

Attachment 1

Amendments to the Growth Strategy Element

Growth Strategy

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Urban Design

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GOAL

- GS G3** Maintain and enhance Seattle’s unique character and sense of place, including its natural setting, history, human-scaled development, and community identity, as the city grows and changes.

Natural Environment

POLICIES

- GS 3.1** Encourage the preservation, protection, and restoration of Seattle’s distinctive natural features and landforms such as bluffs, beaches, streams, and remaining evergreen forests.
- GS 3.2** Design public facilities to emphasize physical and visual connections to Seattle’s natural surroundings, with special attention to public vistas of shorelines, the Olympic Mountains, and the Cascade Range.
- GS 3.3** Encourage design that recognizes natural systems and integrates ecological functions such as stormwater filtration or retention with other infrastructure and development projects.
- GS 3.4** Respect topography, water, and natural systems when siting tall buildings.
- GS 3.5** Provide both physical and visual public access to streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.
- GS 3.6** Extend sustainable landscaping and an urban design approach to typically underdesigned sites such as surface parking lots, rooftops, and freeway edges.
- GS 3.7** Promote the use of native plants for landscaping to emphasize the region’s natural identity and foster environmental health.

Built Environment

- GS 3.8** Encourage the preservation and expansion of the tree canopy throughout the city for the aesthetic, health and environmental benefits trees provide, considering first the residential and mixed-use areas with the least tree canopy in order to more equitably distribute the benefits to residents.
- GS 3.9** Preserve characteristics that contribute to communities' general identity, such as block and lot patterns and areas of historic, architectural, or social significance.
- GS 3.10** Design public infrastructure and private building developments to help visitors understand the existing block and street patterns and to reinforce the walkability of neighborhoods.
- GS 3.11** Use zoning tools and natural features to ease the transitions from the building intensities of urban villages and commercial arterials to lower-density developments of surrounding areas.
- GS 3.12** Design streets with distinctive identities that are compatible with a citywide system that defines differences between types of streets and that allows for different design treatments to reflect a particular street's function, right-of-way width, and adjoining uses.
- GS 3.13** Preserve, strengthen, and, as opportunities permit, reconnect Seattle's street grid as a means to knit together neighborhoods and to connect areas of the city. Support efforts to use lids and other connections over highways that separate neighborhoods, especially when such lids provide opportunities to reconnect neighborhoods and provide amenities such as affordable housing, open space, or pedestrian and bike connections to transit stations.
- GS 3.14** Design urban villages to be walkable, using approaches such as clear street grids, pedestrian connections between major activity centers, incorporation of public open spaces, and commercial buildings with retail and active uses that flank the sidewalk.
- GS 3.15** Design multifamily zones to be appealing residential communities with high-quality housing and development standards that promote privacy and livability, such as appropriately scaled landscaping, street amenities, and, in appropriate locations, limited commercial uses targeted for the local population.
- GS 3.16** Encourage designs for buildings and public spaces that maximize use of natural light and provide protection from inclement weather.
- GS 3.17** Encourage the use of land, rooftops, and other spaces to contribute to urban food production.

- GS 3.18** Use varied building forms and heights to enhance attractive and walkable neighborhoods.
- GS 3.19** Use groupings of tall buildings, instead of lone towers, to enhance overall topography or to define districts.
- GS 3.20** Consider taller building heights in key locations to provide visual focus and define activity centers, such as near light rail stations in urban centers and urban villages and other residential and commercial areas near future light rail stations.
- GS 3.21** Limit the negative impacts of tall buildings on public views and on sunlight in public streets and parks by defining upper-level building setbacks and lot coverage or by using other techniques.
- GS 3.22** Locate tall buildings to respect natural surroundings and key natural features and to minimize obstructing views of these features, such as by having lower building heights near lakes or Puget Sound.
- GS 3.23** Encourage street widths and building heights that are in proportion with each other by reducing setbacks from the street and keeping reasonable sidewalk widths for lower buildings.