

**CHAPTER 3**

***LAND USE ELEMENT***





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## INTRODUCTION

The Land Use Element is designed to help Fircrest achieve its vision for a city that has gracefully accommodated growth and change, while ensuring that the community's high quality of life, cherished natural features, distinct places and character are retained. The Land Use Element provides the basis for planning for anticipated growth, including needs for transportation, parks and open space, and other public facilities and services to serve future growth. The pattern of uses that make up Fircrest helps support the community's long-term vision and goals by describing locations where development is appropriate and what the desired intensity and general character should be. The Land Use Element is intended to ensure the land use pattern in Fircrest meets the following Fircrest objectives:

- Takes into account the land's characteristics and directs development away from environmentally sensitive areas and important natural resources;
- Provides for attractive, affordable, high-quality and stable residential neighborhoods that include a variety of housing choices;
- Supports a healthy community by encouraging physical activity, promoting social and mental wellness, and maintaining and enhancing its reputation as a destination for recreation, and special community events and festivals;
- Encourages redevelopment of properties that are underutilized or being used in a way that is inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan designation;
- Focuses and promotes employment growth and retail, office and housing development along the Mildred and 19<sup>th</sup> Street corridors;
- Enhances the economic vibrancy of historic neighborhood-serving commercial areas centered on Regents Boulevard;
- Supports creation and enhancement of community gathering places, including public parks and recreation facilities that accommodate special events, and privately developed venues.
- Provides opportunities to meet daily shopping or service needs close to residences and work places;
- Maintains and enhances an extensive system of parks, trails and open space that meets local residents' needs; and
- Advances best management practices, multimodal travel, a high-quality natural environment, and sustainable development.

### ***ORGANIZATION OF THE LAND USE ELEMENT***

The Land Use Element is divided into ten sections. The Introduction section summarizes the intent of the Element and its organization. The second and third sections describe the state and regional planning contexts, respectively. The fourth section provides a local planning context and articulates a land use vision statement for

a 20-year planning horizon. The fifth section lists goals and policies that shape how the Fircrest community lives on the land and how Fircrest's citizens and government officials will manage the processes of making land use decisions. The goals and policies also respond to the requirements, goals, and planning principles of the GMA while providing for the protection and enhancement of Fircrest's community character. The sixth section of the Element identifies and defines land use designations and contains required information such as population density and building intensity. Information concerning lands useful for public purposes is provided in the seventh section. The eighth section summarizes mandated population, housing unit and employment targets and the provisions of the buildable lands program that are used to demonstrate Comprehensive Plan consistency with these targets. Information concerning critical areas and natural resource lands is covered in the ninth section. The final section examines planned land use in adjacent jurisdictions to ensure consistency.

## **STATE PLANNING CONTEXT**

### ***GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT***

The Washington State Growth Management Act identifies that for cities such as Fircrest that are required to plan under RCW 36.70A.070, a comprehensive plan must include a map or maps, and descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the comprehensive plan. The plan shall be an internally consistent document and all elements shall be consistent with the future land use map. Each comprehensive plan shall include:

"A land use element designating the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of land, where appropriate, for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, public utilities, public facilities, and other land uses. The land use element shall include population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth. The land use element shall provide for protection of the quality and quantity of ground water used for public water supplies. Where applicable, the land use element shall review drainage, flooding, and storm water runoff in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute waters of the state, including Puget Sound or waters entering Puget Sound."

## **REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT**

### ***VISION 2040 MULTICOUNTY PLANNING POLICIES (MPPs)***

Under the Growth Management Act, multicounty planning policies provide a common region-wide framework for countywide and local planning in the central Puget Sound region, particularly in the area of transportation planning and its relationship to land use. The unified structure established by the MPPs has both practical and substantive

effects on the development and implementation of comprehensive plans, including land use elements.

The MPPs provide guidance for implementing Puget Sound Regional Council's *VISION 2040* Regional Growth Strategy. This strategy is a preferred pattern for accommodating a significant share of the region's residential and employment growth within a number of regional centers. It is designed to minimize environmental impacts, support economic prosperity, improve mobility, and make efficient use of existing infrastructure. The strategy promotes infill and redevelopment within urban areas to create more compact, walkable, and transit-friendly communities.

### ***PIERCE COUNTY COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES (CPPs)***

The Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies is a written policy statement that establishes a countywide framework from which county and municipal comprehensive plans are developed and adopted. The framework is intended to ensure that municipal and county comprehensive plans are consistent.

The CPPs are intended to provide the guiding goals, objectives, policies and strategies for the subsequent adoption of comprehensive plans. CPPs that offer guidance for development of the Land Use Element include ones that address *Buildable Lands, Community and Urban Design, Economic Development and Employment, Health and Well-Being, Urban Growth Areas, and Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services*.

## **LOCAL PLANNING CONTEXT**

### ***LAND USE VISION***

***Looking ahead 20 years...***

In the 2030s, Fircrest is treasured for its character, natural assets, friendly and welcoming atmosphere, diversity, safety and quiet settings.

*Fircrest includes a broad choice of housing types at a range of prices, including affordable homes. During the past 20 years, there has been more variety in the types and prices of newly constructed homes, including more cottages, accessory dwelling units, attached homes, live-work units and other smaller single-family homes. New homes blend with existing homes and the natural environment, retaining valued characteristics of neighborhoods as they continue to evolve. While single-family neighborhoods have remained stable, the number and variety of multifamily housing choices, including units oriented towards seniors, have increased significantly, especially within mixed-use developments along Mildred Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Through careful planning and community involvement, changes and innovation in housing styles and development have been embraced by the community. Residents enjoy a feeling of connection to their neighborhoods and to the community as a whole.*

Fircrest has acted to create and maintain a strong economy and a more diverse employment base.

*Fircrest is the home to many small, medium-size and locally owned businesses and services. Businesses are proud to be partners in the community. The city provides a positive business climate that supports innovation and attracts sustainable development, while retaining existing businesses.*

*Fircrest's commercial mixed use neighborhoods fronting on Mildred and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets are thriving centers of commercial activity supported by a mix of newly constructed housing. Historic neighborhood commercial centers on Regents Boulevard are outstanding places, at a smaller scale, to work, shop, live and recreate. Attractive offices, stores, services and residential developments have contributed to a new level of vibrancy in the community, while retaining a comfortable, connected feel that appeals to residents, business and visitors.*

*During the past 20 years, redevelopment of the Mildred and 19<sup>th</sup> Street corridors has brought retail storefronts closer to the street and improvements to streetscapes to reflect the green character of Fircrest, making the area more hospitable to transit, pedestrians and bicyclists. This portion of Fircrest has also become much more distinct in character, featuring a variety of housing choices, small-scale shopping and services to serve employees and residents, and connections to a network of parks, sidewalks, and transit services.*

Fircrest in the 2030s has enhanced and maintained a very green character.

*Citizens benefit from its livability, which contributes to the general quality of life. An abundance of trees continues to define Fircrest's physical appearance, including those within the Fircrest Golf Club and the forested hillsides above Leach Creek and the Tacoma Holding Basin. A system of interconnected open spaces provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. The city prides itself for its environmental stewardship, including an emphasis on sustainable land use and development patterns, landscaping that requires little watering, and other techniques to protect and conserve the natural environment, while flourishing as a successful small, yet urban, community. Fircrest maintains an extraordinary park, recreation and open space system that serves all age groups and a wide variety of interests.*

## **GOALS AND POLICIES**

This Element contains the land use goals and policies for the City of Fircrest. The following goals establish broad direction for land use, while the policies provide more detail about the outline steps needed to meet the intent of each goal. Goals may be preceded by an initial statement that provides an intent or purpose for the goal. Discussion text may follow policies to provide background information, offer typical examples and help clarify intent.



The land use goals contained in this Comprehensive Plan are:

- Growth management
- Land use compatibility
- Community facilities and services
- Land use designations
- Residential uses
- Commercial uses
- Essential public facilities and other public facilities
- Industrial uses
- Centers of local importance
- Environmental quality
- Water resources
- Development regulations and permit processing
- Interjurisdictional planning

### ***GROWTH MANAGEMENT***

The goals that are the foundation of Washington's Growth Management Act are consistent with the hopes for the community expressed by people who live or work in Fircrest. These goals include encouraging efficient development in urban areas to retain open space, providing a variety of housing types and sustainable economic growth, focusing population and employment growth in cities, ensuring that public facilities and services are adequate, and investing in transportation to support planned land use and to provide travel choices.

*VISION 2040* calls for compact communities and centers with densities that support transit service and walking. It also calls for each city to identify one or more central places for compact, mixed-use development that will reinforce effective use of urban land.

### **GOAL LU1**

**Provide sufficient land area and densities to meet Fircrest's projected needs for housing, employment and public facilities while focusing growth in appropriate locations.**

#### **Policy LU1.1**

The city should ensure that development regulations, including the allowed density, uses and site requirements, provide for achievement of Fircrest's preferred land use pattern.

#### **Policy LU1.2**

The city should manage growth so that delivery of public facilities and services will occur in a fiscally responsible manner to support development and redevelopment. Allow new development only where adequate public facilities and services can be provided.

**Policy LU1.3**

The city should encourage development of both public and private lands in Fircrest that provides long-term benefit to the community through the use of techniques, such as green building and green infrastructure.

**Policy LU1.4**

The city should provide an appropriate level of flexibility through development regulations to promote efficient use of buildable land. Balance this flexibility with other community goals and the need for predictability in decision making. Achieve this through measures such as clustering that preserve open space and administrative variances for minor variations.

**Policy LU1.5**

The city should encourage infill development on suitable vacant parcels and redevelopment of underutilized parcels. Ensure that the height, bulk and design of infill and redevelopment projects are compatible with their surroundings.

**Policy LU1.6**

The city should support opportunities for shops, services, recreation and access to healthy food sources within walking or bicycling distance of homes, work places and other gathering places.

**Policy LU1.7**

The city should encourage project designs to encourage access by modes of travel other than driving alone, such as walking, bicycling and transit, and to provide connections to the nonmotorized system.

***LAND USE COMPATIBILITY***

Retaining and enhancing Fircrest's high quality of life and special character is very important to Fircrest citizens. A variety of mechanisms is used to protect and enhance the city's quality of life and character as the community continues to grow. For example, height and bulk regulations are used to ensure that buildings within various areas of the city fit those locations and are compatible in scale with adjacent structures. Intensity or density regulations control the amount of a particular use that is allowed and are used to achieve compatibility between uses, protect environmentally sensitive areas, and ensure that public facilities are not overloaded. Performance standards limit and often prohibit pollution discharges to the environment, stormwater drainage and sanitary sewers to ensure that uses are compatible and safe and that Fircrest's commercial mixed use and neighborhood commercial areas remain desirable places for business.

Fircrest's preferred land use pattern recognizes that many uses can be good neighbors if designed and developed well. Some activities such as noise or fumes may create impacts which adversely affect other uses. Fircrest's overall policy is to minimize adverse impacts on sensitive, lower-intensity uses, such as residences.

**GOAL LU2**

**Ensure that future growth and development protect and enhance the City's quality of life and character, and are compatible with existing community fabric.**

**Policy LU2.1**

The city should refine and maintain development regulations to promote compatibility between uses; retain and enhance desired neighborhood character; ensure adequate light, air and open space; protect and improve environmental quality; and manage potential impacts on public facilities and services. Through these regulations address features, including but not limited to:

- Impervious surface area and lot coverage;
- Building height, bulk, placement and separation;
- Development intensity;
- Access and connections for walking and bicycling; and
- Landscaping.

**Policy LU2.2**

The city should apply design standards and guidelines for residential development to:

- Provide variety in building and site design and visually appealing streetscapes in residential developments of several dwellings or more;
- Minimize significant impacts, such as loss of light or privacy, from large residential infill buildings on adjacent residents;
- Promote compatibility with Fircrest's residential neighborhoods and avoid an appearance of overcrowding when rezones will increase residential development capacity or when density bonuses or flexibility in site standards are utilized; and
- Emphasize features typical of detached single detached dwellings, such as pitched roofs, single points of entry and substantial window trim, as part of residential structures containing two or more dwelling units.

**Policy LU2.3**

The City should promote compatibility between land uses and minimize land use conflicts when there is potential for adverse impacts on lower-intensity or more sensitive uses by:

- Ensuring that uses or structures meet performance standards that limit adverse impacts, such as noise, vibration, smoke and fumes; and
- Creating an effective transition between land uses through building and site design, use of buffers and landscaping, or other techniques.

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

A well-functioning community depends on the availability of and equitable access to a variety of community facilities and services. Schools, libraries and facilities for enjoying recreation and art are essential to the social and cultural vibrancy of the community. The health of the community depends on the availability of safe drinking water, adequate wastewater collection, sustainable stormwater management, a coordinated public safety system, access to healthy food, and opportunities for active living.

### **GOAL LU3**

**Ensure the provision of community facilities and services commensurate with the needs of the community.**

#### **Policy LU3.1**

The city should encourage the provision of needed facilities that serve the general public, such as facilities for education, libraries, parks, culture and recreation, police and fire, transportation and utilities. Ensure that these facilities are located in a manner that is compatible with the City's preferred land use pattern. When facilities are not provided within the community, provide alternative means of support for their services.

#### **Policy LU3.2**

The city should incorporate consideration of physical health and well-being into local decision making by locating, designing and operating public facilities and services in a manner that:

- Uses building and development practices that provide long-term benefit to the community;
- Encourages walking and bicycling access to public facilities;
- Supports creation of community gardens on public open space in accessible locations throughout Fircrest; and
- Provides tools such as educational and demonstration programs that help foster a healthy environment, physical activity and well-being, and public safety.

## **LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**

The Land Use Designation Map (**Figure LU-1**), also referred to as the Plan Map, graphically displays the City's preferred land use pattern. The different areas on the Plan Map are referred to as land use designations. These designations provide a framework for guiding development consistent with the City's vision, goals, objectives and policies. The Plan Map divides the city into areas where different types and intensities of land uses are allowed. The designations serve to protect areas from incompatible development, maintain property values and support development consistent with each designation. The purpose and intent of each designation, and the general types of uses allowed in each designation, are provided in the section of the Land Use Element following the goals and policies.

**GOAL LU4**

**Ensure that decisions on land use designations and zoning are consistent with the City’s vision, goals, objectives and policies as articulated in the Comprehensive Plan and take into account GMA goals regarding urban growth, sprawl, property rights, permits, economic development, and open space and recreation.**

**Policy LU4.1**

The city should consider the following when making decisions on land use designations and zoning:

- Land use and community character objectives;
- Whether development will be directed away from environmentally sensitive areas and other important natural resources and in a way that minimizes impacts on natural resources;
- The adequacy of the existing and planned transportation system and other public facilities and services;
- Projected need and demand for housing types and commercial space;
- The balance between the amount and type of employment in Fircrest and the amount and type of housing in Fircrest;
- Suitability of an area for the proposed designation or zone; and
- Opportunities to separate potentially incompatible uses by topography, buffers, zoning transitions or other techniques.

**Policy LU4.2**

The city should apply zone classifications and overlays consistent with the Plan Map land use designations, as shown in **Table LU-1**.

**Table LU-1**

<b>Plan Map Land Use Designation</b>	<b>Consistent Zone Classifications and Overlays</b>
Low Density Residential	Residential-4; Residential-6;
Low Density Residential – Conservation	Residential-4-C
Medium Density Residential	Residential-8
Medium Density Residential – Traditional Community Design	Residential-10-TCD
High Density Residential	Residential-20; Residential-30
Parks, Recreation and Open Space	Park, Recreation and Open Space; Golf Course
Neighborhood Commercial	Neighborhood Commercial; Neighborhood Office
Commercial Mixed Use	Commercial Mixed Use
Public and Quasi Public Facilities	All districts

## **RESIDENTIAL LAND USE**

Fircrest residents treasure their neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has characteristics that are unique and make it special. There are also qualities that many residents throughout Fircrest Place frequently cite as ones they value about their neighborhoods. These qualities include safety, quiet, friendliness, attractiveness and a feeling of connection to their neighborhoods and to the community as a whole.

Residents also value being near to open space, parks, trees and other greenery, and having good transportation connections that enable easy access to stores and services. They are appreciative of the importance of having a diverse range of housing choices in Fircrest. There is recognition of the value of having a community in which people of a wide range of ages and needs can live and be able to remain in Fircrest through changes in age or household size. Housing types that can help address current and future needs include additional smaller starter homes, cottages, accessory dwelling units, live-work units, attached homes, senior housing, and housing for families. In thinking about the future, citizens also emphasize that new development needs to be well designed and fit well with the surrounding area.

The following residential policies in the Land Use Element provide general guidance for development in residential areas, including density, allowed uses and development standards. This Element is complementary to the Housing Element and Community Character Element. The Housing Element addresses a range of housing topics, including neighborhood preservation, housing choice, housing affordability and special needs housing. The Community Character Element addresses residential neighborhood compatibility issues and concerns.

### **GOAL LU5**

**Achieve a mix of housing types and densities, maintain attractive and healthy residential neighborhoods, and guide new housing development into appropriate areas.**

#### **Policy LU5.1**

Development regulations should accommodate and encourage a wide range of housing types to meet the needs of residents through various life stages. Housing choice should be expanded to enable residents to remain living in the community as their housing needs or preferences change over time, and to attract new residents to the community.

#### **Policy LU5.2**

The mix of housing within the community should include detached and attached single-family dwellings, cottage housing, live-work units, multi-family dwellings, including townhomes and units located within vertical mixed use buildings, accessory dwelling units, residential care facilities for those who are unable to maintain independent living arrangements, and other innovative housing that is compatible with the type, scale and character of surrounding residential development.

**Policy LU5.3**

Manufactured homes shall be allowed in low density residential areas, subject to applicable federal and state siting requirements and local health and safety regulations.

**Policy LU5.4**

A range of residential densities shall be provided for based on existing development patterns, community needs and values, proximity to facilities and services, immediate surrounding densities, and protection of natural environmental features.

**Policy LU5.5**

Innovation in site and building design shall be encouraged in and adjacent to critical areas in accord with Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. For example, clustering of units outside of critical areas and associated buffers may be permitted provided that *overall* density of a site does not exceed the maximum allowable dwelling units per acre. Appropriate buffering, design features, and amenities must be included in all innovative designs.

**Policy LU5.6**

The character of existing single-family residential neighborhoods should be preserved and enhanced.

**Discussion:** Established residential neighborhoods are the foundation of the community. They provide a sense of well-being for local residents and enhance the stability of the entire City. Single family neighborhoods should be protected from negative impacts of conflicting or inappropriate nearby land uses.

**Policy LU5.7**

Greater residential density and building height should be allowed in existing commercial mixed use and multifamily areas along or close to major arterial and transit routes, for example 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Mildred Street, to accommodate expected population and employment growth.

**Discussion:** Puget Sound Regional Council projections anticipate a significant amount of growth occurring through Fircrest's 2035 planning horizon, and the Pierce County Regional Council has allocated a comparable amount of population and housing growth for 2030. To protect the character of existing single family neighborhoods from increased, and incompatible, infill development, to provide greater housing choice, and to encourage the use of alternative transportation modes, housing units needed to accommodate the allocated growth targets should be located primarily in the Mildred and 19<sup>th</sup> Street areas where multi-family housing is already established and allowed to expand and where mixed use development will be encouraged.

**Policy LU5.8**

Residential infill development shall be compatible with surrounding development in terms of scale, form, relationship to the street and other design elements.

**Discussion:** Residential uses in multifamily and commercial mixed-use zones should be designed to provide a harmonious transition into nearby single-family neighborhoods. Buffers, landscaping, and building design and placement that blend with the neighboring community enhance the transition between different densities and land uses. Multifamily design standards and guidelines should be adopted to support this objective.

#### **Policy LU5.9**

To expand local economic opportunities for Fircrest's residents, home occupations that are compatible with the surrounding residential area shall be encouraged.

### **COMMERCIAL LAND USE**

Commercial areas provide for the development and operation of retail and service businesses in support of community needs. The design and location of commercial areas are important to residents and businesses. Well-designed and -located commercial developments enable people to walk to a nearby restaurant or to park once and shop at several businesses. Good design and location are also important to providing transit service, avoiding conflicts with nearby uses, reducing traffic problems, and providing for easy delivery and pickup of goods. Allowing small-scale commercial areas near homes can reduce the distance people have to travel for frequently purchased goods and services. Neighborhood commercial areas also help provide for small-scale gathering places that are accessible from neighborhoods, help promote walkability and bikeability, and support many aspects of Fircrest's long-term vision and goals, including economic vitality.

### **GOAL LU6**

**Achieve a mix of commercial land uses that serve the needs of the City's residents, businesses and visitors while protecting and enhancing the unique character of Fircrest's residential neighborhoods.**

#### **Policy LU6.1**

New and redeveloped commercial and mixed use buildings should be designed to achieve community goals for attractive streets, public spaces, and pedestrian amenities.

**Discussion:** Most of the City's development in commercial mixed use areas occurred prior to annexation to Fircrest, without the guidance of a plan that was consistent with GMA goals. Many land uses are auto-oriented, and building design and site planning are generally uncoordinated. Additionally, building orientation and parking lot locations vary considerably, with parking often being a highly visible component. Similarly, most development that has occurred in the City's neighborhood commercial areas predates adoption of this Comprehensive Plan and the City's land development code. Improved functionality and appearance of commercial mixed use and neighborhood commercial areas could attract new business to the City and enhance the quality of life for Fircrest residents.

Encouraging an appropriate mix of land uses, and adopting and implementing design standards and guidelines for new construction and redevelopment will achieve economic development goals while supporting the protection of nearby residential neighborhoods from incompatible commercial use.



**Policy LU6.2**

Fircrest should encourage development of new businesses and expansion of existing businesses to help meet the retail and service needs of Fircrest's residents. New businesses should be recruited to the City to expand and diversify the City's employment base.

**Policy LU6.3**

Environmentally clean, non-polluting businesses shall be encouraged in Fircrest through the implementation of performance standards that mitigate potential impacts. Commercial uses that have minimal impact on adjacent areas shall be preferred over higher-impact uses when located immediately adjacent to residential land uses.

**Policy LU6.4**

The expansion of linear commercial "strips" should be discouraged and pedestrian-oriented development should be supported.

**Discussion:** Buildings and off-street parking should be sited so that the streetscape is enhanced and pedestrian orientation encouraged. Parking should be located to the rear or side of buildings. Buildings should have an obvious pedestrian entrance, pedestrian-level windows, weather protection, and architectural details and pedestrian-scale signage on the street.

**Policy LU6.5**

Additional automobile-oriented businesses such as restaurants with drive-up windows should be prohibited in neighborhood commercial areas. Businesses providing delivery services may be permitted in these areas subject to compliance with performance standards that ensure there will be no negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood and streets.

**Policy LU6.6**

Automobile-oriented businesses such as restaurants with drive-up windows may be permitted in commercial mixed use areas subject to compliance with screening and other site development standards intended to minimize impacts on neighboring properties. Site design for such businesses should ensure safe and convenient pedestrian access separate from drive-up access and that does not require the pedestrian to cross drive-up facilities to reach the pedestrian entry. Site design shall consider the safety of motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians on the streets, shoulders, and sidewalks adjacent to the business driveways.

**Policy LU6.7**

The visual appearance of commercial areas should be improved through public and private measures for beautification, implementation of design strategies, maintenance, and streetscape improvements. Commercial and mixed use buildings should conform to design guidelines to ensure architectural compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods. Where commercial rehabilitation, development, or redevelopment occurs in an area with historic significance, it should be sensitive to

the historic fabric of the area. New commercial and mixed use development should incorporate landscaping, seating, and other pedestrian-supportive amenities to provide pleasant and comfortable resting, socializing, and picnicking areas for employees and shoppers.

**Policy LU6.8**

Commercial and mixed use development should include high quality, safe, and contiguous facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, disabled persons, and users of the public transit services. Fircrest should work with public transit providers to improve transit service to commercial mixed use and neighborhood commercial areas. Commercial and mixed use development should be designed to take into consideration the connections, both vehicular and pedestrian, to adjoining sites to reduce personal automobile trips. Sidewalks and internal pathways should be incorporated to enhance pedestrian circulation.

**Policy LU6.9**

Maximum automobile parking standards should be implemented for various types of commercial development. Shared parking facilities should be encouraged. Parking areas shall include plantings of vegetation that reduce its visual impact through effective screening and the establishment of a substantial tree canopy. Design standards that strongly encourage the placement of parking to the side or rear of buildings should be implemented. Parking facilities should conform to the parking-related policies of the Transportation Element.

**Policy LU6.10**

Commercial uses should be concentrated in locations that best serve the community, complement stable residential areas, and are attractive to private investment.

**Discussion:** The City's commercial base is expected to grow, but little undeveloped land remains. To accommodate future growth, an adequate supply of land must be preserved in areas where future redevelopment will not be detrimental to residential neighborhoods and other sensitive land uses. Growth should be encouraged in areas where adequate public facilities exist or can be efficiently provided.

**Policy LU6.11**

A mix of retail, office, service, and residential uses should be encouraged in commercial mixed use and neighborhood commercial areas.

**Discussion:** Traditional zoning typically segregates various land uses, such as commercial and residential, into different locations. In some locations, however, it may be more beneficial and appropriate for land uses to be "mixed" together. A vertical "mixed-use" building provides different uses within a structure or site – typically, retail uses on the first floor with office and/or residential on the upper floors. This type of development may promote a more economically vibrant and pedestrian-friendly environment. Mixed use zoning may also accommodate a variety of uses within a site but in separate buildings. For example, sites on Mildred Street with deep dimensions when measured from the street may be developed with retail uses near the front of the site and residential or office uses toward

the rear. Where mixed use development succeeds it is often due to its attraction to residents who want to be within easy walking distance of shops, restaurants and other services – and its attraction to businesses that benefit from a relatively large number of nearby residents with disposable income.

**Policy LU6.12**

Redevelopment of vacant and underutilized sites should be encouraged.

**Discussion:** A number of properties in the City’s commercial mixed use and neighborhood commercial areas are vacant or underutilized. The City should encourage and assist the landowners of these properties to develop or redevelop their properties to the highest and best use allowed under the City’s plan policies and development regulations.

The limited amount of land zoned to accommodate commercial uses dictates that maximum utility should be derived from what is available. Efficient use of commercial mixed use properties should be achieved by redeveloping and consolidating existing underdeveloped commercial properties. Infill development and expansion of existing facilities is of prime importance.

**Policy LU6.13**

Culturally enriching uses such as libraries, bookstores, galleries, museums, and theaters, should be encouraged in commercial and mixed use areas.

**Policy LU6.14**

Residential areas and public gathering places such as parks, schools and churches, and neighborhood commercial areas shall be protected from the negative impacts of “adult” business and entertainment establishments.

**Discussion:** Cities may regulate adult entertainment businesses as long as a “reasonable opportunity” is provided to operate such a business within the municipal boundaries. To limit the negative impacts of these establishments in the City, adult entertainment businesses shall be regulated in a manner that protects residential, public, and other business uses from the negative impacts of these businesses.

***ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITIES***

Essential public facilities of a local, statewide, or regional nature may range from schools and fire stations to jails, work release facilities, state prisons, airports, and sewage treatment facilities. Some public facilities are controversial and difficult to site because of real and/or perceived impacts. The GMA requires that local comprehensive plans include a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities.

**GOAL 7**

**Essential public facilities shall be allowed in locations appropriate for the services provided and the people served. Essential public facilities shall harmonize with the surrounding development and with the natural features of the surrounding land and vegetation.**

**Policy LU7.1**

The city shall administer a process to site essential public facilities that is consistent with the Growth Management Act and Countywide Planning Policies and that adequately considers impacts of specific uses.

**Policy LU7.2**

Small public facilities intended to serve a few neighborhoods may be located within a neighborhood. Examples of these facilities include neighborhood parks, drainage facilities, and electrical transformer boxes.

**Policy LU7.3**

Public facilities intended to serve the entire city should be located to provide convenient access for residents who must frequent them. Examples of such facilities include community parks, schools, government offices, and similar facilities. Large facilities that serve the entire city and are not frequented by citizens should be located where they will not disrupt the urban landscape or disturb residential and commercial areas with noise, glare, dust, or other pollution. Examples of such facilities include power substations, water wells, and sewer lift stations.

**Policy LU7.4**

Public facilities that have service areas extending substantially beyond the city boundaries should be sited at a location appropriate to meet the transportation needs of the users of the facilities. Facilities that generate a significant amount of truck, automobile, or foot traffic should be located along arterial streets and convenient to public transit facilities. School facilities should be given flexibility to locate on non-arterial streets. Developers of these facilities should be required to make infrastructure improvements to support the facilities. These improvements may include, but are not limited to, street construction, signage, sidewalks, streetlights, bus shelters, benches, parking, bicycle racks, utility lines, and similar improvements.

**Policy LU7.5**

The city recognizes that some federal, state, regional, and county facilities may impose detrimental effects on the Fircrest community if located within the city. Such facilities shall be packaged with accompanying facilities or programs having clear benefits for the community. The city shall seek mitigation of disproportionate financial burdens resulting from the siting of essential public facilities in Fircrest.

**Policy LU7.6**

Siting proposals by federal, state, regional, and county agencies shall include clear justification for the need for the facility and for its location within Fircrest. Alternate sites not in Fircrest shall be explored through a cooperative interjurisdictional approach. If the final site selected is within Fircrest, the site shall be consistent with the provisions of all of Fircrest's Comprehensive Plan elements.

**Policy LU7.7**

All public facilities should be sited, designed, and buffered to fit in harmoniously with the surrounding neighborhood. Facility design and buffering should conform to the

provisions of the urban landscaping and environmental goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan. In addition, special attention should be given to minimizing the noise, light, glare, dust, and traffic associated with essential public facilities.

#### **Policy LU7.8**

Proposals for public facilities that are not difficult to site should be processed using the minimum permitting procedures required to ensure the facilities conform with the goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan while providing adequate opportunity for public input.

### ***LIGHT INDUSTRIAL LAND USE***

Light industrial businesses can supply employment opportunities and services for the greater Fircrest community and region. Historically, few properties in Fircrest have supported industrial uses, with the notable exceptions being two sites that hosted industrial activities on Mildred Street. Today, few if any opportunities exist to accommodate light industrial uses on a moderate- to large-scale.

On a smaller scale, however, opportunities exist within Fircrest to support the *maker movement*, an umbrella term for independent inventors, designers and tinkerers. Typical interests enjoyed by individuals who consider themselves to be part of the maker culture include engineering-oriented pursuits such as electronics, robotics, 3-D printing, and the use of computer numerical control (CNC) tools, as well as more traditional activities such as metalworking, woodworking, and traditional arts and crafts. The movement stresses new and unique applications of technologies, and encourages invention and prototyping. Some of these examples, which may not be highly visible to or have any measurable impact on surrounding land uses, may be integrated into the community in live-work units and other appropriate locations. Small-scale production, where individuals are making items in limited quantities for retail or wholesale markets, can be a key to a stronger local economy.

### **GOAL LU8**

**Provide for limited light industrial land uses within appropriate locations.**

#### **Policy LU8.1**

The city should support incubator or start-up small-scale light industrial uses in appropriate locations within the Commercial Mixed Use areas. Support activities pursued by individuals that fit under the *maker movement* umbrella in appropriate locations while ensuring that sensitive land uses located in close proximity to such businesses are protected from potential impacts.

#### **Policy LU8.2**

The city should prohibit heavy manufacturing uses, which generally require large parcels of land and separation from sensitive land uses such as parks, schools and housing.

**Policy LU8.3**

The city should separate manufacturing uses that create impacts from incompatible uses through techniques, such as creation of buffers or zoning that enables transitions from more intensive to less intensive uses. Take into account during site plan review potential adverse impacts on nearby uses due to manufacturing operations.

***CENTERS OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE (CoLI)***

The northwest corner of Fircrest contains the community's most intensively developed concentration of land uses, including commercial retail, office, service and restaurant uses, multifamily neighborhoods, and a public intermediate school. The city's largest undeveloped tract of land planned and zoned for commercial mixed use development is located within this center, as is the Fircrest Golf Club. The Northwest Fircrest CoLI is bordered by three arterial streets – 19<sup>th</sup> Street West, Mildred Street West, and Alameda Avenue. The center is bisected by Regents Boulevard, Fircrest's historic arterial, which provides access to the city's neighborhood business districts. The center is immediately south of Tacoma Community College, east of the Narrows Plaza, which is part of University Place's Regional Growth Center, and southeast of James Center, a Tacoma mixed use center. The Northwest Fircrest CoLI will complement these neighboring activity centers and accommodate much of the community's planned commercial and residential growth over the next 20 years.

**GOAL LU9**

**Designate Northwest Fircrest as a Center of Local Importance under *VISION 2040* and the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies.**

**Policy LU9.1**

Ensure that development standards, design guidelines, level of service standards, public facility plans and funding strategies support focused development within the Northwest Fircrest CoLI.

**Policy LU9.2**

Recognize the Northwest Fircrest CoLI in all relevant local, regional policy, planning and programming forums.

**Policy LU9.3**

Leverage local, regional, state and federal agency funding for needed public facilities and services within the Northwest Fircrest CoLI. Give priority to this center for multimodal transportation projects that will increase mobility to, from and within this center.

***ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY***

Sensitive management of land uses and development and redevelopment projects is essential for preserving and improving the natural, as well as built, environment.

## GOAL LU10

Land uses and development and redevelopment projects shall be managed to preserve and improve the natural environment as well as the built environment.

### Policy LU10.1

The city should support development of green infrastructure in order to improve the capacity of, and complement the services provided by, the city's natural systems as future land use becomes more intense to accommodate growth. Recognize green infrastructure as a capital/public asset. Support efforts to preserve, enhance and expand the community's inventory of green infrastructure, including but not limited to:

- Natural areas, such as critical areas and portions of public lands that are monitored and maintained by citizen stewards;
- Community gardens;
- Rain gardens and other natural stormwater management facilities; and
- Native habitat areas.

**Discussion:** Green infrastructure refers to services that natural systems provide Fircrest, including:

- Cleaning the water in streams, wetlands and ponds;
- Reducing flooding;
- Improving air quality; and
- Providing wildlife habitat.

In addition, green infrastructure provides benefits to Fircrest, such as:

- Making the city more beautiful;
- Providing peaceful, restful places;
- Increasing recreational opportunities; and
- Improving the health of members of the community.

Many elements of green infrastructure are natural places within Fircrest -- places such as forests, parks, protected open spaces, streams and wetlands. Fircrest should, when possible, build or support the building of facilities that mimic natural systems to improve the capacity of, and complement the services provided by, the city's natural systems.

These facilities can also be considered green infrastructure and include such structures as constructed wetlands, rain gardens and green roofs. The city and the community may support green infrastructure through a combination of green development techniques and preserving environmental assets into the future as land use becomes more intense to accommodate growth.

### Policy LU10.2

The city shall enforce standards that will achieve environmentally sensitive development when it occurs within and adjoining critical areas, natural buffers, and areas designated as open space.

**Policy LU10.3**

Wetlands shall be sized and categorized with respect to their natural features rather than with respect to city boundaries. Wetlands that are contiguous across jurisdictional boundaries shall be treated according to their total size and characteristics.

**Policy LU10.4**

To allow reasonable use of property while protecting the environment, reduction or variation of residential lot sizes, density bonuses, planned developments, clustering of housing, and innovative development techniques shall be considered when designed to preserve open space, protect critical areas, or provide vegetative buffers.

**Policy LU10.5**

Performance standards shall be considered as a regulatory alternative to fixed zoning regulations in and around environmentally sensitive areas.

**Policy LU10.6**

City facility projects, maintenance and operating procedures, and programs should be structured to minimize and mitigate environmental damage, restore and improve the environment if possible, and increase the environmental education and awareness of city employees and citizens.

**Policy LU10.7**

To minimize maintenance costs, conserve water, and provide vegetation with the maximum usefulness as wildlife habitat, urban landscaping should emphasize the use of indigenous plants that are drought tolerant during the summer months. Landscaping may also include non-native plant species that are well adapted to growing and providing wildlife habitat with minimal human intervention in the local climate and soils.

**Policy LU10.8**

The city should seek to protect wildlife habitat resources by preventing the indiscriminate and unnecessary removal of native trees, shrubs, and ground covers; by promoting the protection of areas that provide food, cover, resting, and nesting areas for wildlife; and by protecting and enhancing the quality of Leach Creek waters.

**Policy LU10.9**

The city should preserve, protect and, where possible, restore natural habitat critical for the conservation of salmonid species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Aquatic ecosystems, associated habitats and aquifers should be protected and maintained or restored through the use of management zones, development regulations, incentives for voluntary efforts of private landowners and developers, land use designations, habitat acquisition programs or habitat restoration projects. The city should support efforts to remove invasive species and re-plant cleared areas with native plants.



**Policy LU10.10**

The city should protect the natural habitat critical for the conservation of salmonid species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, through the use of planning activities or study techniques that are capable of determining changes in stream hydrology and water quality under different land use scenarios at full build-out of designated land use classifications.

**Policy LU10.11**

In the event that a species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act is determined to be located within Fircrest, the city should establish a monitoring and evaluation method that is designed to determine the effectiveness of enhancement and recovery strategies for the species. The methodology should be developed with technical assistance from appropriate state or federal resource agencies.

**Policy LU10.12**

The city recognizes that the best available science to address listed species recovery issues is evolving. The city should apply an adaptive management strategy to determine how well the objectives of listed species recovery and critical habitat preservation/restoration are being achieved. The city should incorporate the results of pilot developments into land use regulations, zoning, and technical standards.

**Policy LU10.13**

The city should ensure that there is “no net loss” of wetlands by function and values.

**Policy LU10.14**

The city shall ensure that development is properly located and constructed with respect to the limitations of the underlying soils, geological hazards, and areas subject to flooding.

**Policy LU10.15**

City facilities, services, programs, and procedures should be designed and managed to conserve resources and to reduce demand for facilities with significant environmental impacts. Similarly, procedures, programs, and rate structures should encourage citizens to conserve resources and to minimize the negative environmental impacts of their use of facilities and services.

**Policy LU10.16**

Development activities and land uses within the city should be managed to minimize noise; light and glare; and water, soil, and air pollution. The city shall work with adjacent jurisdictions and property owners to minimize transmission of pollutants from development activities and industrial, commercial, and public facility land uses near the city's boundary.

**Policy LU10.17**

Fircrest should consider the adoption of new development controls and guidelines designed to avoid or mitigate adverse cumulative air quality impacts prior to project approval. Fircrest should require air quality impact analyses for major new

developments that could adversely impact the air quality levels in the vicinity. Such analyses should address the policies listed in Transportation Goal 3 that are intended to promote the reduction of criteria pollutants for mobile sources (WAC 173-420-080). In Fircrest, criteria pollutants include ozone (HC and NOx) and carbon monoxide (CO).

## ***WATER RESOURCES***

### **GOAL LU11**

**Surface, ground, storm, waste, and creek waters shall be managed in an ecologically responsible manner and as interconnected components of the region's watershed.**

#### **Policy LU11.1**

Private and public development and redevelopment projects should be conducted in a way that preserves or improves the viability of each component of the water ecosystem and of the entire ecosystem.

#### **Policy LU11.2**

The quality of stormwater runoff should be improved, flooding due to stormwater runoff should be minimized, and the erosion of land by stormwater runoff should be minimized, in order to maintain natural aquatic communities and beneficial uses. Development regulations shall be enforced to minimize stormwater runoff as a result of development projects by limiting grading and clearing of a development site only to the extent reasonably needed to accommodate the development project, minimizing roadways and other impervious surfaces in the completed project, and encouraging the use of natural vegetation and ground covers during development and in the completed project.

#### **Policy LU11.3**

Where removal of trees or other vegetation may result in runoff and erosion, the city should require effective erosion control during and after the tree or vegetation removal. Where extensive removal of trees or other vegetation occurs, the city may require restoration and replanting consistent with urban landscaping guidelines and significant tree retention and protection standards.

#### **Policy LU11.4**

All new development and redevelopment shall be required to use the sanitary sewer system. Development currently using septic systems shall be required to convert to sanitary sewer when any portion of the on-site system fails, functions improperly, or needs replacement, or whenever a community or neighborhood sewer system is extended by local improvement methods or becomes reasonably available by other means. Where property is adjacent to presently existing accessible sewer mains, connections shall be made within a specified time period established by city ordinance.

**Policy LU11.5**

City procedures and programs should be structured to minimize pollutants entering storm, surface, ground, and creek waters from city-owned and city-maintained properties. City procedures and programs should encourage the city's citizens to minimize non-point pollutants contributed from buildings, landscapes, automobiles, and similar sources.

**Policy LU11.6**

The quality of ground water shall be monitored closely and protective measures maintained or increased to ensure an uncontaminated water supply. Regulations should be implemented with regard to installation, inspection, maintenance, and removal of above ground and below ground tanks designed to store potentially contaminating materials such as heating oil and industrial chemicals. Regulations should be developed and implemented as necessary to ensure management of potentially contaminating wastes from commercial and industrial operations. Other protective regulations should be developed as appropriate to protect ground water.

**Policy LU11.7**

City procedures, programs, and water rates should be structured to minimize the city's consumption of water and to improve the water conservation habits of Fircrest's citizens.

**Policy LU11.8**

In accordance with EPA Phase II Western Washington Municipal Stormwater Permit directives, the city shall require Low Impact Development (LID) in areas where soils and geology support it.

**Discussion:** The goal of low impact development is to mimic the predevelopment hydrology of a site using a combination of site planning and structural design strategies to control runoff rate and volumes. Achieving this goal will help to prevent physical, chemical and biological degradation to streams, lakes, wetlands and other natural aquatic systems from commercial, residential or industrial development sites.

Low impact development can provide many environmental and economic benefits:

- **Improved Water Quality.** Stormwater runoff can pick up pollutants such as oil, bacteria, sediments, metals, hydrocarbons and some nutrients from impervious surfaces and discharge these to surface waters. Using LID practices will reduce pollutant-laden stormwater reaching local waters. Better water quality increases property values and lowers government clean-up costs;
- **Reduced Number of Costly Flooding Events.** In communities that rely on ditches and drains to divert runoff to local waterways, flooding can occur when large volumes of stormwater enter surface waters very quickly. Incorporating LID practices reduces the volume and speed of stormwater runoff and decreases costly flooding and property damage;
- **Restored Aquatic Habitat.** Rapidly moving stormwater erodes stream banks and scours stream channels, obliterating habitat for fish and other aquatic life. Using LID practices

reduces the amount of stormwater reaching a surface water system and helps to maintain natural stream channel functions and habitat;

- Improved Groundwater Recharge. Runoff that is quickly shunted through ditches and drains into surface waters cannot soak into the ground. LID practices retain more rainfall on-site, allowing it to enter the ground and be filtered by soil as it seeps down to the water table; and
- Enhanced Neighborhood Beauty. Traditional stormwater management infrastructure may include unsightly pipes, outfalls, concrete channels and fenced basins. Using LID broadly can increase property values and enhance communities by making them more beautiful, sustainable and wildlife friendly.

To more fully support the use of LID where feasible, the city should review and revise its development policies and regulations, as warranted, to improve their effectiveness. The city should consider adoption of the Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound. This manual was prepared by the Washington State University Extension and Puget Sound Partnership with the participation and support of a broad range of stakeholders.

#### **Policy LU11.9**

The city should promote use of techniques, such as current use taxation programs, stormwater utility funds, conservation easements, sensitive site planning, best land management practices and flexible regulations, to help retain and protect open space, environmentally sensitive areas, and unique natural features.

#### **Policy LU11.10**

The city should adopt and implement the latest version of the Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.

## ***DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AND PERMIT PROCESSING***

### **GOAL LU12**

**Fircrest should continue to refine its permit process for development and other local government approvals, as needed, to ensure that it is timely and fair to all affected parties.**

#### **Policy LU12.1**

Development regulations shall be periodically reviewed and revised to ensure that they are consistent with and relate directly to implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and other state and federal mandates. Duplicate and unnecessary regulations should be eliminated.

#### **Policy LU12.2**

In the event of conflict between development regulations and this Comprehensive Plan, the provisions of this Comprehensive Plan take precedence. This policy applies immediately upon adoption of this Comprehensive Plan and amendments

thereto. Development regulations that are significantly inconsistent with this Comprehensive Plan shall be given high priority for rapid revision.

**Policy LU12.3**

Procedures for processing permits shall be periodically reviewed and modified to improve interdepartmental coordination, ensure uniform processing for all permit applications, enhance communication with applicants, combine and simplify processing steps, and minimize processing time.

**Policy LU12.4**

Inputs from developers, business proprietors, residents, and other interested parties should be solicited concerning updates to regulations and permit processing procedures.

**Policy LU12.5**

Permit applications for minor projects of a routine nature should be processed at the staff level and should not require public hearings. However, the streamlining of permit processing procedures should not be done at the expense of public input concerning permit applications of a non-routine, major, or controversial nature. The public should be given ample opportunity to review and comment on major, non-routine, or controversial development permit applications.

**Policy LU12.6**

The city should maintain adequate staff and equipment to ensure meaningful revision and enforcement of development regulations and timely processing of permits.

**Policy LU12.7**

The city should consider the impact of land use ordinances and policies on the rights of private property owners. The city should take steps to ensure the rights of private property owners are protected through a cost effective and timely appeal process.

**Policy LU12.8**

The city should support local community groups in critical habitat restoration and enhancement efforts through reduced or waiver of permit fees and streamlined permitting procedures.

***INTERJURISDICTIONAL PLANNING*****GOAL LU13**

**The city should take steps to ensure that decisions, policies, and activities of other governmental and advisory agencies that may affect Fircrest are consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. Fircrest shall encourage cooperative, coordinated inter-jurisdictional efforts consistent with this goal.**

**Policy LU13.1**

The city shall participate in various county and regional organizations concerned with the implementation of the Growth Management Act and the planning and funding of transportation projects.

**Policy LU13.2**

The city shall support the development of interjurisdictional programs that address regional problems and issues that affect the city and the Puget Sound region. Examples of regional issues include affordable housing, transportation, health care, open space corridors, and economic growth.

**Policy LU13.3**

The city shall seek to develop and adopt interlocal agreements to address concerns relating to land use, new development, and redevelopment. The city shall attempt to reach agreements with adjacent jurisdictions to ensure that land uses adjacent to Fircrest are compatible with Fircrest land uses. The city shall also seek agreements with adjacent jurisdictions to minimize and mitigate the negative impacts to Fircrest of land uses and development in adjacent jurisdictions.

**Policy LU13.4**

The city shall work with adjacent jurisdictions to identify and protect natural habitat networks that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Networks should link large, protected, or significant blocks of fish and wildlife habitats within and between jurisdictions to achieve a continuous county-wide network. The city should establish informational sharing workshops or present information at established coordinating committees. Whenever possible, the city should utilize watershed boundaries instead of jurisdictional boundaries for plans and studies.

**Policy LU13.5**

The city shall work with adjacent jurisdictions to coordinate watershed/aquatic restoration planning and implementation activities within a watershed.

***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

Fircrest and the surrounding region will have a prospering and sustainable regional economy by supporting businesses and job creation, investing in all people, sustaining environmental quality, and creating great central places, diverse communities, and high quality of life.

**GOAL LU14**

Support small and locally owned businesses, recognizing their importance in both job growth and promoting sustainable economic development. Support key employment sectors in the region including established and emerging industry clusters that create wealth by selling products or services to outside markets, industries involved in trade-related activities, startups, and new businesses that provide family-wage jobs.

**Policy LU14.1**

Foster a supportive environment for business startups, small businesses, and locally owned businesses to help them continue to prosper.

**Policy LU14.2**

Encourage the private, public, and non-profit sectors to incorporate environmental and social responsibility into their practices.

**Policy LU14.3**

Promote economic activity and employment growth that creates widely shared prosperity and sustains a diversity of family wage jobs for Fircrest's residents.

**Policy LU14.4**

Sustain and enhance arts and cultural institutions to foster an active and vibrant community life.

**Policy LU14.5**

Ensure that economic development sustains and respects Fircrest's environmental quality.

**Policy LU14.6**

Utilize urban design strategies and approaches to ensure that changes to the built environment preserve and enhance Fircrest's unique attributes and distinctive identity in recognition of the economic value of sense of place.

**Policy LU14.7**

Concentrate economic growth in Fircrest's Commercial Mixed Use District in a manner that is coordinated with economic growth and infrastructure development within the adjacent University Place Regional Growth Center, Tacoma's James Center Mixed Use Center and Tacoma Community College in order to strengthen the local and regional economy and promote economic opportunity.

## LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

Land use designations for this Comprehensive Plan have been determined largely by existing land uses and development opportunity. Fircrest is extensively developed and provides limited infill development opportunities. Much of the development in Fircrest is recent enough that redevelopment opportunities are also limited. Thus, goals and policies, while addressing infill development and redevelopment, also focus on the ongoing maintenance, refinement, and improvement of the existing community. This Comprehensive Plan emphasizes maintaining and enhancing Fircrest's unique community character through land use designations and goals and policies that cultivate the presence of desirable features in existing neighborhoods and through development and redevelopment.





**Figure LU-1** shows Fircrest's land use designations, which include:

- Low Density Residential
- Low Density Residential - Conservation
- Medium Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential - Traditional Community Design
- High Density Residential
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Neighborhood Commercial
- Commercial Mixed Use
- Public and Quasi-Public Facilities

The remainder of this section defines each land use designation for Fircrest and its Potential Annexation Area.

## ***LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL***

### **Allowable Uses**

The Low Density Residential designation generally applies to areas of the community that were platted and developed for single family dwellings prior to 2000. These areas may include the following housing types:

- Single family dwelling units
- Attached and detached accessory dwelling units
- Group family homes, including adult family homes
- Assisted living facilities, congregate care facilities, convalescent homes, hospice care centers, residential care facilities and residential treatment facilities in accord with the applicable goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan
- *Existing* duplex or multifamily dwelling units, which may be renovated or redeveloped as duplex or multifamily dwelling units in accord with the applicable goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan

Additional uses in Low Density Residential areas include public facilities that support residential neighborhoods. For example, streets, sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities, bike paths and associated facilities, transit facilities including stops, shelters and benches, neighborhood parks, and utilities will be allowed. Infrastructure for utilities may include, but is not limited to, storm drainage, power, water, sewer, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities. In addition, other small public facilities compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed. Home occupations that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed.

### **Building Intensity**

A building intensity of four to six dwelling units per acre may be achieved in Low Density Residential areas, depending on the zoning classification and development pattern. Allowable building intensity is limited by bulk regulations, impervious surface coverage

limits, and other provisions specified in the city's Land Development Code (Title 22 FMC).

## ***LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL -- CONSERVATION***

### **Allowable Uses**

The Low Density Residential – Conservation designation generally applies to undeveloped environmentally-sensitive tracts of land. These areas may include the following housing types:

- Single family dwelling units, including cottage housing and small lot developments
- Attached and detached accessory dwelling units
- Group family homes, including adult family homes
- Assisted living facilities, including congregate care facilities, convalescent homes, hospice care centers, residential care facilities, and residential treatment facilities in accord with the applicable goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan

Additional uses in Low Density Residential -- Conservation areas include public facilities that support residential neighborhoods. For example, streets, sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities, bike paths and associated facilities, transit facilities including stops, shelters and benches, neighborhood parks, and utilities will be allowed. Infrastructure for utilities may include, but is not limited to, storm drainage, power, water, sewer, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities. In addition, other small public facilities compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed. Home occupations that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed.

### **Building Intensity**

Low Density Residential -- Conservation areas contain significant physical constraints, which place practical limitations on building intensity. Physical constraints include wetlands, frequently flooded areas and steep slopes. Properties located within these areas are subject to the city's critical area regulations, which may further limit building intensities. New development in these areas shall be clustered to: provide for the retention of substantial portions of the properties as undeveloped open space; avoid critical areas; and generally, avoid steep slopes. In consideration of these physical site constraints and regulatory constraints, a base density of four dwelling units per acre may be achieved in Low Density Residential -- Conservation areas. This density may be increased to a maximum of five to eight dwelling units per acre when innovative designs, including small lot development or cottage housing, are used.

Allowable building intensity is limited by bulk regulations, impervious surface coverage limits, and other provisions specified in the city's Land Development Code (Title 22 FMC). Innovation in site and building design will be encouraged in accord with Comprehensive Plan goals and policies; appropriate buffering, design features, and amenities must be provided.

## ***MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL***

### **Allowable Uses**

The Medium Density Residential designation generally applies to areas previously developed for single family attached and duplex housing. These areas may include the following housing types:

- Single family attached dwelling units
- Attached and detached accessory dwelling units
- Group family homes, including adult family homes
- Duplex dwelling units
- Assisted living facilities, including congregate care facilities, convalescent homes, hospice care centers, residential care facilities and residential treatment facilities in accord with the applicable goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan
- *Existing* multifamily dwelling units, which may be renovated or redeveloped as multifamily dwelling units in accord with the applicable goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan
- *New* multifamily dwelling units in tracts containing critical areas or significant open space, when clustered to avoid critical areas or to retain significant open space, and provided that overall density does not exceed ten dwelling units per acre. In such cases, innovation in site and building design will be encouraged in accord with Comprehensive Plan goals and policies; appropriate buffering, design features, and amenities must be provided; and no more than four dwelling units per building will be allowed.

Additional uses in Medium Density Residential areas include public facilities that support residential neighborhoods. For example, streets, sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities, bike paths and associated facilities, transit facilities including stops, shelters and benches, neighborhood parks, and utilities will be allowed. Infrastructure for utilities may include, but is not limited to, storm drainage, power, water, sewer, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities. In addition, other small public facilities compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed. Home occupations that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed.

### **Building Intensity**

A maximum building intensity of eight dwelling units per acre may be achieved in Medium Density Residential areas. Allowable building intensity is limited by bulk regulations impervious surface limits, and other provisions specified in the city's Land Development Code (Title 22 FMC).

## ***MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL - TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY DESIGN***

### **Allowable Uses**

Medium Density Residential -- Traditional Community Design designations apply to The Commons and Fircrest Greens neighborhoods and other smaller sites. These areas may include the following housing types:

- Single family attached and detached dwelling units, including cottage housing and small lot developments
- Attached and detached accessory dwelling units
- Group family homes, including adult family homes
- Duplex dwelling units
- Assisted living facilities including congregate care facilities, convalescent homes, hospice care centers, residential care facilities, and residential treatment facilities in accord with the applicable goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan
- Multifamily dwelling units within a structure containing no more than eight dwelling units, when clustered to avoid critical areas or to retain significant open space

Additional uses in Medium Density Residential -- Traditional Community Design areas include public facilities that support residential neighborhoods. For example, streets, sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities, bike paths and associated facilities, transit facilities including stops, shelters and benches, and utilities will be allowed. Infrastructure for utilities may include, but is not limited to, storm drainage, power, water, sewer, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities. In addition, other small public facilities compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed. Home occupations that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed.

### **Building Intensity**

Medium Density Residential -- Traditional Community Design areas may contain physical constraints, such as wetlands, which place practical limitations on building intensity within portions of an area. Property located within such areas is subject to the city's critical area regulations, which may further limit building intensities. In consideration of these physical site constraints and regulatory constraints, a maximum building intensity of ten dwelling units per acre may be achieved in Medium Density Residential -- Traditional Community Design areas. Allowable building intensity is limited by bulk regulations, impervious surface limits and other provisions specified in the city's Land Development Code (Title 22 FMC).

### **Development Guidelines**

Development and redevelopment of Medium Density Residential – Traditional Community Design areas shall be designed to incorporate, at a minimum, the following elements:

- Alleys, sidewalks, street trees and human-scaled architectural design elements
- Housing types designed to maintain the look of conventional single-family neighborhoods in terms of scale, orientation to street, style and appearance
- Dwelling units that face the street and sidewalk or common open space areas with entries, balconies, porches, and other architectural features, which create a safe, pleasant walking environment
- Residential building setbacks from public streets that are minimized while maintaining privacy
- Building facades that are varied and articulated to provide visual interest to pedestrians
- Building intensities, orientation, and massing which support transit and reinforce public open spaces
- Parking which is placed to the rear of building where feasible with access from alleys
- A variety of architectural building styles and architectural features such as dormers, gables, porches, bay windows, and other detailing
- A mix of housing types, including single family residences, cottage housing, duplexes, row homes, townhomes, and multi-family designs to help meet the community's demand for a variety of affordable housing types. Multi-family dwellings are limited to no more than 50% of the total number of units in these areas to ensure compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood.

## ***HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL***

### **Allowable Uses**

High Density Residential designations generally apply to areas developed primarily for multifamily housing, and to a lesser extent duplex housing. These areas may include the following housing types:

- Duplex dwelling units
- Group family homes, including adult family homes
- Multifamily dwelling units
- Assisted living facilities, including congregate care facilities, convalescent homes, hospice care centers, residential care facilities and residential treatment facilities in accord with the applicable goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan

Additional uses in High Density Residential areas include public facilities that support residential neighborhoods. For example, streets, sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities, bike paths and associated facilities, transit facilities including stops, shelters and benches, neighborhood parks, and utilities will be allowed. Infrastructure for utilities may include, but is not limited to, storm drainage, power, water, sewer, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities. In addition, other public facilities compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed. Home occupations that are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood will be allowed.

## **Building Intensity**

A building intensity of 20 to 30 dwelling units per acre may be achieved in High Density Residential areas, depending on the zoning classification and development pattern. Rehabilitation or redevelopment of existing development will be in accord with the goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan and applicable design standards and guidelines. Allowable building intensity is limited by bulk regulations impervious surface limits and other provisions specified in the city's Land Development Code (Title 22 FMC).

## ***PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE***

### **Allowable Uses**

Lands designated as Parks, Recreation, and Open Space include tracts that are publicly and privately owned. Allowed uses in Parks, Recreation and Open Space areas, subject to restrictions of the critical areas ordinance where applicable, include:

- Neighborhood parks designed to meet the needs of residents and employees in the immediate area
- Community parks designed to meet the needs of the entire Fircrest community
- Recreational buildings including facilities such as gymnasiums, basketball courts, community kitchens, banquet halls, indoor stages, meeting rooms, etc.
- Outdoor recreational facilities such as swings, climbing toys, picnic areas, swimming pools, golf courses, disc golf courses, baseball diamonds, volleyball courts, bocce ball courts, lawn bowling lanes, outdoor stages, etc.
- Trails and paths for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Transit facilities including stops, shelters and benches which serve the park, recreation facility, open space site or adjacent uses
- Preserved natural areas characterized by native vegetation and wildlife
- Residences may be developed on private property that is designated as park, recreation or open space but that has not been permanently dedicated as park, recreation, or open space, provided significant tracts are permanently dedicated for parks, recreation, or open space at the time of development approval

### **Building Intensity**

Building intensity for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space areas will vary widely. There will be no building intensity in preserved natural areas. For other park and recreation facilities, building intensity will be determined by the purpose of the facility. Because park and recreation facilities may occur in conjunction with other land uses, any park or recreation facility that is proposed must harmonize with surrounding development and must not exceed the building intensity of the surrounding area. Ideally, park and recreation facilities will provide visual relief in the urban landscape by having a significantly lower building intensity than the surrounding development.

## ***NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL***

### **Allowable Uses**

Neighborhood commercial areas will allow retail businesses and offices for which the primary clientele will most likely be Fircrest residents and local employees. Examples of such businesses include appropriately sized grocery stores, health care and other professional offices, pharmacies, gift shops, delicatessens, small bakeries, clothiers, beauty shops, coffee shops, small restaurants, small financial institutions, etc. Businesses and organizations that are culturally enriching will also be allowed. Examples of such businesses and organizations include art galleries, bookstores, dance studios, museums, live theaters, etc. Additional automobile-oriented businesses such as restaurants with drive-up windows are prohibited in Neighborhood Commercial areas. Businesses providing delivery services may be permitted provided they are compatible with the goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan.

In addition, residential uses may be allowed on upper floors of vertical mixed use buildings subject to compliance with design guidelines. Residential uses must complement commercial uses and avoid impacting the commercial viability or functional operation of the commercial area. Public facilities, including transit facilities such as stops, shelters and benches that support development in the commercial areas, will be allowed, as will quasi-public facilities that are compatible with the surrounding development. Commercial uses must continue to be the predominant use in Neighborhood Commercial areas. Any noncommercial development should not cause a practical restriction on continued commercial use of the area.

### **Building Intensity**

Allowable building intensity for new development, rehabilitation, and redevelopment in neighborhood Commercial areas is limited by bulk regulations, impervious surface limits and other provisions specified in the city's Land Development Code (Title 22 FMC).

## ***COMMERCIAL MIXED USE***

### **Allowable Uses**

Commercial Mixed Use areas will allow the same types of retail businesses, offices, and organizations that are allowed in neighborhood commercial areas. In addition, community commercial areas may include businesses that serve a clientele that will most likely be drawn equally from the Fircrest community and the surrounding University Place and Tacoma area. Examples of such businesses include large grocery stores and other retail outlets, consolidated medical and professional centers, major financial institutions, movie theaters, etc. Automobile-oriented businesses such as restaurants with drive-up windows and businesses providing delivery services may only be permitted when they are compatible with the goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan.

Residential uses are allowed on upper floors of vertical mixed use buildings. In addition, stand-alone residential buildings may be permitted when located toward the rear of a

site when separated from a public street by one or more intervening commercial or mixed use buildings. In such instances, the development plan should achieve a predominantly commercial orientation at the ground floor level in areas located between the stand-alone residential building(s) and the street. Any noncommercial development should not cause a practical restriction on continued commercial activities within a commercial mixed use area.

Public facilities, including transit facilities such as stops, shelters and benches that support development in the commercial areas, will be allowed, as will quasi-public facilities that are compatible with the surrounding development.

### **Building Intensity**

Allowable building intensity for new development, rehabilitation, and redevelopment in commercial Mixed Use areas is limited by bulk regulations, impervious surface limits and other provisions specified in the city's Land Development Code (Title 22 FMC).

## ***PUBLIC AND QUASI-PUBLIC FACILITIES***

### **Allowable Uses**

Areas designated for Public and Quasi-Public Facilities are now used for, or could be used for, public facilities such as schools, libraries, parks, major utilities and other government-owned facilities. Designated areas are also suitable for quasi-public facilities such as privately-owned utility facilities, religious institutions, private recreational facilities, and private organizations offering services complementing or supplementing services typically offered by government agencies.

To improve visual clarity on the land use map, public facilities that occur throughout the city, such as paths and utilities, are not shown on the land use map. Such facilities are discussed in the Transportation, Utilities, and Capital Facilities Elements of this Comprehensive Plan.

### **Building Intensity**

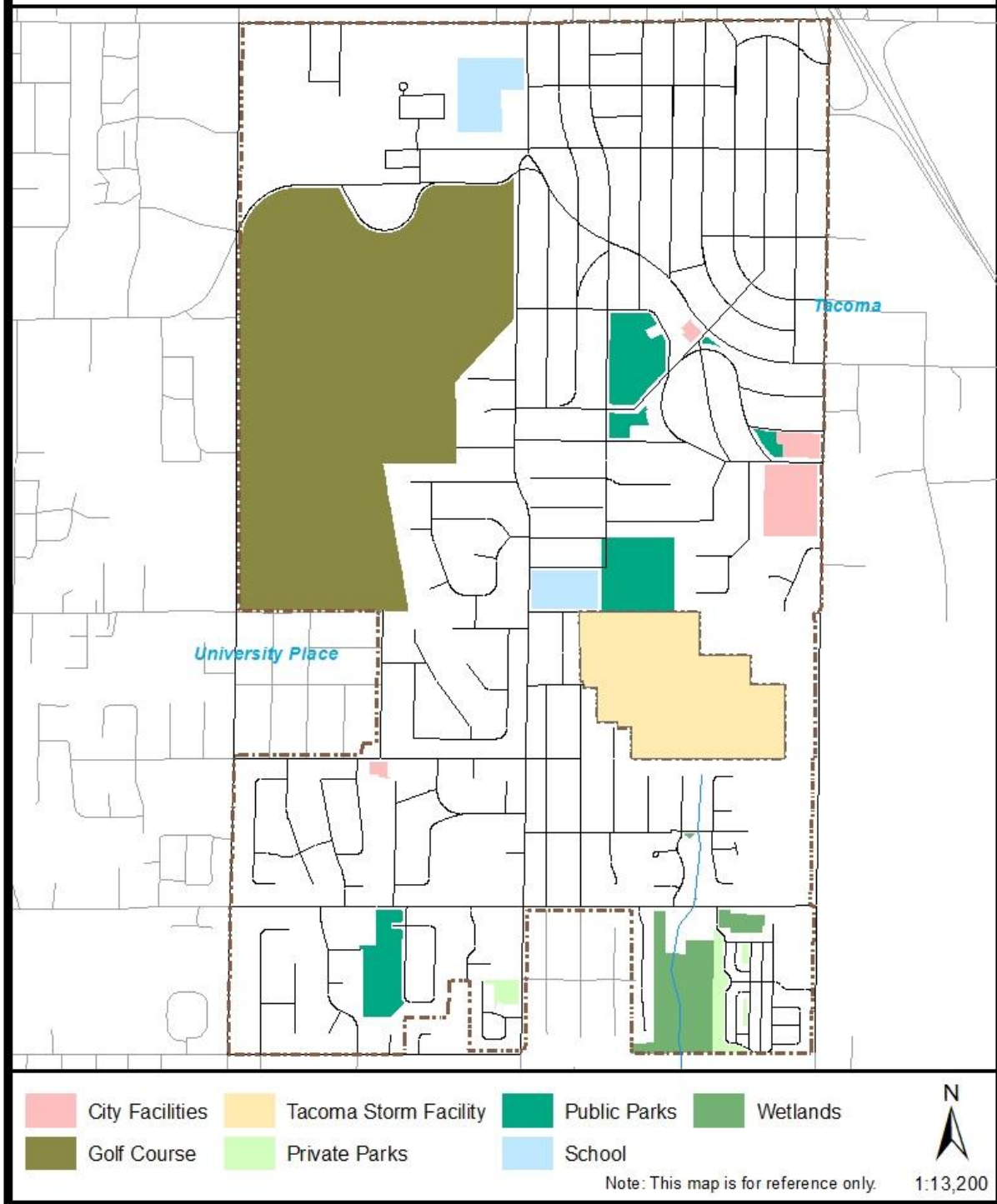
Building intensity for a public or quasi-public facility depends upon the purpose of the facility. Because public facilities may occur in conjunction with other land uses, any public facility that is proposed must harmonize with surrounding development and must not exceed the building intensity of the surrounding area.

## **LANDS USEFUL FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES**

**Figure LU-2** indicates lands useful for public purposes. Lands useful for parks, recreation, and open space are, by definition, useful for public purposes. In addition, lands that may be useful for public purposes include those designated Public and Quasi-Public Facilities, Commercial Mixed Use, and Neighborhood Commercial. These designations are shown in **Figure LU-1**. Public or quasi-public facilities are considered a secondary use in commercial areas and must be compatible with surrounding development. All public and quasi-public facilities must be appropriately sited and buffered in accord with the goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan.



**Figure LU-2  
Lands Useful for Public Purposes**



## POPULATION, HOUSING UNIT AND EMPLOYMENT TARGETS

The Growth Management Act requires Pierce County to designate urban growth areas based upon the urban growth management population projection made for the County by the Office of Financial Management. Counties have the authority, as regional governments, to allocate population and employment to the cities within their boundaries. In addition, *VISION 2040* requires Pierce County and its cities and towns to adopt housing unit and employment targets, taking into account PSRC's Regional Growth Strategy regional geographies and their respective growth shares for population and employment.

Fircrest must plan for a 20-year planning horizon under the GMA and therefore must show it can accommodate projected growth for a 20-year period – 2015 through 2035. Pursuant to Pierce County Ordinance No. 2011-36s, however, the Pierce County Council has established population, housing unit, and employment targets for 2030 -- rather than for 2035. In recognition that the Pierce County 2030 targets represent a build-out condition for Fircrest, no additional growth is anticipated, or will need to be accommodated, for 2035. The adopted Pierce County targets for Fircrest and 2035 projections are summarized in **Table LU-2**.

**Table LU-2**

<b>GMA Population, Housing Unit and Employment Estimates, Targets and Needs</b>				
<b>Population</b>	Estimated 2008 Population (OFM)	2030 Total Population Target	2008-2030 Population Growth	2035 Population Projection
	6,315	6,950	635	6,950
<b>Housing Units</b>	2010 Housing Units (US Census)	2030 Total Housing Unit Target	2030 Additional Housing Units Needed	2035 Housing Units Projection
	2,847	3,351	544	3,351
<b>Employment</b>	2010 Total Employment Estimate	2030 Total Employment Target	2030 Additional Employment Needs	2035 Employment Projection
	1,369	1,544	206	1,544

The Pierce County Buildable Lands Report (July 2014) identifies the extent to which Fircrest can achieve the adopted targets identified in **Table LU-2**. Pierce County has assigned Fircrest a housing target of 3,351 units for 2030. According to the US Census Bureau, the city had a total of 2,847 housing units in 2010. The difference between

existing units and the 2030 target represents 504 additional units over a two decade period. The Buildable Lands report identifies that an additional 40 displaced units need to be factored in to recognize that some of the city's underutilized parcels will be unavailable for redevelopment due to site-specific circumstances. As a result, the report states that Fircrest's 2030 housing need is 544 additional units.

The Buildable Lands Report also states that current residential land capacity is 254 units. This capacity is 290 fewer units than needed to meet the 2030 housing target. Therefore, the city will need to apply a variety of approaches that can, collectively, increase its residential development capacity by at least 290 units.

Since adoption of its first GMA Comprehensive Plan in 1996 and Land Development Code in 2000, Fircrest's development policies and regulations have reflected the community's strong preference to maintain existing housing character and densities within its single-family residential neighborhoods. In order to accommodate additional growth consistent with the city's 2030 population and housing targets – without significantly increasing densities and changing housing types in these single-family neighborhoods, Fircrest has taken the following reasonable measures:

- Increased the maximum density from 20 units per acre to 30 units per acre for a portion of the High Density Residential designation area
- Rezoned R-20 zoned properties located in the Northwest Fircrest CoLI to an R-30 zoning classification that will accommodate a higher 30 units per acre density;
- Increased the maximum density in the Commercial Mixed Use designation (formerly Community Commercial) from a range of 6 to 10 units per acre to 35 units per acre;
- Increased the maximum density in the Commercial Mixed Use zone (formerly Community Commercial) from 10 units per acre to 35 units per acre;
- Rezoned Community Office zoned properties (6 units per acre) to Commercial Mixed Use (35 units per acre);
- Increased the maximum density for the Low Density Residential – Conservation designation and R-4C zoned properties from 4 units per acre to a range of 5 to 8 units per acre for innovative housing designs.

The combination of these amendments will increase Fircrest's residential land capacity by an estimated 303 units, thereby satisfying the housing (and population) growth targets.

In terms of employment capacity, Fircrest has been assigned a 2030 employment target of 1,544. The Buildable Lands Report estimates Fircrest's 2010 employment to be 1,369 – implying the City would need to accommodate employment growth of 175. Technical adjustments summarized in the report, however, result in additional employment needs of 206. Employment capacity based on Fircrest zoning in effect at the time of buildable lands analysis was 222, which exceeds by 16 the minimum additional capacity needed to meet the 2030 target. Therefore, the City is not required to increase employment capacity for this purpose.

## CRITICAL AREAS AND NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS

The GMA includes a requirement to designate, classify, and enact development standards for critical areas. Critical areas are defined as the following areas and ecosystems: wetlands, areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas.

**Figure LU-3** identifies lands for which the presence of wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, and frequently flooded areas is indicated. **Figure LU-4** identifies lands for which the presence of geologically hazardous areas is indicated. Areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water are not illustrated because the entire city is within the Clover-Chambers Creek Groundwater Management Area, which has a critical recharging effect on the Tacoma and Clover-Chambers Creek Aquifers. The inclusion of these maps in the Land Use Element does not preclude the designation of additional critical areas that may be identified subsequent to the adoption of this plan.

The City of Fircrest adopted interim development regulations for critical areas in February 1993. These regulations were updated in 2005 to incorporate the best available science and special consideration for anadromous fisheries as required by RCW 36.70A.172. The city subsequently updated these regulations in 2015 to ensure consistency with state law as part of the mandatory GMA Update for comprehensive plans and development regulations.

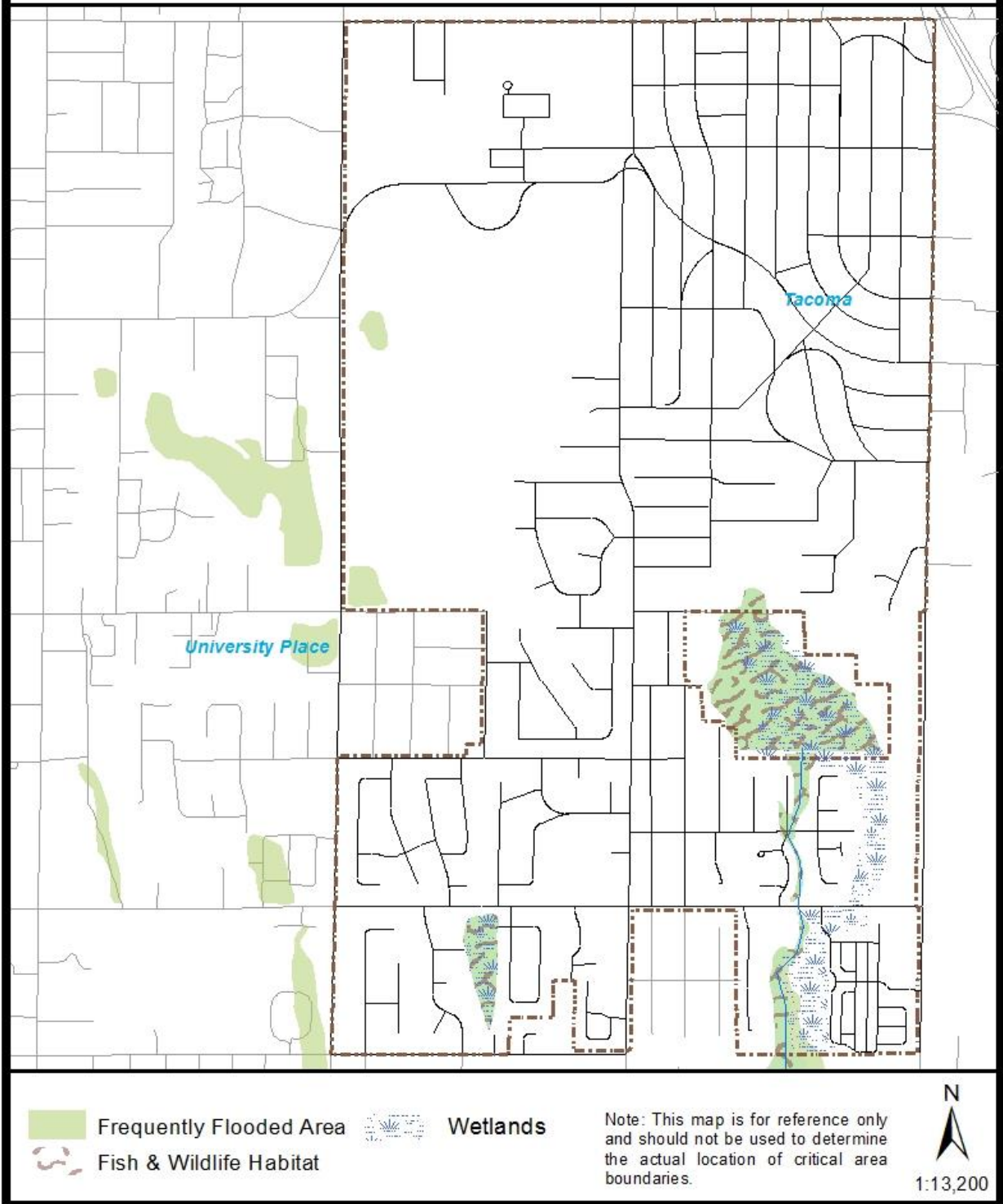
The GMA also requires the designation of natural resource lands of long-term commercial significance. These areas include forest, agriculture, and mineral resource lands. Natural resource lands are not found within the City of Fircrest or its Potential Annexation Area.

## PLANNED LAND USE IN ADJACENT JURISDICTIONS

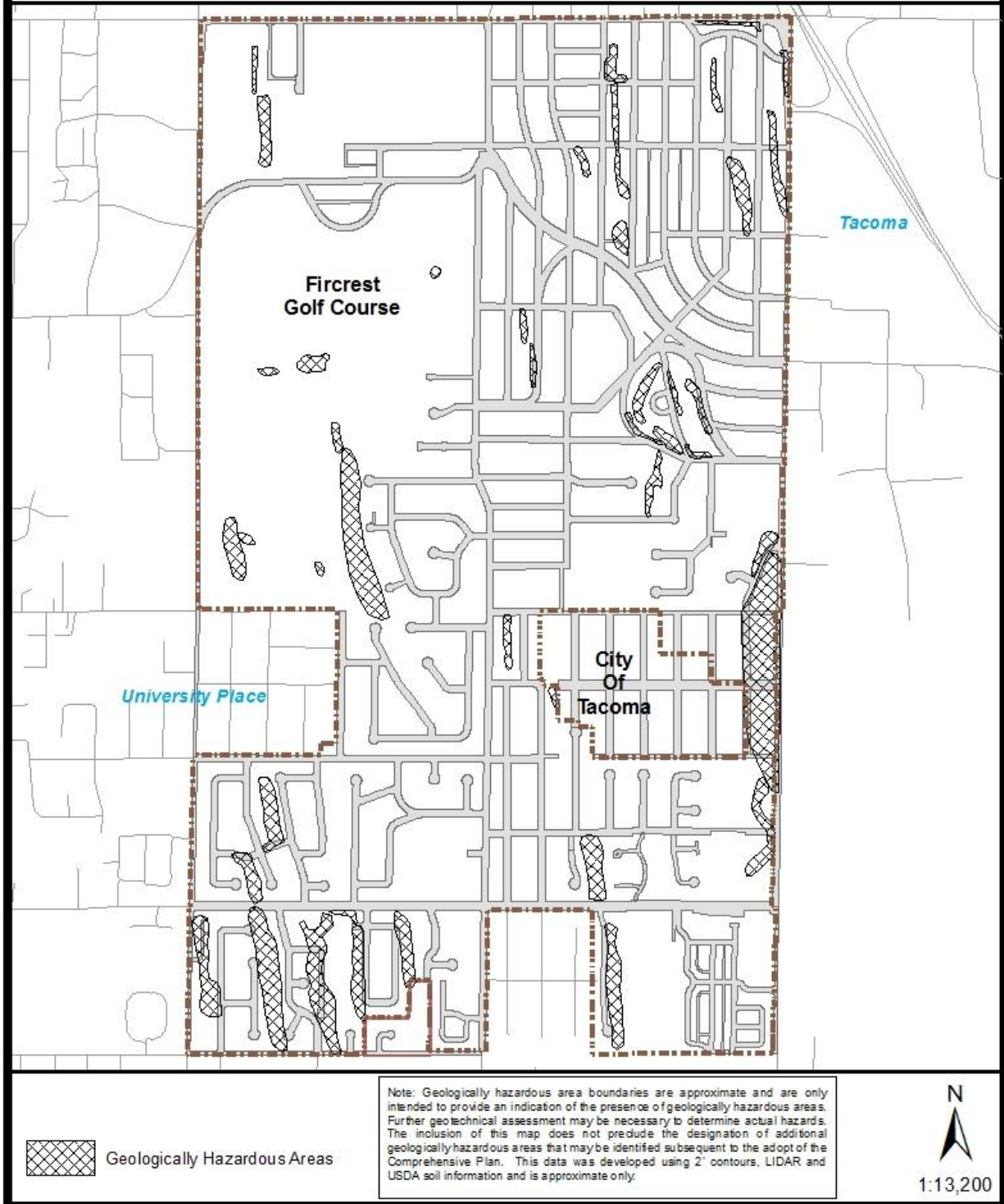
**Figure LU-5** shows planned land use in areas adjacent to Fircrest. Future land use designations for adjacent lands west and south of Fircrest and its Potential Annexation Area are based on those indicated in the *Pierce County Comprehensive Plan* and the *University Place Comprehensive Plan*. Designations for the areas east and north of Fircrest are based on the *City of Tacoma Generalized Land Use Plan*.

Adjacent land use designations are summarized in this Comprehensive Plan to identify potential inconsistencies and incompatibilities with Fircrest land uses. Fircrest will coordinate with other jurisdictions as appropriate to address consistency and compatibility issues.

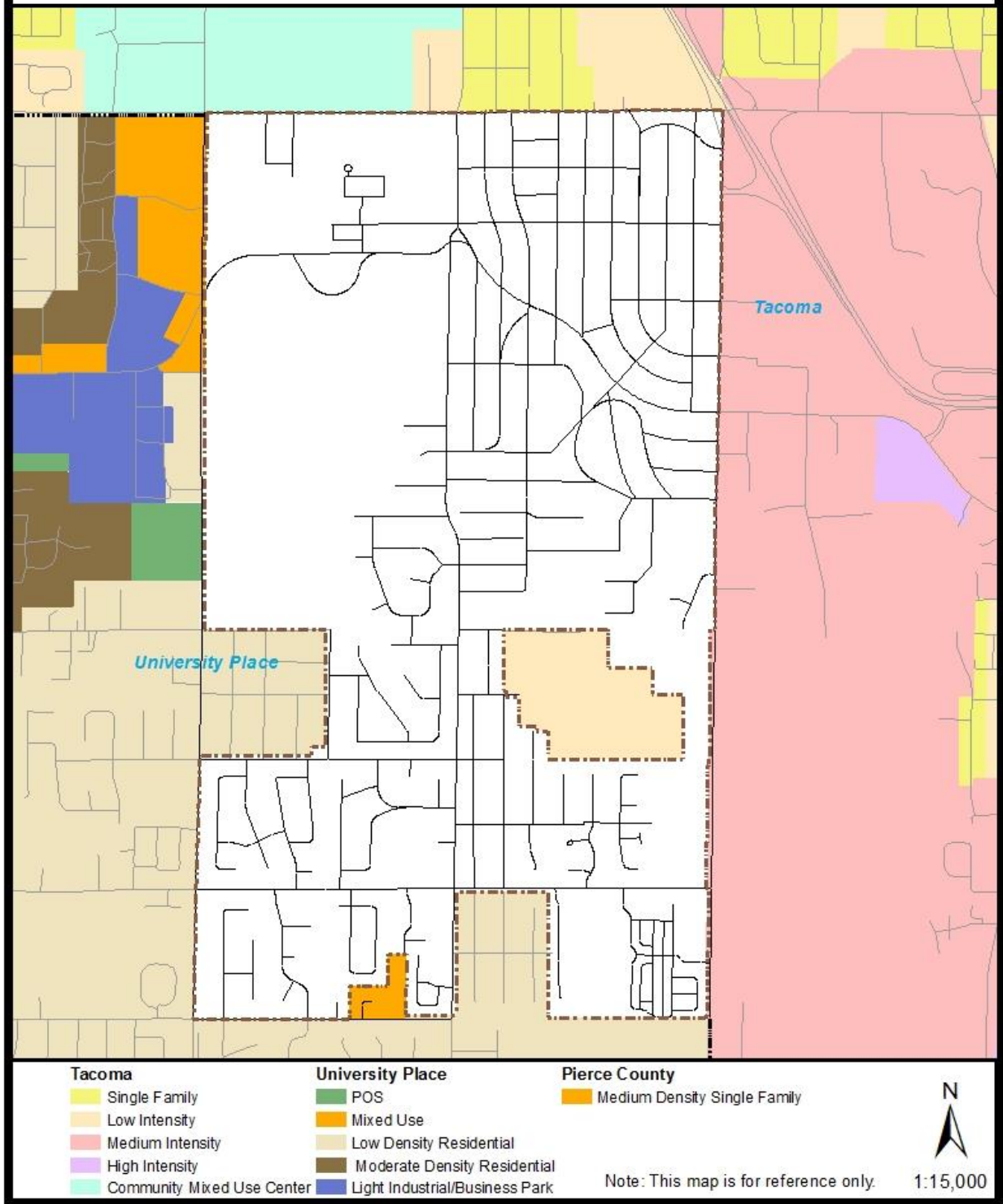
**Figure LU-3  
Wetlands, Fish & Wildlife Habitat, Frequently Flooded Areas**



### Figure LU-4 Geologically Hazardous Areas



### Figure LU-5 Adjacent Land Use Designations



**MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS -- ADJACENT LAND USE DESIGNATIONS**

**Table LU-3** summarizes the primary permitted uses for each land use designation shown on **Figure LU-5** and identifies the most similar land use designation in Fircrest.

**Table LU-3**

Permitted by Pierce County and City of University Place (UP) Designations	Permitted by City of Tacoma Designations	Permitted by City of Fircrest Designations
<p>Pierce County Moderate Density Single Family:                      -- Single family dwellings, accessory dwelling units, and duplexes -- up to 4 dwelling units/acre in areas without sewer, up to 6 dwelling units/acre in areas with sewer                      UP Low Density Residential:                      -- Base density of 4 to 6 single-family dwelling units/acre, with range of 6 to 9 dwelling units/acre allowed through small lot development process</p>	<p>Single Family Detached Housing Areas:                      -- Single family dwellings; accessory dwelling units and limited duplex, triplex, or small-scale multifamily with a maximum density of 8 dwelling units/acre                      Low Intensity:                      -- Same uses as above with a maximum density of 15 dwellings/acre</p>	<p>Low Density Residential:                      -- Single family dwellings, accessory dwelling units, and existing duplexes and multifamily – 4 to 6 dwelling units/acre depending on zoning classification                       Medium Density Residential:                      -- Single family dwellings, accessory dwelling units, duplexes, and multifamily – 8 to 10 dwelling units/acre depending on zoning classification</p>
<p>UP Moderate Density Residential:                      -- Base density of 35-55 multifamily dwelling units/acre                      -- Density bonus to 40-60 dwelling units/acre with affordable housing component</p>	<p>Medium Intensity:                      -- Multifamily dwellings with a maximum density of 45 dwelling units/acre</p>	<p>High Density Residential:                      -- Multifamily dwellings – 20 to 30 dwelling units/acre depending on zoning classification</p>
<p>UP Mixed Use, Mixed Use Office, Neighborhood Commercial, Community Commercial, and Town Center:                      -- Mix of retail, office, service and multifamily residential uses</p>	<p>Community Center:                      -- Concentration of commercial and/or institutional development that serves many neighborhoods and includes a unique attraction that draws people from throughout the city.                      -- Not directly equivalent in that it is intended to accommodate Tacoma Community College.</p>	<p>Commercial Mixed Use:                      -- Mix of retail, office, service and multifamily residential uses                       Neighborhood Commercial:                      -- Mix of neighborhood-scale retail, office, service and multifamily residential uses</p>



Permitted by Pierce County and City of University Place (UP) Designations	Permitted by City of Tacoma Designations	Permitted by City of Fircrest Designations
	Low Intensity: -- Neighborhood-serving public and quasi-public facilities such as parks, schools, fire stations, libraries, and churches plus open spaces such as the Tacoma Holding Basin	Public and quasi-public facility: -- Neighborhood- and community-serving public and quasi-public facilities such as parks, schools, government buildings, and churches permitted if compatible with surrounding development
UP Light Industrial – Business Park: -- Light and clean industries, storage and warehousing, auto repair, limited retail, offices, and entertainment uses	Medium Intensity: -- Commercial and industrial uses	Commercial Mixed Use: -- small-scale light industrial uses within mixed use development

**PIERCE COUNTY LAND USE DESIGNATION IN FIRCREST’S POTENTIAL ANNEXATION AREA**

Fircrest's Potential Annexation Area located at 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West and 44<sup>th</sup> Street West is shown in **Figure LU-1**. Pierce County has jurisdiction over the land use designation for this area and regulatory authority over development. The County’s Moderate Density Single Family designation applied to this Potential Annexation Area is generally comparable to Fircrest’s Low Density Residential designation.