

# CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE VISION

Adopted August 5, 1996

Revised July 6, 1998, February 8, 1999, May 1, 2000, March 18, 2002, October 4, 2004

**Twenty years after incorporation**, University Place is a safe, attractive city that provides a supportive environment for all citizens to work, play, (obtain) get an education and raise families. Children and youth are nurtured and encouraged to develop into competent, contributing citizens in a changing world. The physical and mental well-being and health of all individuals is valued. Violence is not tolerated. A cooperative community spirit and respect for each other--our commonalities and differences--foster a diverse cultural, spiritual and ethnic life and prepare us for future challenges.

## ***Land Use and Environment***

Residential areas and commercial corridors retain a green, partially wooded or landscaped character, although the city is almost fully developed. The public enjoys trail access to protected creek corridors, wetlands and greenbelts. As the gravel pit site on the Chambers Creek properties gradually is reclaimed for public use, people enjoy expansive views, access to Puget Sound, and parks and recreation opportunities.

Community character has been enhanced by fair and consistent enforcement of land use regulations. Buffering and landscaping separate incompatible uses, support the integrity of residential neighborhoods, and create more attractive business/industrial developments.

## ***Housing***

University Place has a mix of housing densities and maintains a friendly neighborhood and community atmosphere. The proportion of residents who own their homes has increased. A mix of housing styles and types is affordable to households at various income levels.

## ***Transportation, Capital Facilities, and Utilities***

Street lighting, sidewalks, curbs/gutters and bicycle lanes on all arterial streets have improved safety and created better connections between residential and business areas. Sanitary sewer services are available City-wide.

## ***Community and Economic Development***

The City Hall complex has contributed to the development of a thriving commercial and civic area. This pedestrian friendly town center and community focal point offers civic activities, convenient shopping, and a welcoming downtown park. Residents and visitors enjoy a walk along shaded trails, a place to sit and relax on a sunny day, an active play area for children and a gathering place for community events.

Partnerships between the City and business sector have resulted in a viable, economically stable business community. Compact commercial and light industrial developments have attracted new investment and brought additional goods, services, and jobs to the community. Public investment and new infill developments contribute to the vitality of the core business areas. University Place has established itself as a destination for regional shopping, arts, entertainment, and special community events and festivals.

## ***Parks and Recreation***

Expansion of parks and recreation services has been achieved through cooperative efforts of the City, School Districts and many citizen volunteers. Residents enjoy more neighborhood parks and public spaces, a community and civic center, public access to the shoreline, and a variety of recreation programs and activities for children, youth, adults, and senior citizens.

## ***Governance and Community Services***

Open communication between citizens, business, industry and government has strengthened community ties and created an environment of trust, listening, and responsive, fair governance. Information is readily available to citizens and issues are fully discussed. The result has been quality, cost-effective services.

While not always a direct provider of services, the City assists residents in gaining access to needed community services through partnerships and contracts with other agencies.

Coordination with human service agencies results in the delivery (and outcome) of human services that promote(s) empowerment and self-determination for individuals in need.

Local government, school districts and private schools work together in planning for quality education. The City has increased public safety by partnering with the Fire District and by implementing a community-policing program which maintains a partnership between community and the police, promotes respect for neighbors, and encourages individual responsibility.