

Regional Growth Centers Criteria Report

Bremerton Regional Growth Center



Designation Recommendation

Redesignate downtown Bremerton as a regional growth center under the Regional Centers Framework. The center supports VISION 2050's goals to create compact, livable places that accommodate significant regional growth, while promoting sustainability and inclusion.

Additional recommendations:

- Due to the complexities in accessing data, the city should coordinate with the Navy to provide updates on Puget Sound Naval Shipyard employment and population to PSRC as it becomes available.

Background







The Bremerton regional growth center is the central business district in the historic core of the City of Bremerton. It has served as the site of the most concentrated area of jobs in Kitsap County for decades and includes the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The downtown features recent and planned residential development and waterfront amenities.

Evaluation of Regional Growth Centers Requirements

Status Icons:

 On track
  Needs attention
  Does not meet criteria
  N/A

Criteria		Status
Center Type	—	Metro Growth Center
Density Required: 30 people/acre		The Bremerton Regional Growth Center's current density, including activity associated with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, is approximately 67 people per acre, which meets the criteria.
Planned Target Density: Min 85 people/acre		The Bremerton Regional Growth Center's planned density is 85 people per acre, which meets the criteria. Reaching this density shows whether the center is effectively managing and concentrating growth within its boundaries. This planned density goal includes employment and population associated with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard facilities. To assist in tracking overall density, the city should coordinate with the Navy to provide updates on Puget Sound Naval Shipyard employment and population when available.
Mix of Uses: 15% of planned residential and employment activity		65% of planned growth is expected to be residential.
Size: 320 to 640 acres (larger if served by high-capacity transit)		The Bremerton Regional Growth Center is currently 592 acres.

Criteria		Status
Transit Access: Existing or planned frequent bus service or high-capacity transit	✔	The center has existing ferry and bus service and is planning for bus rapid transit to serve the community.
Market Potential: Demonstrated capacity to support growth targets	—	A market study was not required. Since 2010, the center has increased density by 6 people per acre (excluding enlisted personnel).
Subarea/Centers Plan	—	The center plan has not previously been certified. Please see the updated certification report for planning recommendations.

Jurisdiction Comments / Additional Context

Through the Downtown Regional Center Subarea Plan update, the City of Bremerton demonstrates dedication to fostering a compact, livable urban environment that reflects our community's values and aspirations. We are committed to expanding access to affordable housing, ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to live and thrive in Bremerton. This vision includes cultivating a resilient and diverse economy that supports local businesses, attracts sustainable investment, and creates meaningful employment opportunities.

We recognize the importance of multimodal transportation options (including walking, biking, transit, and driving) to enhance mobility, reduce environmental impact, and connect people to jobs, services, and recreation. To support responsible growth and development, Bremerton is also focused on delivering efficient and transparent permitting processes, ensuring that projects move forward in a timely and equitable manner.

Through thoughtful planning, community engagement, and strategic investment, Bremerton is building a future that is inclusive, dynamic, and sustainable for generations to come.