



King County

Vashon-Maury Island CSA Plan

Proposed Vision, Policies, Actions & Priorities

(Updated: 12/12/16)

Vashon-Maury Island Vision

A healthy, rural environment with a strong sense of community where people value:

- Independence and self-sufficiency
- Natural environment
- Equity and diversity
- Island history
- Creativity and self-expression
- Sustainable local employment
- Community collaboration

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These values are exhibited and sustained through guiding principles:

- Maintain the rural, small town culture of Vashon-Maury Island
- Encourage and protect the diversity of neighborhoods and affordable housing choices for all
- Guide limited growth on Vashon-Maury Island and ensure development does not over-extend basic services, public safety, and infrastructure
- Plan the Rural Town (or Town Core) of Vashon as a compact, mixed use, and vibrant center of the community (*Note: The geographic scope of this principle may change, depending on the outcome of the Land Use working group discussion about the Rural Town and Town Core boundaries*)
- Preserve and protect native habitats, groundwater, shorelines, open space and sensitive areas for present and future generations
- Protect agricultural lands and support island farmers and growers
- Provide a balanced and integrated multimodal transportation system which reflects environmental, economic and social considerations
- Preserve historic, archeological and cultural resources
- Promote an environment where all people can be physically active, eat nutritious food and live in safe and healthy places
- Support and foster a diverse, dynamic and sustainable island economy

Proposed Policies & Actions

- The matrix below contains a combination of updated policies from the 1986 Vashon Community Plan and 1996 Vashon Town Plan plus new policies recommended by the CSA Plan Community Advisory Group and/or King County staff. They are categorized alphabetically by the CSA Plan topic. The policy numbers are for reference only and do not reflect any type of priority or level of importance.
- Some policies are “general purpose” and do not have an associated implementation item; this is why several cells in the “Potential Action” column are blank.
- No prioritization of actions has been done to-date. The “Tentative Priority” column is only an initial estimation by King County staff if sufficient information was available to preliminarily assess the action.
- Policies from prior plans that have either been accomplished or are no longer relevant and are recommended for deletion are shown in Appendix A (forthcoming).
- Policies that appear in the KC Comprehensive Plan and have countywide application are NOT duplicated in the Vashon-Maury Island CSA Plan, even if they are highly relevant to the island. However, policies that appear in the KC Comprehensive Plan and are Vashon-specific will be transferred to the CSA Plan, unless it is determined they are no longer relevant.

Plan Category	#	Draft Policy	Policy Origin		Rationale ²	Implementation		Tentative Priority ⁵
			Existing ¹	New		Potential Action ³	KC Dept / Program ⁴	
Open Space / Recreation	1	Additional water-related parks and beaches should be acquired along the saltwater shorelines of Vashon-Maury Island. These parks should be retained as passive, natural areas.	VCP #V-84		- This policy works in tandem with climate change adaptation goals to reduce structural and facility exposure to sea level rise.	DNRP/Parks has ongoing programs that identify parcels with high ecological value on the island and then acquire them for long-term public benefit.	DNRP/Parks	Ongoing
	2	A public, off-street trail system that jointly meets the recreational needs of islanders and protects natural areas should be identified and encouraged for preservation. As depicted in Appendix D , an island-wide network of soft-surface, backcountry trails is envisioned for pedestrians and equestrians that connects several open space, park and community destination. Trail corridors should be established and designed based upon the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Connect park and open space areas; b. Provide access to shoreline areas, particularly public parks; c. Incorporate views and other special features of scenic, historic, or archaeological interest. 	VCP #V-85 and #V-85d and #V-85f (amended)		- Promotes an active, healthy lifestyle for islanders and visitors. - King County Parks, the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust, and equestrian groups have done a significant amount of backcountry trail planning to-date. This policy seeks to support that work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scope, identify funding for, and conduct a feasibility study for the off-street trail network. b. Pursue voluntary public easements across private lands in order to connect public trails. Upgrade DNRP’s current program to promote donations from willing land owners (similar to conservation easements). 	DNRP/Parks VMI Land Trust	1
	3	The existing public boat launch site adjacent to the State of Washington north ferry terminal should be preserved and improved to become a more functional boat launch at the north end of Vashon Island.	VCP #V-86 (amended)		- Promotes an active, healthy lifestyle for islanders and visitors. - Improves the safety and access of a public recreation facility, which may entice more users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Determine the legal description and property ownership of the existing launch site, including access to the site. b. Identify partners and formalize an inter-agency agreement to assess the 	DNRP/Parks (only as support agency) Vashon Park District	3

Plan	#	Draft Policy	Policy Origin	Rationale ²	Implementation	Tentative
					launch site, safety, parking and create recommendations for potential improvements.	
	4	The Tramp Harbor dock/pier has significant historic, economic, and recreational community value. King County, along with island residents and visitors, should maintain the docks in a safe, attractive, and functional state. King County should work with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Vashon Park District, and other key stakeholders to ensure the Tramp Harbor facility is well-maintained and complies with all state and federal regulations.		√ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leverage economies of scale on dock projects through joint planning and construction. - There were 780+ individual responses to a 2014 KC/Parks survey about the Tramp Harbor Dock, showing strong user support. - Safe, attractive and functional docks and marinas induce increased use by birders, fishermen, economic development, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Vashon Park District and DNRP/Parks will continue to partner to secure a state appropriation to upgrade the Tramp Harbor dock, including removal of creosote, pylon safety improvements, and other improvements. b. Coordinate on lease relationships with the Washington Department of Natural Resources. c. Solicit community input on dock design and desired activities. 	<p>DNRP/Parks</p> <p>Vashon Park District</p> <p>2</p>
	5	King County supports improved and expanded public access to the island's shoreline where sensitive habitats are not disturbed and should explore the potential for alternative uses of any County property interests.		√ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although the island has approximately 50 miles of shoreline, the majority of that land is under private ownership and control. - Promotes an active, healthy lifestyle for islanders and visitors. - Increases public access to and enjoyment of shorelines and beaches. - Improved shoreline access may facilitate habitat improvements. - Some research on this project has already been completed by a Vashon student to identify parcels that access the shoreline, so there is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. King County should analyze its publicly-held property and road right-of-way to identify any potential opportunities for increasing public shoreline access or transferring to other agencies. b. Cooperate with Vashon Park District to include any District-owned parcels or surplus land in a future shoreline access analysis. c. (Pending action – DOT/Roads and DNRP/Parks staff to meet and discuss criteria to identify opportunities for appropriate shoreline access.) 	<p>DOT</p> <p>DNRP/Parks</p> <p>VMI Land Trust</p> <p>Vashon Park District</p> <p>1</p>
	6	King County supports and will continue to be an active partner with the VPD and Land Trust in ensuring high quality public parks and recreational services and facilities continue to be provided on the island.		√ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognize the long-standing partnerships between VPD, the Land Trust, and King County. - Recognize the unique and influential role of VPD and Land Trust in securing and managing open space lands and educating islanders about conservation, recreation, habitat protection, etc. - Encourage collaboration on projects where there is a mutual interest and benefit to the public and these 3 entities. - The Vashon Park District (VPD), a Junior Taxing District providing active and passive recreational opportunities to island residents, is the largest owner and operator of improved public parks and facilities on the island. They own almost 50 parcels of land 	<p>There is some fragmented ownership of public open space across the island and land utilization is not always aligned to the strength or mission of each entity. To consolidate ownership, improve maintenance, and provide for improved land management schemes, develop a mid-to-long-term strategy that supports mutually beneficial exchanges between VPD, the Land Trust and King County Parks. Consider special lease agreements, underutilized parcels, etc.</p>	<p>DNRP/Parks</p> <p>Vashon Park District</p> <p>VMI Land Trust</p> <p>2</p>

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				and manage 18 island parks. The Vashon Maury Island Land Trust, a local non-profit land stewardship and conservation organization, has acquired and preserved approximately 2,000 acres of high quality lands over 25 years.			
	7	As identified in the King County Comprehensive Plan, the Regional Trails System is the centerpiece of the nonmotorized system in the Rural Area. There is currently no segment of the Regional Trails System on Vashon-Maury Island. Therefore, King County should explore the feasibility of a new regional trail or other non-motorized corridor that connects the Vashon and Maury Island communities with the north and south ferry terminals and respective ferry routes.		√ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 1986 Vashon Community Plan called for some type of nonmotorized path to connect the north ferry and Tahlequah ferry terminals and Maury Island and such a pathway continues to receive broad public support. - There is no existing or abandoned railroad corridor on Vashon-Maury Island to form the backbone of a regional trail network as in many other parts of unincorporated King County. - King County's road design standards do not contain any type of on-street or "in public right-of-way" provision to accommodate a typical regional trail cross-section. As such, a regional trail or similar type facility would need to be primarily outside of the DOT right-of-way. - 	Form an interdepartmental and interagency working committee to assess the financial, topographical and design feasibility for a new regional trail or other non-motorized corridor.	DOT/Roads DNRP/Parks VMI Land Trust ?	?
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¹Existing policy sources: "VCP" = 1986 Vashon Community Plan / "VTP" = 1996 Vashon Town Plan / Policy number is taken from the relevant plan.

²This language may or may not be carried over into the final plan. It's included here to provide background and reasoning for new policies and to create a more traceable record for future reference. Cited policies are from other adopted plans or studies that support the proposed policy. All King County Comprehensive Plan citations are taken from the 2016 Executive Recommended Draft.

³Potential actions, where known and relevant, are used to implement policies and will be transferred to a separate implementation section where all actions will be prioritized and assigned a responsible party. Additional actions are expected to be added between October and December 2016.

⁴King County Department acronyms:

- DOA = Department of Assessments (County Assessor)
- DCHS = Department of Community & Human Services (Community Services, Housing & Homelessness)
- DPER = Department of Permitting & Environmental Review (Code Enforcement, Permitting)
- DNRP = Department of Natural Resources & Parks (Parks, Solid Waste, Water & Land Resources, Wastewater Treatment)
- DOT = Department of Transportation (Metro Transit, Road Services, Water Taxi)
- DPH = Department of Public Health (Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health)
- KCLC = King County Landmarks Commission
- PSB = Performance, Strategy & Budget Office

Priority #1 = 2017/2018

Priority #2 = 2019/2020

Priority #3 = 2021+

Ongoing = The action item is a component of an ongoing and funded program.

Appendices

- A. Accomplished and/or omitted policies from prior plans (pending)
- B. Vashon Century Houses List (submitted by Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association, July 2016)
- C. Vashon Rural Town sign ordinance amendments proposed by the 2011/12 Vashon Maury Island Community Council land use committee
- D. Backcountry trail system map
- E. Vashon Rural Town pedestrian circulation system (from the 1996 Vashon Town Plan)

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