



Druids Glen

by Peter Rimbos, GMVUAC Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, October 5, 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) Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Subarea Plan; (2) Druids Glen; (3) Joint Team of Unincorporated Area Councils; and (4) Area Council Annual Train Show.

Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Subarea Plan

The Area Council territory makes up most of the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River (GMV/CR) Community Service Area (CSA). The GMV/CR CSA Subarea Plan focusses on locally specific policies that address long-range community vision over the next 20 years for our local area.

The Area Council has been coordinating with King County Department of Local Services (KC DLS) Strategic Planning Manager, Susan McLain, to set up meetings with key members of Ms. McLain's *Interdepartmental Team*, which is reviewing all Public Comments on the *Preliminary Draft* (comments were due on May 18)—all in preparation for release of a *Public Review Draft (PRD)* later this year. The Area Council's detailed comments can be found at: <https://gmvuac.org/gmvcr-csa-sub-area-plan/>.

Ms. McLain has agreed to set up three virtual meetings this month on: Transportation; Parks and Open Space; and Land-Use.

Druids Glen

The Area Council discussed the potential *re-development* of the Druids Glen Golf Course property (376 acres) into a gated community of 75+ elite houses. Because Druids Glen has many ecosystem benefits that it provides to the region, the Area Council is concerned that a major housing development would have many local impacts if King County approves a Permit Application submitted by Parks Legacy, current owner based in Arizona.

The Area Council supports an equitable solution to continuing preservation of the 376 acres of open space at Druids Glen—a very valuable ecosystem and natural area in King County. It contains large wetlands and other critical areas including Covington Creek that feeds into the Cedar River—the subject of many years of King County environmental restoration. For many decades it has been afforded protection under King County *Open Space* designation, thus conserving its natural beauty to the benefit of all.

Following much discussion a letter was approved to be submitted to King County: (1) calling for all critical areas to be identified, catalogued, and protected, as required by the Critical Areas Ordinance and (2) exploring the many mechanisms available it could pursue in continuing to preserve this property: Public Benefit Rating System—although not a permanent form of protection; Conservation Futures Tax; and 4:1 transfers. The [Letter](#) is posted on the Area Council's website.

Joint Team

The Joint Team's 15 organizations cover nearly all of King County's Urban Unincorporated Area and Rural Area: [Joint Team Coverage Map](#). The GMVUAC's Regional Coordinator currently serves as the Coordinator of the Joint Team.

The Joint Team recently adopted a revised **Vision Statement**:

- (1) Foster sustainable urban areas and cities, including affordable housing, that address social, environmental, and economic impacts through proper planning to meet the needs of people;
- (2) Prevent sprawl outside the Urban Growth Area, so that limited regional resources for infrastructure and services are not diverted from cost-effective urban areas to more costly fringe areas;
- (3) Protect rural and agricultural lands from urban encroachments and commercialization and sustain and restore such lands, so they can continue to provide clean water for people and wildlife, trees for clean air and flood control, and healthy food sources; and
- (4) Protect forest lands for sustainable forestry, recreation, and open space to ensure a healthy environment and rural quality of life for a growing population.

Annual Train Show

On the weekend of October 17 and 18 the Area Council will host its 29th Annual Train Show at Gracie Hansen Community Center, 27132 SE Ravensdale Way in Ravensdale. Hours are: Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Suggested Donation (sorry, no credit cards): Adults – \$5.00 and Children (ages 3-11) – \$2.00.

Next Area Council Meeting

The next Area Council monthly meeting will be held **Monday, November 2, 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*).