



Puget Sound Regional Council



Summer Planning Academy **HANDBOOK** 2026





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For language assistance, visit www.psrc.org/language-assistance.

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Additional copies of this document may be obtained by contacting:

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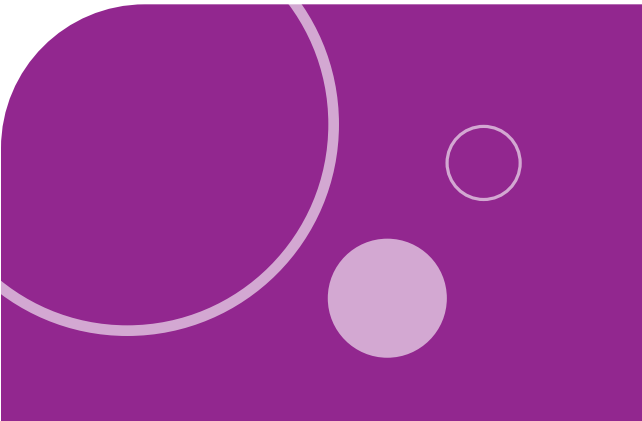
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Welcome!

Congratulations on being a member of the 2026 Summer Planning Academy!

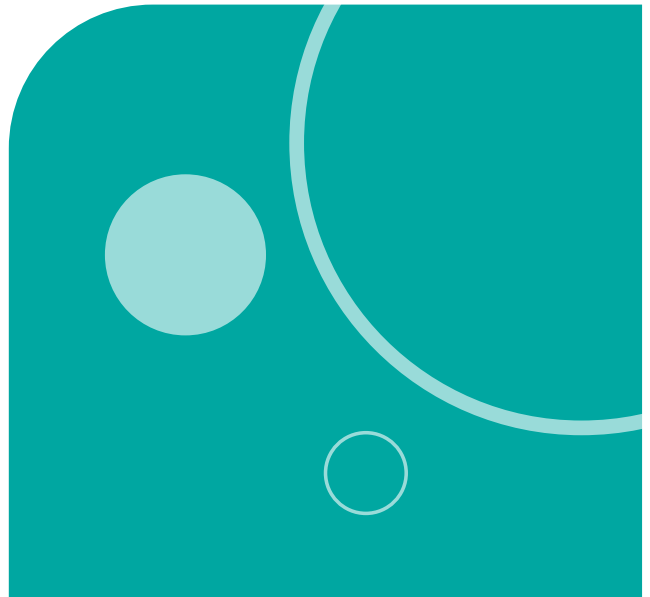
SPA is a leadership development opportunity offered free of charge to students interested in planning a better future for our region. SPA introduces students to planning topics through engaging sessions, activities, and site visits led by regional planning experts at PSRC, colleagues from partner agencies, and leaders from the community. The program encourages students to think creatively about how better planning can help people lead better lives. SPA can also help young people map out the required steps toward a career in the planning field.

About Puget Sound Regional Council

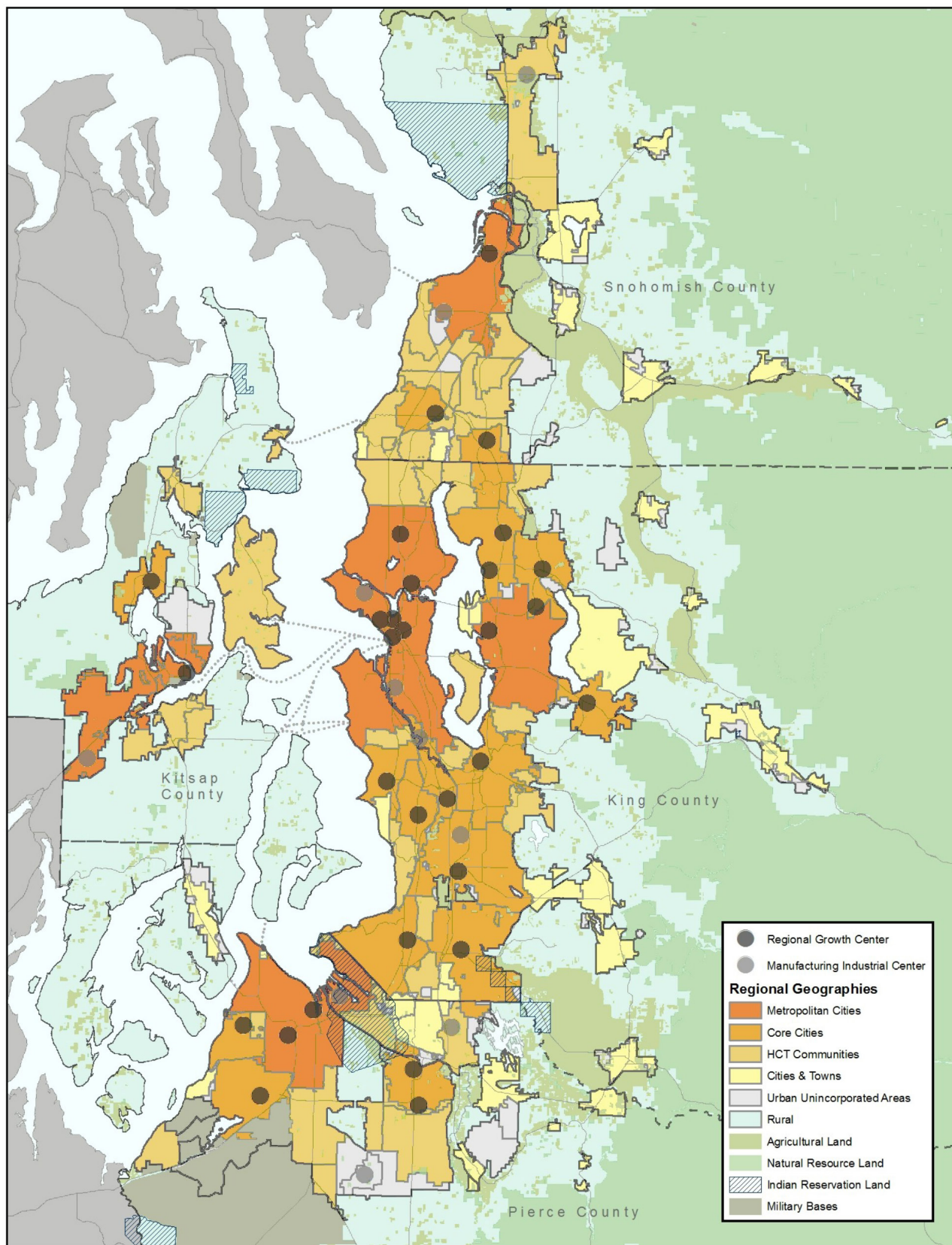
PSRC develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth, transportation and economic development planning within King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. PSRC is composed of nearly 100 members, including the four counties, cities and towns, ports, state and local transportation agencies and Tribal governments within the region.

Check us out on social media:

- **Blog**
<https://www.psrc.org/whats-happening>
- **Bluesky**
[@psrc.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/@psrc)
- **Facebook**
[facebook.com/
PugetSoundRegionalCouncil](https://facebook.com/PugetSoundRegionalCouncil)
- **Instagram**
[Instagram/soundregion](https://instagram/soundregion)
- **LinkedIn**
linkedin/soundregion
- **Threads**
[soundregion](https://threads/soundregion)
- **X**
[@soundregion](https://x.com/soundregion)



Map of the Cental Puget Sound Region





Day 1

Introduction to Planning

July 29, 2026

SCHEDULE

10:00 AM

SPA Overview and Staff Introductions

10:15 AM

Welcome to SPA with Executive Director Josh Brown

10:30 AM

Blocks and Lots Game

11:00 AM

Intro to Planning Presentation and Lunch

11:30 AM

Community Assessment Field Trip

1:30 PM

Field Trip Debrief

2:00 PM

Capstone Introduction and Work Time

3:00 PM

End of Day

DAY 1 QUESTIONS

1. Why should regional government agencies, local, and state, consider an area’s demographics when planning? What type of data would they need?

2. What are the demographics of your community? Is the population growing? What are the largest age and race/ethnicity groups?

3. How does diversity play a role in shaping a community? What is your community like?

4. How do you think planners utilize income and education data about communities to inform public policy?



Day 2 Transportation

July 31, 2026

SCHEDULE

10:00 AM

Meet PSRC staff at Pier 50 Dock
(south end of Colman Dock) in Seattle
— 801 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 98104

10:15 AM

Ride Fast Ferry to Bremerton

11:00 AM

Downtown Bremerton Walking tour

11:30 PM

Lunch

12:00 PM

Transportation Data Workshop

1:30 PM

Line Up for Ferry

1:50 PM

Ride Fast Ferry to Seattle

2:30 PM

Coleman Dock Tour

3:00 PM

End of Day

DAY 2 QUESTIONS

1. 1. How do workers commute in your Center?

2. What percentage of residents in your Center own or have access to a vehicle?

3. What transit modes are available in your group’s Regional Growth Center?
(example: bus, light rail, commuter rail, streetcar, etc.)



Day 3 Housing

August 5, 2026

SCHEDULE

10:00 AM

Introduction to Housing

10:30 AM

Travel to Yesler Terrace

11:00 AM

Yesler Terrace tour and information session
with Seattle Housing Authority

12:00 PM

Lunch

12:30 PM

Travel Back to PSRC

1:00 PM

Housing Data Workshop

3:00 PM

End of Day

DAY 3 QUESTIONS

1. What is the most common housing type in your assigned Center? What is the least common housing type? Does this seem consistent with your experience during the walking tour?

2. Are renters more or less cost burdened in 2024 compared to previous years? Are renters more or less cost burdened in your assigned Center when compared to other Centers and the region?

3. How do the housing characteristics (tenure, types, affordability) of your Center compare to your home (or school) communities?

4. How might differences in the available housing options between your Center and home/school communities relate to different demographics (age, income, etc.) in these communities?



Day 4

Environmental Planning

August 7, 2026

SCHEDULE

10:00 AM

Introduction to Environmental Planning

10:30 AM

Travel to Mercer Slough

11:00 AM

Tour with City of Bellevue and Sound Transit Staff

12:20 PM

Travel Back to PSRC

12:50 PM

Reflections on Mercer Slough

1:00 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM

Environmental Data Workshop

2:30 PM

SPA Closing Ceremony

3:00 PM

End of Day

DAY 4 QUESTIONS

1. What do you notice about the areas in your Center that have the most and least amount of tree canopy and green space access?

2. Who in your Center has access to or benefits from having green space access? Who has less access to green space?

3. How do you think the history of your Center has impacted the prevalence (or lack) of tree canopy, green space, and urban heat effects?

Open House

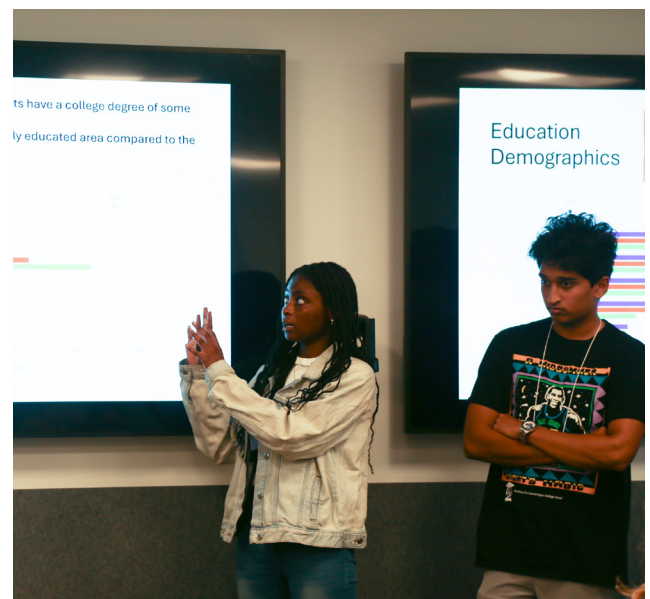
August 11, 2026 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM

PSRC invites all SPA students and their families to an optional Open House on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

We will gather to spend some time hearing about the Capstone Projects the teams created during the academy and sharing their presentations with PSRC staff and family members.

Lunch will be provided, please RSVP to **Heather Culver** at hculver@psrc.org by **Friday, August 7, 2026**.

We hope you can join us!



Notes

[illegible]