

CHAPTER 10

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Introduction

Unlike many cities within the Puget Sound Region, Auburn has a long and established history. Auburn has been a vibrant and freestanding community for over 100 years. As a result, Auburn developed its own downtown as the focus of business and community life. The downtown in particular, and the community as a whole, were linked to the railroads, which were the major mode of transportation throughout the region for decades.

In the past several decades, the region has experienced significant population growth. Due to the nature of this growth, the differences between one community and another have blurred and communities are becoming more and more alike. If Auburn is to retain its identity as a unique community, it must seek to emphasize its differences and celebrate them. Auburn's history is a part of its identity that is unique to Auburn. Through the recognition and preservation of its past, Auburn can ensure its uniqueness and strengthen its identity as it moves into the future.

The City recognizes the importance of maintaining this connection with its past by including policies which address the enhancement and maintenance of historic resources within this Comprehensive Plan. This importance is also recognized by both the State and the County by the inclusion of historic preservation as one of the goals of the GMA and in the King County Countywide policies.

GOAL 20

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

To maintain, preserve and enhance the City's historic, cultural and archaeological resources to provide a sense of local identity and history to the visitors and residents of the community.

Objective 20.1. To enhance and maintain the quality of historical resources in the region.

Policies:

- HP-1 The City shall encourage the protection, preservation, recovery and rehabilitation of significant archaeological resources and historic sites.
- HP-2 The City should develop an Historic Preservation Plan to identify and protect City historic resources. An historic site and building inventory should be completed as part of this plan. The City should adopt historic preservation codes and incentives as needed to implement the Historic Preservation Plan.
- HP-3 The City shall consider the impacts of new development on historical resources as a part of its environmental review process and require any appropriate mitigating measures.
- HP-4 The City should assist appropriate efforts to rehabilitate sites and buildings with unique or significant historic characteristics.
- HP-5 Future development in the Downtown area should be sensitive to the character of surrounding buildings and the historical context of the area. Modifications of existing buildings shall consider the incorporation or restoration of historic architectural features.
- HP-6 The White River Valley Historical Museum is recognized as the primary repository of historic artifacts which relate to the City's historic and cultural heritage.
- HP-7 The City recognizes that the region's history began before the arrival of settlers to the area and should accord the same levels of promotion and protection to Native American sites and artifacts as to those of the more recent past.
- HP-8 The City should work with the White River Valley Historical Museum and other interested organizations and agencies to educate the public about the area's cultural and historic heritage through the promotion of walking tours, festivals and other means.
- HP-9 Development projects proposing modifications to or demolitions of historic buildings or resources shall mitigate such impacts. Historical archival documentation shall be required when a building, on an inventory of historic places, cannot be preserved or cannot have significant architectural/historical features retained. Buildings eligible for landmark status shall require the most detailed level of archival documentation and/or measured drawings.