored, textured or grass-block pavers to break up hard surfaces along the waterfront.

CD-11.6 Encourage human-scale development with ground-level uses and designs that complement the streetscape.

CD-11.7 Explore ways of enhancing public access to the shoreline and promoting the existing public viewing areas.

CD-12 Preserve structures with important historical, architectural, and/or cultural significance.

CD-12.1 Encourage retention and adaptive reuse of older buildings with development incentives.

CD-12.2 Explore the availability and use of financial incentives such as low-interest loans, tax credits or grants for historical preservation and possible public/private partnerships.

CD-12.3 Provide public education and guidance to support historical preservation and restoration projects.

CD-12.4 Recognize outstanding preservation efforts through public awareness programs.

CD-13 Preserve neighborhood character in areas that include building styles reflective of historical development.

CD-13.1 Establish a Historic Conservation Area to encourage local preservation and maintain the character of historical areas of the city.

CD-13.2 Provide design assistance for restoration, renovation or expansion of historic structures.

CD-13.3 Incorporate considerations of historical preservation and reuse into administrative design review processes.

CD-13.4 Minimize impacts of city projects on the integrity and use of historical structures and neighborhoods.

CD-13.5 Partner with Historic Preservation Commission and History Museum to provide public education and guidance to support historical preservation and restoration projects.

CD-14 Consider historical preservation and reuse in the development of zoning regulations.

CD-14.1 Adopt setback standards which reflect historic development patterns.

CD-14.2 Allow housing clusters consistent with historical densities.

CD-14.3 Encourage building forms, designs, and materials that are consistent with historical buildings.

CD-14.4 Retain desirable design characteristics of historical districts.

- CD-14.5 Provide parking design standards to address needs while avoiding significant aesthetic and environmental impacts.
- CD-14.6. Explore the use of facade and/or streetscape improvement programs.



**Minutes for Gig Harbor Planning Commission
Open Public Hearing
Gig Harbor Civic Center
Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.**

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Krawczyk called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners Martin, Nasseh, Snodgrass, Tessicini and Burcar (virtually at 5:40) were present. Commissioner Jordan was excused
Staff: Interim Community Development Director, Jeff Wilson; Principal Planner, Robin Bolster-Grant; Public Works Director, Jeff Langhelm, PE; City Engineer, Aaron Hulst, PE and Planning Technician, Michelle Thomas

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Move to approve minutes from November 7, 2024 (Tessicini/Snodgrass)
Vote: Unanimously approved

Agenda Items for Formal Review:

Proposed Amendment PL-COMP-23-0002 MP 12, Inc. Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Amendment Principal Planner, Robin Bolster-Grant & Jeff Langhelm, Public Works Director introduced the amendment.
Carl Halsan Representative for the Property Owner and the Property Owner Mike Paul provided additional details on the project. Commission and Staff discussion.

2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Principal Planner, Robin Bolster-Grant introduced of BERK Consultants Ferdouse Oneza and Andrew Bjorn and Comprehensive Plan introduction.

Public Comments:

Michael Shipman, Gig Harbor Resident
Linda Foster, Gig Harbor Resident
Lita Dawn Stanton, Non-Resident
Linda Pitcher, Gig Harbor Resident
Vicky Alsaker for Gig Harbor Junior Sailing, Gig Harbor Resident
Jim Franich, Gig Harbor Resident
Guy Hoppen, Gig Harbor Resident
John Dentler, Gig Harbor Resident
John McMillan, Gig Harbor Resident
Lisa Embick on behalf of Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Racing Team
Jean Hartmann, Gig Harbor property Owner
Jason Shilley, not provided via phone
Lynn Stevenson

Staff and Commission review of Comprehensive Plan Draft changes and discussion.

Motion: The Planning Commission recommends approval of the 2044 Comprehensive Plan. (Martin/Tessicini)

Amended: Revise that motion to include the revised element for Community Design element to that was introduced this evening, and it's more complete form. (Snodgrass)

Vote: Unanimously approved

Motion: The city of Gig Harbor Planning Commission, recommend the City Council consider the addition of the Historic Preservation as part of a future Comprehensive Plan amendment. (Martin/Snodgrass)

Vote: Unanimously approved

Motion: The city of Gig Harbor Planning Commission recommend denial of application PL-COMP-23-0002, a privately initiated amendment to the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan based on the Public Works Staff Memo, and further recommend that Public Works present to Council an amendment to the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan that better defines the technical review process. (Snodgrass/Martin)

Vote: Unanimously approved

Other Business

City Council will be inviting the Commission to thank them for their work on the Comprehensive Plan. Robin announced her resignation and thanked the Commission for all their hard work on the Comprehensive Plan. Next meeting January 2025.

Adjournment 8:50

Michelle Thomas
Planning Technician



**City of Gig Harbor
City Council Agenda Bill**

Meeting Date: December 5, 2024

SUBJECT: SB 5290 Implementation Recommendations

SUBMITTED BY: Interim Community Development Director Jeff Wilson

DEPARTMENT: Community Development

PHONE: (253) 530-7073

SUGGESTED MOTION: None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The purpose of this discussion is to present recommended timelines for permit processing that are tailored to the specific needs of the City of Gig Harbor. These recommendations aim to address exceptions and exclusions from the state-mandated procession time limits established under SB 5290.

The current permit processing requirements, at a high level, specify a maximum processing time of 120 days (city review only) for all land use permits, with no penalties for failure to meet the established timeline.

During the 2023 legislative session, Senate Bill 5290 (background attached) was enacted, introducing more defined permit processing timelines and penalties for non-compliance. Under this bill, permit processing timeframes (limited to city review) were specified as follows: a 60-day processing period for administrative permits; a 100-day period for permits requiring public notice; and a 170-day period for permits requiring a public hearing. Additionally, the bill allows local governments to establish alternative timelines, exceptions, or exclusions to these processing times, provided they are adopted through an ordinance or resolution before the end of 2024.

We have identified specific exceptions and exclusions to the permit timelines related to steps in the permitting process that are outside our local control. We will present these for your consideration.

We will also bring forward after the first of the year a policy statement related to permit processing which, if adopted, would absolve the city of potential refunding of permit fees if permit review deadlines were not met.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. MRSC - 2023 Legislative Updates to Modernize and Streamline Local Project Review

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY: Strategic Plan Priority 3 - Maintain small town character and historic preservation while growing responsibly

2023 Legislative Updates to Modernize and Streamline Local Project Review

September 5, 2023 by [Jill Dvorkin](#)

Category: [Land Use Administration](#), [New Legislation and Regulations](#)



[SB 5290](#) amends the Local Project Review Act, [Chapter 36.70B RCW](#), with the intent to increase the timeliness and predictability of local project review. The bill also establishes grant and technical assistance programs, which will be administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce), to assist local governments in obtaining the capacity needed for timely permit processing.

The project review provisions in the Local Project Review Act apply to local governments planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) pursuant to [RCW 36.70A.040](#); However, non-GMA planning jurisdictions may choose to incorporate these provisions into their local procedures (see [RCW 36.70B.150](#)).

Amendments to [Chapter 36.70B](#) are several and include updated local permit review timelines, clarifications regarding the determination of completeness process, a new exemption from site plan review for certain interior projects that contain no exterior alterations, updated annual reporting requirements related to permit issuance, and provisions requiring partial permit fee refunds for failure to timely process permit applications, among other things. (A reminder that MRSC blogs on new legislation are summaries and we highly recommend consulting with your agency's attorney for a full review and agency-specific interpretation.)

All sections became effective as of July 23, 2023, except for the provisions in Section 7, which include the new permit review timelines and annual reporting requirements. That section is effective as of January 1, 2025.

Below is a summary of some of the major changes included in the amended law.

New Permit Review Timelines

There are new permit review timelines for project permit applications submitted to GMA-planning jurisdictions after January 1, 2025 (see [RCW 36.70B.080](#)):

- For projects that do not require public notice under [RCW 36.70B.110](#), the final decision must be issued within 65 days of the determination of completeness under [RCW 36.70B.070](#).
- For projects that do require public notice under [RCW 36.70B.110](#), the final decision must be issued within 100 days of the determination of completeness under [RCW 36.70B.070](#).
- For project permits which require both notice under [RCW 36.70B.110](#) and a public hearing, the final decision must be issued within 170 days of the determination of completeness under [RCW 36.70B.070](#).

The above timelines can be altered by local ordinance to address consolidated review time periods or to accommodate larger projects and other differentiating factors. The “shot clock” — or time limit on application review — starts with the determination of complete application and must include every calendar day (not just business days). Certain actions will stop the clock, such as a request by the applicant to temporarily suspend project review as well as the time during which a jurisdiction is waiting for additional information from the applicant. If an applicant does not provide requested

information within a specified time, additional time can be added to the shot clock.

Failure to adhere to the established permit review timelines results in a requirement for a local government to refund an applicant's permit fees on a pro-rated basis — up to a 20% refund depending on the length of the delay. If cities and counties have implemented at least three optional measures intended to streamline project review set forth in [RCW 36.70B.160](#)(1), then these permit fee refund provisions do not apply. There are 10 optional measures that local governments are encouraged to adopt (e.g., entering into an interlocal agreement with another jurisdiction to share permitting staff and resources, and only requiring public hearings for projects when state law requires a public hearing).

Adoption of an ordinance amending timelines consistent with the new provisions will not be subject to appeal to the Growth Management Hearings Board, unless a jurisdiction chooses to adopt time periods for review that are different than those listed in the statute and exceed 170 days.

Revised Annual Reporting Requirements for Certain Jurisdictions

Counties subject to [RCW 36.70A.215](#) (i.e., the buildable lands program) and cities within those counties with a population of at least 20,000 must post annual reports to their websites and submit these reports annually to Commerce by March 1. These reports must include the number of permits issued by type, length of processing decisions, and several other metrics as set forth in amended [RCW 36.70B.080](#). This reporting requirement begins March 1, 2025.

Exemptions from Site Plan Review

Projects with only interior alterations must be exempt from site plan review provided no new sleeping quarters or bedrooms are added and certain other thresholds are not exceeded. See [RCW 35.70B.140](#)(3). This section was effective as of July 2023.

Commerce Grant Programs and Technical Assistance

[SB 5290](#) also places new responsibilities on Commerce to assist and support local governments in their efforts to speed up local permit review, including offering specialized grant programs.

Consolidated permit review grant program

Commerce will offer grants to local governments that commit to certain building permit review consolidation requirements. These include:

- A commitment to issue residential permit applications within 45 business days or 90 calendar days;
- Establishment of an application fee structure that allows for timely consolidated permit review; and
- Completion of a quarterly report to Commerce that includes the maximum and average time for permit review during participation in the program, among other requirements.

Digital permitting grant program

Commerce will offer grants to local governments to update software systems that enable an agency to process electronic permit applications and conduct virtual inspections. Grants will only be provided to a city if the city allows for development of at least two units per lot on all lots zoned predominantly for residential use.

Here are additional items, unrelated to funding, that [SB 5290](#) directs Commerce to do:

- Convene a digital permitting process workgroup consisting of stakeholders, including Association of Washington Cities, Washington State Association of Counties, cities, counties, building groups, and building inspectors. This group must provide a final report to the state legislature by August 1, 2024, that makes recommendations intended to encourage streamlined and efficient permit review, including consideration of the costs and benefits of implementing a statewide permitting software system.
- Provide technical assistance and guidance to counties and cities in setting fee structures that are reasonable and sufficient to recover true costs.
- Develop a template for annual report submissions required under [RCW 36.70B.080](#).
- Develop a plan to help local governments find appropriately trained staff for temporary support to enable timely processing of residential housing permit applications. This plan is to be submitted to the state legislature by December 1, 2023.

Conclusion

The amendments in [SB 5290](#) are intended to modernize and streamline local project review — one of several bills addressing land use and planning passed last legislative session. For summaries of other planning, housing, environment, and climate-related legislation from 2023, see MRSC's blogs: [Major Changes to Washington's Housing Laws](#) and [New Legislation Related to Climate and the Natural Environment](#).

Stay tuned for upcoming blogs covering additional 2023 planning legislation or visit our webpage on [Streamlining Local Permit Review Procedures](#) for more information on local project review.

MRSC is a private nonprofit organization serving local governments in Washington State. Eligible government agencies in Washington State may use our free, one-on-one [Ask MRSC service](#) to get answers to legal, policy, or financial questions.



About Jill Dvorkin

Jill joined MRSC as a legal consultant in June 2016 after working for nine years as a civil deputy prosecuting attorney for Skagit County. At Skagit County, Jill advised the planning department on a wide variety of issues including permit processing and appeals, Growth Management Act (GMA) compliance, code enforcement, SEPA, legislative process, and public records. Jill was born and raised in Fargo, ND, then moved to Bellingham to attend college and experience a new part of the country (and mountains!). She earned a B.A. in Environmental Policy and Planning from Western Washington University and graduated with a J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law in 2003.

[VIEW ALL POSTS BY JILL DVORKIN](#)

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