



Subarea Plan Review

by Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, April 6, the Area Council held its Regular Monthly Meeting at the Maple Valley Fire Station at 22225 SE 231st St and via Zoom. Major topics discussed were: (1) Local Subarea Plan; (2) Fire District Benefit Charge; and (3) Regional Environment and Parks Group.

Local Subarea Plan

The Area Council discussed its strategy for review and comment on the *Preliminary Draft* of the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River (GMV/CR) Community Service Area (CSA) Subarea Plan—a long-range community vision over the next 20 years.

The Area Council has assigned it four subject-matter committees—Economic, Environment, Growth Management, and Transportation—to lead efforts on their respective portions of the *Preliminary Draft*: Land Use & Zoning; Housing & Human Services; Environment; Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Resources; Transportation; Services & Utilities; and Economic Development.

Key dates are:

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| Wednesday, April 15 | The <i>Preliminary Draft</i> will be released to the Public with instructions on how to provide public comment [see Plan Site on April 15]. |
| Thursday, April 23 | King County will host a Public <i>Virtual Meeting</i> from 6 to 7 PM to discuss the plan and the planning process [please Register]. |
| Thursday, May 14 | <i>Special Area Council Meeting</i> to conduct our final review of of each Committee's Comments and vote [time and location TBD]. |
| Monday, May 18 | Public Comment period closes. |

The Area Council encourages members of the Public to provide comments to King County. Again, King County will provide instructions on how to do so on its [Plan Site](#) on April 15. Comments also can be sent to the Area Council via e-mail info@gmvuac.org, which will try to incorporate them into its comprehensive set of comments to King County to be submitted on the May 18 due date.

Fire District Benefit Charge

Warren Iverson, the Area Council's Fire District Focal, discussed the Fire District Benefit Charge. This was proposed in 2017 and since has been voted down by residents twice. A new proposal might be presented for a vote in August of this year. If approved, it would take effect on next years property statements in February.

Puget Sound Fire will attend the Area Council's next monthly meeting on May 4 to discuss this subject and will provide general cost (i.e., tax) comparisons.

Regional Environment and Parks Group

The Area Council voted to create a new *regional* group as an extension of its Environment and Parks Committee. The new group (name TBD), like another Area Council *regional* group—the Joint Transportation Initiative, which addresses *regional* transportation issues—will include other unincorporated area councils and associations. In this way, it will provide a *regional* perspective on issues and potential solutions. Some issues to be explored include the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill; Mining Impacts; Air and Water Quality; Natural Habitats; and Flood Control and Surface Water Management.

Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held **Monday, May 4, 2026**, from 7 - 9:30 PM at the Maple Valley Fire Station at 22225 SE 231st St (across from the KC Sheriff's Precinct).

Meetings are held on the *first* Monday of the month (except for Holidays, when they are held on the *second* Monday). All meeting announcements, agendas, and Zoom information are posted on the [Area Council's Website](#) and local *NextDoor* platforms. You can also find us on our [FaceBook page](#). Each meeting begins with an open Public Comment period where anyone can voice concerns, comments, etc.

Area Council Membership

Your Area Council, founded in 1978, is one of the longest continuously active local councils in King County. It serves as an all-volunteer, locally recognized advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District (TSD). The Area Council, in “*working to keep the Rural Area rural*,” collaborates *regionally* with other King County Rural Area organizations through both the *Joint Rural Team* and its *Joint Transportation Initiative*.

The twelve-seat Area Council has four open seats. If you wish to join, please send an e-mail to: info@gmvuac.org or attend (either in-person or virtually) a monthly meeting and express your interest. To be eligible to join as a *Member* you need to live *within* the TSD.

Residents, even those not living *within* the TSD, are eligible to become *Associate Members* who can serve on any Area Council Committee: *Economic, Environment, Growth Management, Transportation, Public Relations, or Train Show*—please see the Area Council's [Website](#) and use the drop-down menu under *Committees*.

On our Home page recent *Monthly Meeting Summary Articles* can be in the 2026/2025 GMVUAC *Monthly Meeting Articles* box (or by using the drop-down menu under *Correspondence*).