

Rural Protection Addressed at Every Level of Planning

GMA, VISION 2050, CPPs, KCCP, & KC Code

At every level of planning protection of rural lands from sprawl, environmental degradation, and extension of urban infrastructure is paramount.

WA State Growth Management Act (GMA)

- RCW 36.70A.11** Defines rural lands.
- RCW 36.70A.020** Includes planning goals for rural lands.
- RCW 36.70A.070** Defines the Rural Element for Comprehensive Plans.

VISION 2050 Multi-County Planning Policies (MPPs)

- RGS 13** “... avoid ... conversion of rural land into commercial uses;”
- RGS 14** “Manage and reduce rural growth rates over time ...;”
- DP-37** “Ensure ... development ... is rural in character;”
- PS-5** “Do not provide urban services in rural areas.”

KC Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs)

- DP-46** “... Growth levels should not create pressure for conversion of nearby Rural or Natural Resource lands;”
- DP-47** “Limit growth in the Rural Area to prevent sprawl and the overburdening of rural services...;”
- DP-52** “... limit new nonresidential uses located in the Rural Area to those ... demonstrated to serve the Rural Area.”

KCCP Chapter 3 — Existing Policies (along with accompanying KC Code)

- Introd.** “... designating Rural Area lands to limit development and prevent sprawl, ... permitting land uses that are supportive of and compatible with ... rural character ... , ... indicating the population densities that are appropriate for the Rural Area.”
- R-201** “... recogniz(ing) a profound difference between the nature and character of ... (the) rural (area) as compared to ... urban areas....”
- R-201** “... maintain ... character of (the) Rural Area. ... development patterns that are considered rural, historical or traditional and do not encourage urban growth or create pressure for urban facilities and service. ... Traditional rural land uses of a size and scale that blend with historic rural development; and Rural uses that do not include primarily urban-serving facilities;”
- R-202** “The Rural Area geography ... shall include areas that are rural in character and that...have significant environmental constraints that make the area generally unsuitable for ... urban development;”
- R-203** “The Rural Area geography is considered to be permanent ...;”
- R-324** “Nonresidential uses in the Rural Area shall be limited to those that: ... Require location in a Rural Area.”