

# CITY CENTER COMMUNITY PLAN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE HEART OF THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY



# A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR RENTON'S CITY CENTER

## THE HEART OF THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY

The Heart of the Center of Opportunity



### INTRODUCTION

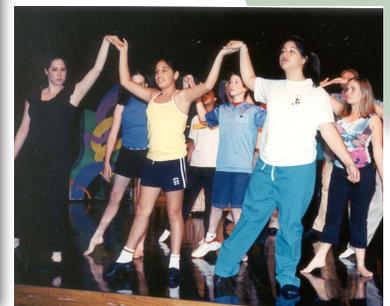
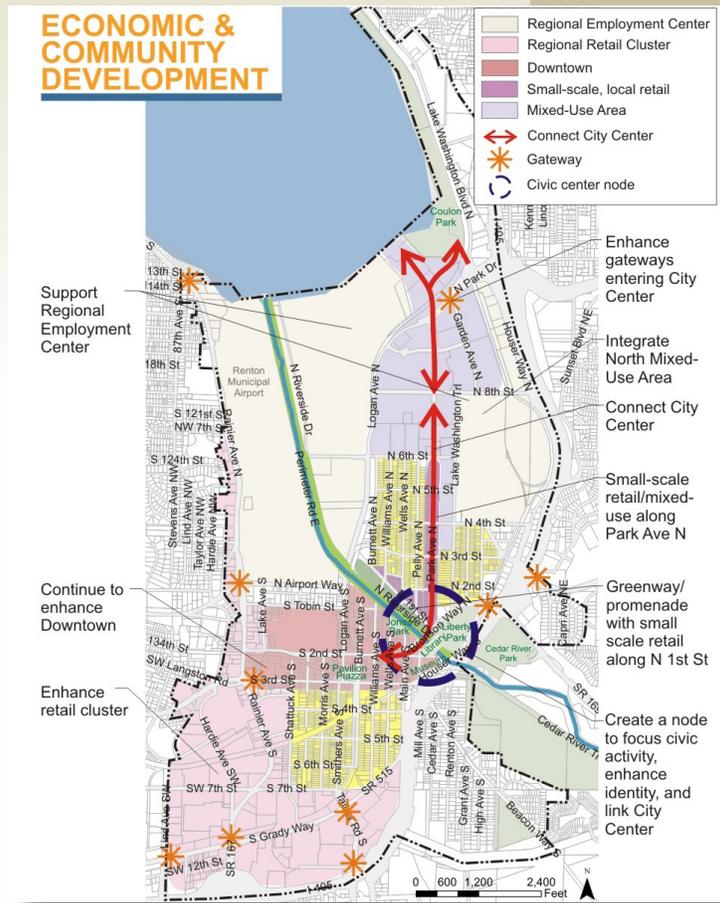
The City of Renton's Comprehensive Plan lays out a community planning process to establish a vision for each geographical subarea within the city. The city's goal is to include all neighborhoods in a community plan. Over time the purpose of this community planning effort is to improve the livability of Renton's neighborhoods, to preserve unique identity and create community character, to prioritize the provision of city services and investment in infrastructure and to provide the public with the opportunity to participate in shaping the future of the community.

### THE PLAN

This "Framework Plan" is the first step in developing a full community plan that achieves the ultimate goals of making City Center more livable and economically viable, while accepting the necessary growth associated with the designation as a regional growth center. The framework plan "frames" upcoming work by establishing a community vision, identifying issues, and identifying the next steps needed to fulfill this vision. It is anticipated that many of these next steps will require further analysis and planning to make specific public improvement and program recommendations or establish regulatory measures.

### PUBLIC OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION

The city has been working with residents, large and small business owners, employees, and property owners to understand their needs and desires to improve City Center. The city has held a number of public meetings to solicit input on the community plan. Based on what was heard at the public meetings and open house, eight key findings were identified, with associated goals for City Center. The goals will help guide the framework plan. The framework plan is intended to put forth the vision, goals, and objectives for city activities in the City Center. A second phase will establish key strategies to implement the plan.





## ACTION STRATEGY

While many of the goals and policies set forth in this framework plan may take longer to implement than the 20-year horizon for this plan and will require additional city resources that currently do not exist, the purpose of this plan is to lay the framework for city actions to create a vibrant City Center.

## VISION & GOALS

The vision for City Center fits within the larger citywide vision:

**“RENTON - THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY IN THE PUGET SOUND REGION  
WHERE FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES THRIVE.”**

In the City of Renton, urban living provides both choice and balanced opportunities for residents: employment and housing, recreation and religion, goods and services, all available in the community. Based on the feedback received from the public during the development of this framework plan and the goals and policies set forth in the Comprehensive Plan, the vision for City Center is:

**“THE HEART OF THE CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY”**

The framework plan includes eight over-arching goals:

**Goal 1:** Improve the visibility of City Center and downtown, improve the perception of City Center, and create a distinctive identity.

**Goal 2:** Continue to support Renton’s diverse economic sectors.

**Goal 3:** Improve access and visibility at this important concentration of civic activities including Liberty Park, the Library, the Renton History Museum, and Cedar River.

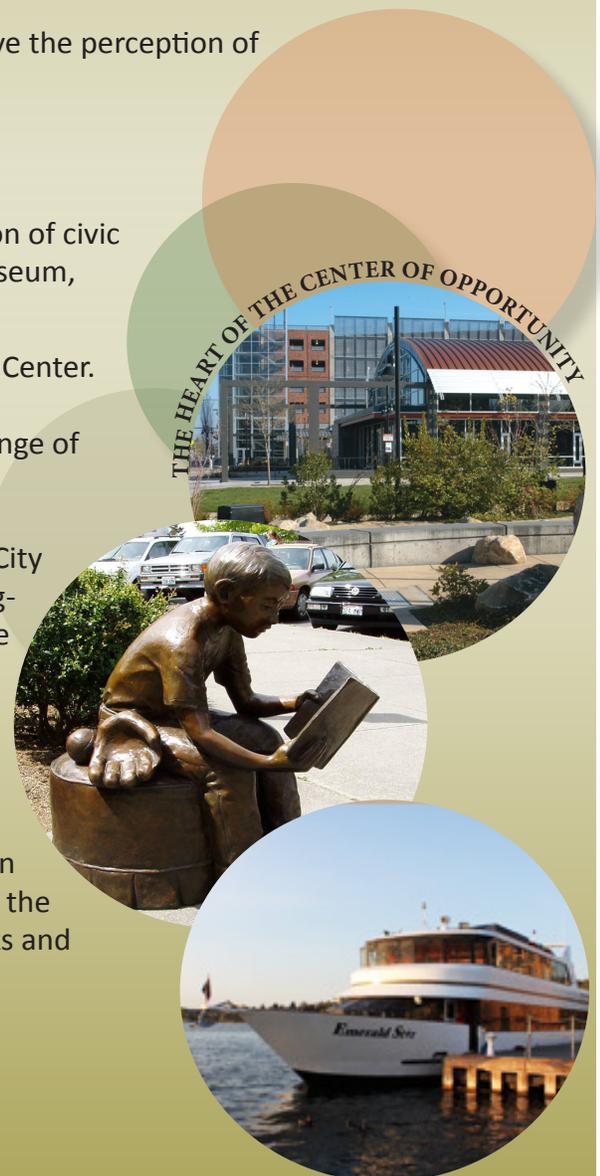
**Goal 4:** Protect and enhance the residential neighborhoods in City Center.

**Goal 5:** Provide better regional transportation connections for a range of transportation modes to improve access to and from City Center.

**Goal 6:** Provide better internal connections between areas within City Center, especially Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park/Lake Washington, The Landing, north Renton neighborhoods, downtown, and the south Renton neighborhoods.

**Goal 7:** Connect regional trails in City Center and build on these key connections as an economic development strategy.

**Goal 8:** Protect and enhance the natural features and open space in City Center and improve public access to and connections between the Lake Washington shoreline, the Cedar River, and the variety of parks and open spaces throughout City Center.



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