

City of Forks 2018–2038 Comprehensive Plan



Incorporated originally in 1945, Forks has been classified as a code city under the laws of Washington State since 1984. Forks' utilizes the "strong Mayor" form of government with the Mayor having the supervision of all executive and administrative aspects of the City. Day to day operations are undertaken by the City's department managers in consultation with the Mayor. The elected City Council positions are unpaid and consist of 4-year terms. All council positions are at-large and, along with the mayor position, require residency within city limits.

Mayor - Tim Fletcher

The Mayor is elected at large to a four-year term and presides over all meetings of the City Council. The Mayor serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the City but has the authority to appoint a City Administrator and a City Clerk to implement the executive duties of the City on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, the Mayor has the responsibility to appoint members to serve on various City Boards and Commissions, as well as special advisory committees.

City Council - John Hillcar, Bill Brager, John Preston, Juanita Weissenfels, and Joe Soha.

The Forks Council is elected at large to staggered four-year terms. Council members have the primary responsibility to establish policy, direction, and goals for the City, and adopt the annual budget for all City functions. The governing laws of the City are developed and adopted by the City Council through specific ordinances and are subject to Washington State Laws as adopted in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The City's laws are embodied in the Forks Municipal Code.

Planning Commission - Warren Brown, Kris Northcut, Milton Beck, Dee Anna Beck, and Brian Weekes

Members of the Forks Planning Commission are appointed to six-year terms. The Commission consists of four members, serving in an advisory capacity to the City Council on matters involving zoning, land use, and long-range planning.

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Maps, Kevin Bennett UW/ONRC



Forks History

Forks, a small town in the northwest corner of the Olympic Peninsula in an area called the West End, is one of three incorporated cities in Clallam County. It sits within traditional Quileute Indian land on a large prairie surrounded by forestland, an hour's drive west from its largest neighbor, Port Angeles. Non-Indian settlers arrived in the late 1870s, and the town grew slowly from a remote collection of farming homesteads into a booming timber town by the 1970s.

The City is organized under Washington State law as a Non-charter Code City. Its structure is that of an elected Mayor and a five member elected City Council. Unlike other cities on the Olympic Peninsula, Forks operates under what is called a "strong Mayor" form of government with the Mayor being the Chief Executive Officer overseeing four department heads (Clerk/Treasurer, Public Works, Police, and Legal/Planning).

Pioneer settlement of Forks Prairie came by way of rivers and trails from the Pacific and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, as the overland route from the east was nearly impenetrable. Except for the Forks Prairie and Quillayute Prairie 10 miles to the northwest, settlers were greeted with towering forests of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, hemlock, and cedar.



Eli Peterson, Ole Nelson, and Peter Fisher were trappers living on the prairie when Luther and Esther Ford arrived by way of La Push with their family in January 1878 and claimed a 160-acre homestead a mile



east of Forks' present-day town center.

World War I and its urgent demand for airplane spruce brought the West End into focus again for its vast stands of Sitka spruce, some of the largest in the Hoko River drainage north of Forks. The completion of the Olympic Loop Highway in 1931 was another boost, granting access to vast tracts of virtually untouched Douglas fir and Sitka spruce south of Forks.

Growth came slowly to Forks, though it was a center of commerce for settlers from the Hoh to the Quillayute Prairie. The town was laid out in 1912 on the site of the Whittier homestead and into the 1920s remained barely a block of buildings set amid prairie homesteads and looming forests. A newspaper was started in 1890, and the current newspaper, the *Forks Forum*, began in 1930. Electricity came in 1923, the first garbage dump in 1929, and the first bank in 1930. The town



incorporated on August 7, 1945, and opened its library through a grassroots effort in 1946. The first U.S. decennial census after incorporation counted 1,120 people, and by 1970 numbers had risen to only 1,680.

On January 29, 1921, 120-mile-per-hour



From the collection of the Forks Timber Museum

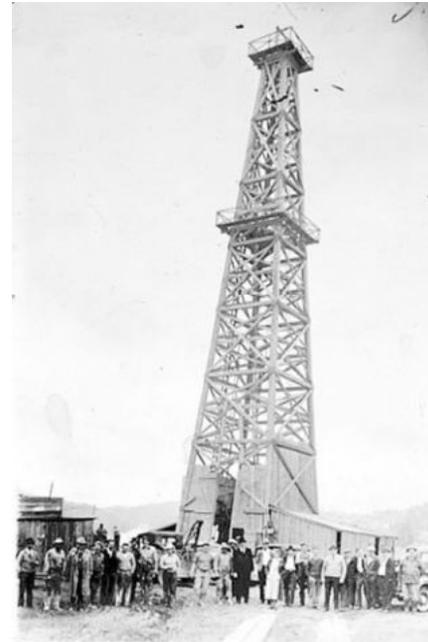
winds raged through the West End and flattened nearly 20 percent of the forest surrounding Forks. Residents recalled the air "full of flying limbs," "a hurricane roaring overhead" (Smith, 64), and the road north from Forks to Lake Crescent

a tangle of downed trees -- some 300 in the first mile.

Then on January 10, 1925, fire burned most of the west side of Main Street, including the Forks Hotel, the Odd Fellows building, two pool halls (one the genesis of the fire), and the general store.

Oil exploration started in the early 1900s due to oil seeps in the area known as Oil City at the mouth of the Hoh River. Oil exploration wells were drilled in the Forks area from 1912 to 1973. The following photograph shows one of the oil well rigs in the Forks area in 1935. This well was probably one known as the Rosalie No.1 by the Forks Prairie Oil Co. and Mordello L. Vincent interests.

In 1951 the Great Forks Fire almost claimed the town. It began the morning of September 21 east of Forks and raced almost 18 miles toward the town in eight hours. Residents bulldozed and then worked the fire lines, while others helped with evacuation as smoke choked the town and fire curled around it on three sides. Seventy-one-year-old Oliver Ford, son of original settlers Luther and Esther, remained on his front porch armed only with a garden hose as "the flames exploded houses like matches" (Amundson, 35). Only a shift in wind bringing cool, moist ocean air slowed the blaze enough for it to be controlled. In the end, 32 buildings in Forks burned, along with 33,000 acres of forest.



area by 1870. The *Sunday Oregonian* reported 300 to 500 people lived in the region by 1890. In the earlier part of the 1900's a substantial interest developed in obtaining fossil fuels (oil and natural gas) from lands within the Forks UGA. The fossil fuel enterprises did not pan out and soon ended. Also during the early 20th century there was extensive harvesting of the forests in the surrounding areas that has continued at a reduced rate to the current time.

The main streams in or around the Forks UGA are the Calawah River in the North that forms part of the North border of the UGA and the Bogachiel River in the South forms part of the South border of the Forks UGA. Both rivers are major attractions for fishermen due to the steelhead and salmon runs. The main road through the area is the US highway 101 or State Route (SR) 101. Side roads provide access to SR101 to the outlying portions of the UGA and within the City of Forks. There is an airport to the South of the city and within the Forks UGA. SR101 and the airport are the only means of access to Forks from the rest of the State of Washington and the world.

The town grew slowly from a remote collection of farming homesteads into a booming timber town by the 1970s, given its proximity to thousands of acres of colossal old growth forests whose growth was driven by the area's average rainfall of 120-plus inches a year. Timber-harvest decline and controversy over protection of habitat of a few species of wildlife deeply affected the town during the 1980s and 1990s, causing anger and high unemployment. The town attracts tourists by taking advantage of its logging history and its proximity to rain forests, rivers, and ocean beaches.

The *Twilight* series of books written by Stephenie Meyers, based on the Forks area, resulted in a dramatic increase in tourism for the Forks area. The four books had sold over 120 million copies in at least 38 languages between 2005, when the first book appeared, until 2011, Five movies were made by 2012, based on the books. The movies were not filmed in the Forks area but rather in Oregon. The books and the movies resulted in tourists coming to Forks from around the world. Prior to the books, 1999 through 2006, an average of 8,100 tourists would register at the visitor center each year, ranging from 5,195 to 13,029. After the books came out, 10,295 to 72,885 tourists registered each year with an average of 42, 863 per year and up to 16,550 a month during the tourist season. The number of tourists per year is dwindling now but still higher than the pre-book times.

References and all photos:

Forks -- Thumbnail History HistoryLink.org

U.S. Census 2010 and 2000

City of Forks Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center

Edited by Milton Beck

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Introduction

Purpose

Forks' Comprehensive Plan lists goals and policies based on residents' aspirations in the context of current and potential opportunities, concerns, and capabilities. Forks' Comprehensive Plan is based on locally established visions, goals, and policies.

Forks' Comprehensive Plan conforms to the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), RCW 36.70A, as originally passed in 1990 and its subsequent amendments, and is consistent with Clallam County's Countywide Planning Policies (CWPP).

Forks' Comprehensive Plan shapes the City's zoning and subdivision regulations, capital improvement programming and budgeting, and other legal and regulatory actions necessary to manage Forks' physical, social, and environmental character. All implementation tools are consistent with this plan.

This plan contains the following elements:

- Natural Environment
- Land Use*
- Housing*
- Transportation*
- Capital Facilities*
- Utilities*
- Open Space and Recreation

* Elements that are required by GMA.

Growth Management Act (GMA)

The state legislature enacted the Growth Management Act (GMA) in response to its finding that uncoordinated growth and lack of common goals toward land conservation threaten the public's health, safety, and general welfare. GMA lists 14 planning goals for those counties and municipalities (including Forks) planning under GMA's requirements.

Planning Goals of the Washington State GMA, RCW 36.70A.020

Urban growth

Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.

Reduce sprawl

Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.

Transportation

Encourage efficient multi-modal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans.

Housing

Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage the preservation of existing housing stock.

Economic development

Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, Promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunity, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.

Property rights

Property rights shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions.

Permits

Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictably.

Natural resource industries

Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.

Open space and recreation

Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.

Environment

Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

Citizen participation and coordination

Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.

Public facilities and services

Ensure that public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.

Historic preservation

Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archeological significance.

Shorelines

For shorelines of the State, the goals and policies of the Shoreline Management Act are added as one of the goals of... [the GMA].

GMA requires consistency between:

- Comprehensive plans and the planning goals identified in RCW 36.70A.020
- Municipal and county comprehensive plans
- Comprehensive plans of each municipality and county with those of neighboring municipalities and counties
- Elements within the comprehensive plan (internal consistency)

- Comprehensive plan and development regulations
- Comprehensive plan and capital budgets
- State agency actions and municipal and county comprehensive plans.

GMA also requires concurrency, meaning that public facilities and services must be developed concurrently with the new land uses they serve, ensuring achievement of adopted level of service (LOS) standards. The concurrency requirement is especially forceful concerning transportation:

“...local jurisdictions must adopt and enforce ordinances which prohibit development approval if the development causes the level-of-service...to decline below the standards adopted in the...comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are made concurrent with the development.”

GMA requirements support a strong relationship between urban growth and the public facilities and services required to serve that growth. This relationship is further enhanced by the concept of Urban Growth Areas (UGA), where land development and public infrastructure improvements are concurrently programmed. To fulfill these new planning requirements, GMA expressly authorizes the use of innovative techniques, such as impact fees.

Countywide Planning

GMA was amended in 1991 to require counties to adopt countywide planning policies in cooperation with their municipalities. These policies are written policy statements that establish a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed, adopted, and implemented. This framework helps ensure county and city comprehensive plans are consistent with each other and with the intent of GMA.

Per RCW 36.70A.210(3), these policies, at a minimum, shall:

- Implement RCW 36.70A.110 (the section for establishing UGAs) and provide for joint county and city planning within urban growth areas

- Promote contiguous and orderly development and provisions of urban services to such development
- Provide for public capital facilities of regional or statewide importance
- Provide for countywide transportation facilities
- Consider the need for affordable housing
- Analyze fiscal impacts.

Forks Comprehensive Planning

Forks' Comprehensive Plan was developed and adopted in 1993 under the adopted GMA requirements and updated in 2002 in accordance with subsequent amendments. An additional update was undertaken in 2006/7. Forks' Comprehensive Plan contained the required GMA plan elements including land use, housing, transportation, capital facilities and utilities in addition to sections on the local environment and open space. The City's intent continues to be the furthering of the statutory goals outlined within GMA.

Clallam County developed Countywide Planning Policies (CWPP) in accordance with GMA requirements including a number of specific policy statements guiding growth to areas that are already characterized by urban land use, existing services, and infrastructure. Where countywide policies are relevant or require action by the City, they are referenced within the appropriate Comprehensive Plan section.

Environment

GMA requires that all towns, cities, and counties adopt development regulations to protect critical areas (aquifer recharge areas, sensitive fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and wetlands) and resource lands of long-term significance (agricultural, forest, and mineral lands) and that they incorporate "Best Available Science (BAS)" in those regulations.

Topography and geology

The Forks Urban Growth Area (UGA or FUGA) lies on the Forks Prairie and is relatively flat sloping usually less than 1% with elevations ranging from 100 to 400 feet. Lower elevations and steep slopes primarily occur along the banks of the Calawah and Bogachiel Rivers and the higher elevations in some foothills portions of which were incorporated into the City of Forks to facilitate the development of the Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC). Surrounding foothills envelope the city except to the west with elevations of up to 1000 feet.

There are several residence structures in addition to the ONRC, as well as several building sites, already established in the foothills overlooking Forks Prairie. It is anticipated that future growth could occur in this area and as a result this area should be included into the FUGA.

Forks Prairie originated many thousands of years ago as a result of glacial action and is typical of the many western Washington prairies that exist in a sea of forest. The Prairie is underlain with a gravely substrate that has very high permeability. Because of the relatively flat nature and gravely substrate (glacial outwash) minimal foundation and settling problems can be expected.

The Prairie's flatness does have a detrimental feature – parts of the Prairie are low and some winter storms cause flooding including, for example, the practice field immediately east of Forks High School, and Russell Road just south of Bogachiel Way. Many other parts within the city suffer from periodic flooding during extreme

rain conditions, although improved drainage facilities in these areas to carry away run-off would alleviate much of the problem. Plugged culverts also periodically cause some flooding until they are cleared.

The City of Forks and Clallam County have taken a more active role in preventing flooding in the last few years by requiring on-site water retention for new development and implementing flood control ordinances. Other means of flood control have been done, but funding to implement some of the very expensive options remains a problem. New public construction has addressed efforts to ensure that those facilities do not add additional stormwater to historic conveyance.

Mineral deposits

Gravel is the only mineral currently extracted from within the FUGA and there are several active rock pits in and near the City of Forks.

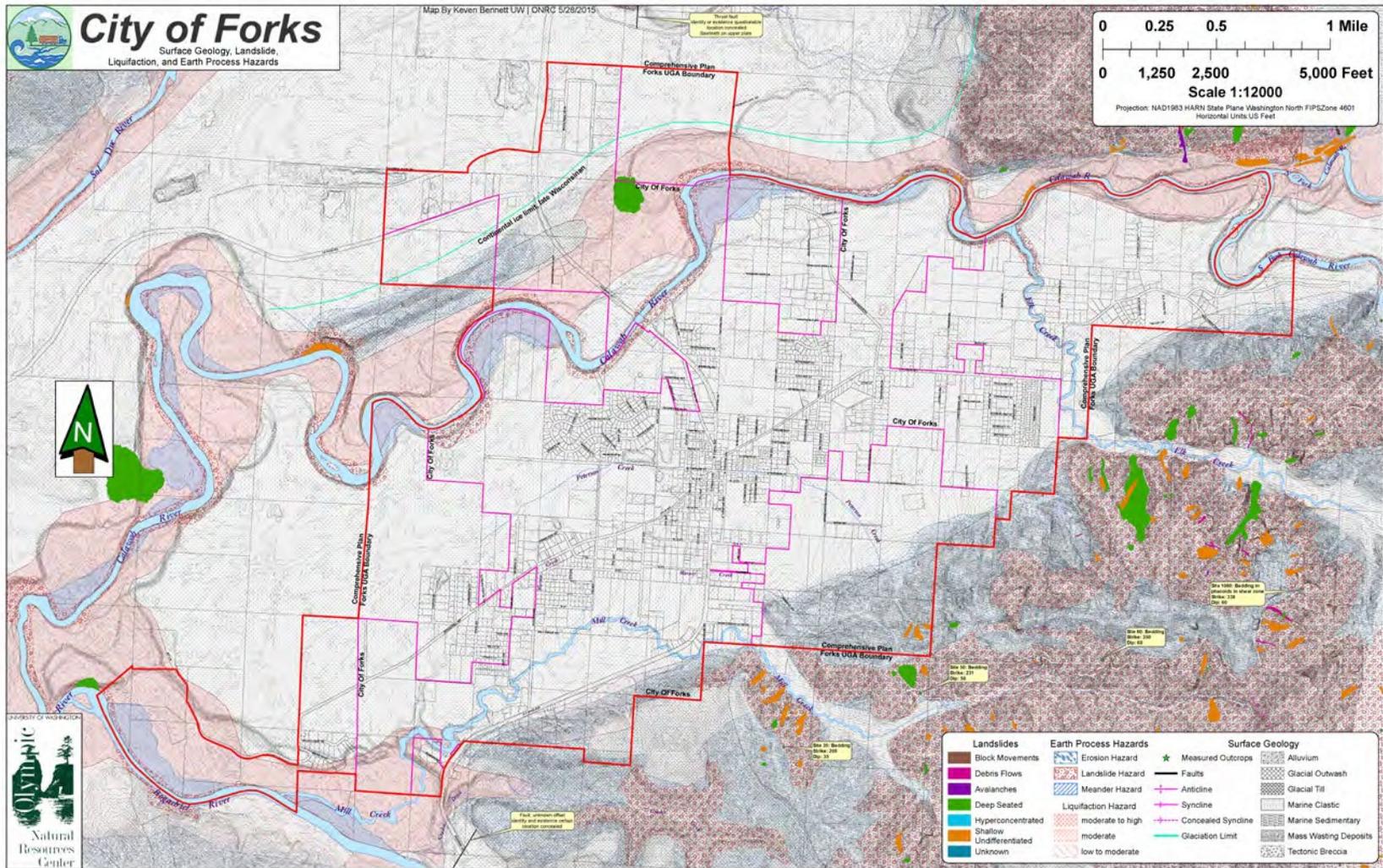
In the early to mid-1990s, there was a substantial interest in obtaining fossil fuels (oil and natural gas) from lands within the FUGA. At that time, some individuals sold the mineral rights associated with their properties.

Shorelines

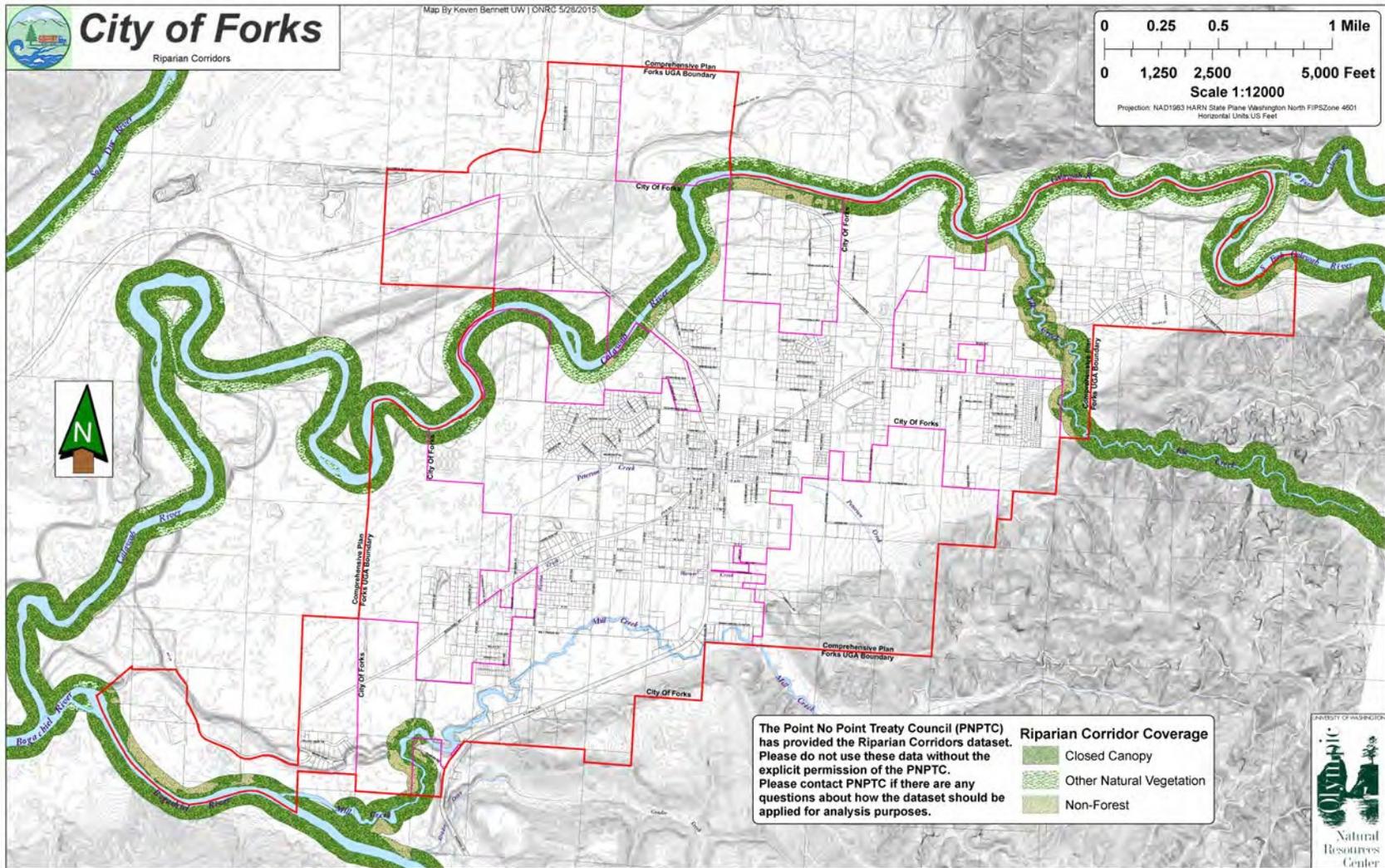
The Calawah River along part of the north boundary of the Forks UGA and the Bogachiel River located at the southwest extreme of the Forks UGA are the only shorelines classified as shorelines of statewide significance within the Forks UGA. Both rivers attract local and visiting fisherman because of excellent, although dwindling, runs of steelhead and salmon. Elk Creek and Mill Creek are the only other shorelines within the Forks UGA and are both small streams that provide trout fishing during the fishing season.

Wildlife and marine resources

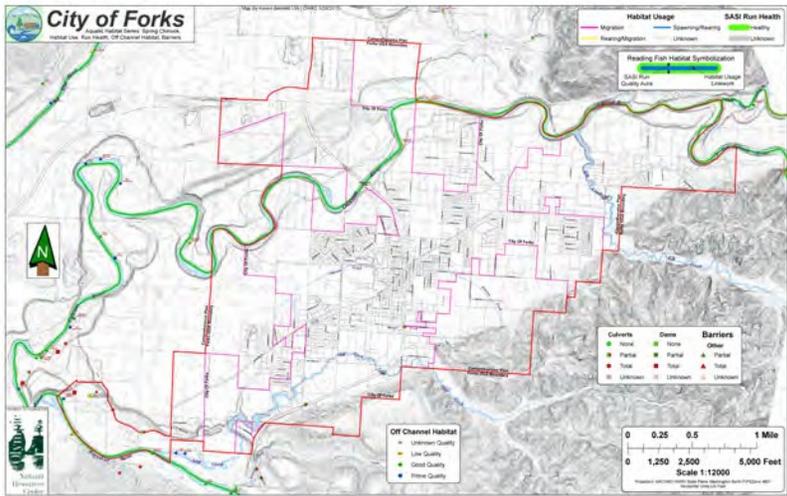
Although the Forks UGA does contain some wildlife the surrounding area abounds with fauna, including protected species such as the



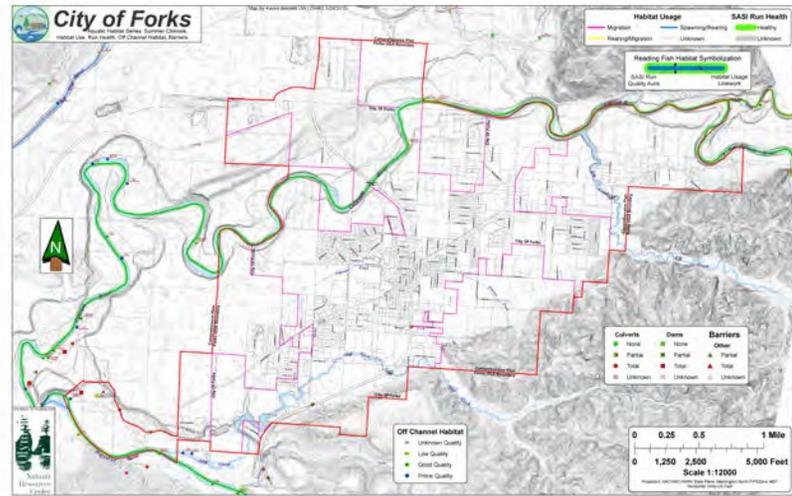
Forks Urban Growth Area (FUGA)



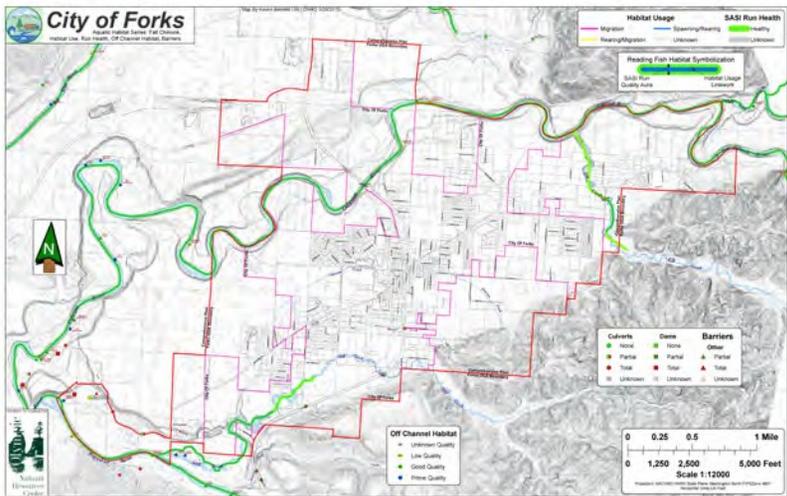
Forks Riparian Corridors



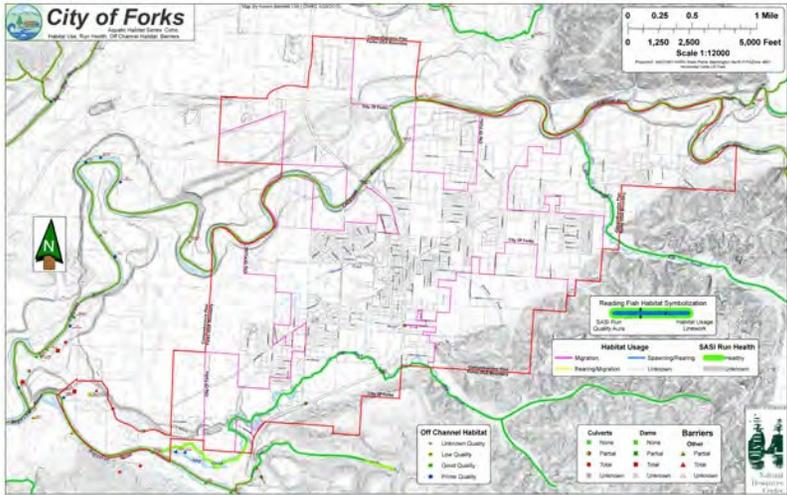
Forks Aquatic Habitat, Spring Chinook



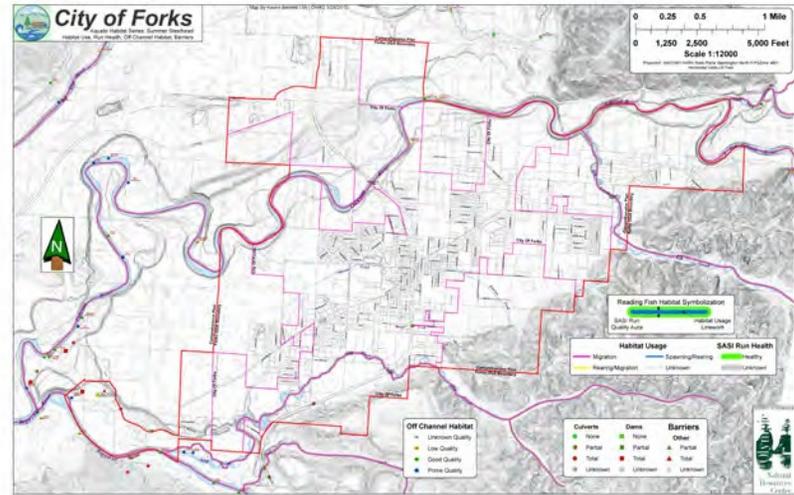
Forks Aquatic Habitat, Summer Chinook



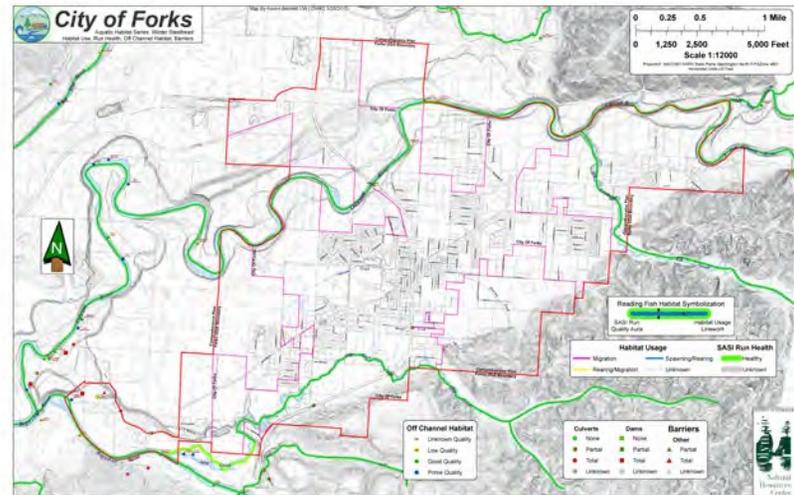
Forks Aquatic Habitat, Fall Chinook



Forks Aquatic Habitat, Coho



Forks Aquatic Habitat, Summer Steelhead



Forks Aquatic Habitat, Winter Steelhead

spotted owl, the bald eagle and the marbled murrelet. The nearby ocean and rivers harbor abundant marine resources.

Climate

The climate of Forks and its surroundings is cool maritime. The air from the Pacific Ocean influences the climate throughout the year. In the late fall and winter, the low pressure center in the Gulf of Alaska intensifies and is of major importance in controlling weather systems entering the Pacific Northwest.

Temperatures in the winter months average between 30 and 40 degrees, sometimes dropping lower and occasionally going into the 40's. Summer temperatures have had extended periods where temperatures drifted into and above the 90's. Rainfall in the area amounts to an average of 120 inches per year with the greatest volume occurring between October and April.

Wetlands

Wetlands are fragile ecosystems that assist in reducing erosion, flooding, and ground and surface water pollution. Wetlands also provide an important habitat for wildlife, plants, and fisheries.

The UGA has relatively few wetlands. In 1996 the City retained Sheldon & Associates to inventory alleged wetlands found on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map. Peshla Klein of Sheldon & Associates determined that the NWI wetlands denoted as "unconfirmed wetlands" were determined to be non-wetland areas.

In 1994, Clallam County commissioned a Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan that included an Inventory of Western Clallam County Wetlands prepared by Peshla Klein and Dyanne Sheldon. Two of UGA's the more valuable wetlands are located in the southern portion of the UGA and include a wetland immediately south of SR-101, the current location of the Timber Museum/Logger Memorial Site and the ONRC and a wetland located immediately west of Bunker Road.

ONRC/Timber Museum/Logger Memorial Site wetland - the Klein Sheldon survey of the ONRC/Logger Memorial wetland helped determine and refine the northern boundaries of this wetland and

noted that it consisted of approximately 130 acres and was classified as a palustrine forested area including western hemlock, Sitka spruce, skunk cabbage, and small fruit bulrush vegetation. The buffer associated with this wetland is 50% forested. Although not inventoried, the animals associated with this area include Roosevelt elk, deer, and various waterfowl and other birds.

Bunker Road wetland - is located immediately west of Bunker Road and was determined to be an emergent wetland consisting of almost 3 acres. This wetland is classified as being palustrine scrub shrub including only willow vegetation. This area is also associated with Roosevelt elk, deer, and various waterfowl and other birds.

Campbell's Gravel Pit wetland - originally not inventoried in the County study but the site of extensive review in the City's study, can be found in the southern portion of Section 8, Township 28 North, Range 13 West (South of Sherwood Forest Division III and west of Campbell's Gravel Pit). This wetland is a combination of palustrine shrub and palustrine forested with broad-leafed deciduous plants. Animals associated with this wetland include Roosevelt Elk, deer, and various songbirds.

Elk Creek wetland - the City's Klein Survey added a wetland in the area of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 2, Township 28 North, Range 13 West. This wetland is associated with Elk Creek and consists of palustrine forested and palustrine shrub wetlands. While no animals were seen in the area, the area is prime deer and Roosevelt elk habitat *and* would favor both songbirds and raptors.

Critical areas

The location and size of critical areas is specified through performance standards in the Forks Critical Areas Ordinance. Since most of the Forks UGA is flat and drains well, the amount of land in critical areas is relatively small.

The Forks UGA has 482.0 acres or 11.6% of the total land area in designated critical areas, While sizable, critical areas do not create any significant constraints on Forks land use planning.

Critical areas	City	Uninc	UGA
Acreage in critical areas	82.0	400.0	482.0
Acreage total in each area	1,271.2	2,882.1	4,153.3
Percent critical in each area	6.5%	13.9%	11.6%

Source: 2006 Forks Comprehensive Plan

Geographic constraints

Stormwater constraints – stormwater drainage is a problem throughout Forks, but is mostly alleviated by city and county development standards mandating on-site water retention. Some undeveloped Rayonier property just south of the Campbell's Gravel pit is subject to flooding during intense rains, as is the practice field immediately east of the Forks High School. Development in these areas should be of low intensity. In 1997, the City of Forks adopted a Comprehensive Flood Management Plan that will help to address site-specific problems associated with stormwater runoffs. These recommendations were incorporated into the 1998 plan.

Geologically hazardous areas – foothills to the east and south of Forks constitute steep slopes, as are some banks of the Calawah River and the banks at the mouth of Elk Creek.

Aquifer recharge areas – protection of recharge zones is important because the Forks water system and many local residents depend on wells for drinking water. The only high aquifer recharge areas in Forks are along the Calawah River.

Frequently flooded areas – areas of the City of Forks within a floodplain are along the rivers and along a ditching system on G Street and Russell Road albeit the latter has had significant improvements to reduce the flooding that had occurred in the past.

Aquatic and wildlife habitat conservation areas – are identified through the performance standards of the Forks Interim Critical Areas Ordinance. The only probable conservation area that is within the City of Forks is the Calawah River, which as a shoreline of statewide significance under the Washington State Shoreline Management Act and qualifies as an aquatic habitat conservation area.

Amenities

The quality of life in a community is greatly enhanced by the amenities the city has to offer and include the availability of schools, churches, community facilities, cemeteries, and traditional social services, as well as the aesthetic quality of the city, and its cultural and recreational opportunities.

Open space – the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) devised a method of designating certain lands as open space based upon either the association of the land with wildlife or critical areas, or the access to the lands by the general public. The use of this category is:

- " Limited to utilitarian open areas – (mostly buffer areas) to preserve critical areas, which are identified through performance standards in the Forks Interim Critical Areas Ordinance; or,
- " Used to designate lands associated with fish and wildlife habitats – that the community would like to see protected wherever possible and with little or no interference with private ownership; or,
- " Used to designate lands within the Forks UGA – available to the public for recreational purposes.

The definitions of open space to be used in any subsequent zoning should read as follows:

Open space public access – include city parks and other real property designated for recreational uses by the citizens of the UGA. Public access is the primary indicator of areas designated as open space public.

Open space limited access (private) – are lands associated with a critical area, fish, or wildlife habitat. These lands are not to be zoned where the public is permitted absolute access for recreational purposes, unless owned or access provided by the City or the County. These lands will not be restricted from being used for forest management purposes unless (1) there is a City or County ownership interest in these lands; and, (2) affirmative action is taken by the City or County by passage of an ordinance to limit such practices on such lands. These lands may, as permitted by law,

be harvested, used as staging areas for emergency services to include fire-fighting activities, used in connection with sewer treatment, used for research purposes, and used for other purposes permitted by law. These lands, regardless of ownership, may be restricted with regard to access by the general public.

Zoning ordinances may be written to provide incentives (such as increases in density) for developers who incorporate open space public lands into their developments.

Goals and policies

ENV GOAL 1

Conserve and protect water resources.

ENV Policy 1.1

Work to maintain existing surface water systems and associated water quality. Where applicable, work to rehabilitate less than desirable conditions in partnership with landowners, neighbors, and stakeholders.

ENV Policy 1.2

Retain any existing publicly owned open surface water systems in a natural state and undertake programs to rehabilitate any degraded conditions.

ENV Policy 1.3

Maintain and improve surface water quality as defined by state and federal standards.

ENV Policy 1.4

Address surface water runoff with new development in such a manner as to conform to applicable state and federal law. Require with all new development that all storm water is kept on site in approved, and where applicable registered, manners.

ENV Policy 1.5

Review and update as necessary stormwater drainage regulations to ensure they meet State standards for protection of fish and other aquatic species including those listed in the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

ENV GOAL 2

Conserve and enhance vegetation and earth characteristics.

ENV Policy 2.1

Promote development in a manner that protects existing topographic, geologic, vegetation and hydrologic features.

ENV Policy 2.2

Promote soil stability and use of natural drainage ways by encouraging the retention of existing native vegetation near streams, springs and slopes.

ENV Policy 2.3

Discourage the use of non-native vegetation, and where such non-native vegetation is found to be harmful, coordinate efforts to remove and replace it.

ENV Policy 2.4

Preserve existing vegetation, or provide and enhance vegetation that is compatible with the natural character of the existing ecosystems of the immediate area.

ENV Policy 2.5

Minimize and control soil erosion during and after construction through use of best management practices and appropriate development regulations.

ENV GOAL 3

In partnership with Clallam County, identify and maintain a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for dealing with earthquake, severe weather, and severe storm events in Forks.

ENV Policy 3.1

Maintain a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan that identifies risk events and develops appropriate initiatives for reducing and resolving impacts.

ENV Policy 3.2

Develop and improve a Communications Plan to keep residents informed of local conditions and matters of local importance including tools that can be used when the power is out.

ENV Policy 3.3

Conduct a seismic risk assessment of City facilities to determine vulnerability and the need to retrofit City facilities to withstand earthquakes.

ENV Policy 3.4

Encourage homeowners, particularly of older housing units, to install measures that reduce and mitigate potential hazard impacts such as installing reinforcement straps on water heaters bracing plates on foundations and support columns, and seismic shut-off valves on propane storage tanks, among others.

ENV Policy 3.5

Update Forks' Stormwater Management Comprehensive Plan to deal with severe winter rainstorm events and control stormwater collection.

ENV Policy 3.6

Encourage homeowners and neighborhoods to develop readiness plans for dealing with hazardous events that promote 72-hour self-sufficiency.

ENV Policy 3.7

Develop a Post Disaster Action Plan to include a debris removal component and building code related activity that supports the Public Works Departments during reconstruction processes.

ENV GOAL 4

Ensure that the development and use of land in Forks is done in a manner consistent with sustainable use of resources and the natural environment.

ENV Policy 4.1

Make information available to citizens and contractors regarding the benefits of utilizing sustainable building practices and materials.

ENV GOAL 5

Protect air quality from adverse impact and work with other jurisdictions and agencies to promote clean air protection and enhancement including reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per City Resolution No. 422.

ENV Policy 5.1

Support federal and state action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

ENV Policy 5.2

Support expansion of public transit, commute trip reduction,

vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, and walking as low carbon transportation choices.

ENV Policy 5.3

Support reductions of energy use in existing buildings and limited emissions growth in new buildings.

ENV Policy 5.4

Support implementation of Washington State's Renewable Portfolio Standard and federal policy on reducing GHG emissions from power production.

ENV Policy 5.5

Support higher rates of recycling and zero waste of resources that have economic value for reuse, resale, and recycling.

ENV Policy 5.6

Support initiatives to protect valuable and important resource lands by focusing development within the urban growth area (UGA) and maintaining healthy urban forests.

ENV Policy 5.7

Support actions that reduce GHG emissions in government operations through smart and efficient government fleet management practices.

Land use

The Land Use Element has been developed in accordance with Clallam Countywide planning policies, and has been integrated with all other planning elements to ensure consistency throughout the comprehensive plan. The Land Use Element specifically considers the general distribution and location of land uses, the appropriate intensity and density of land uses given current development trends, the protection of the quality and quantity of water supply, the provision of public services, and stormwater runoff.

Urban growth area (UGA)

The Forks Urban Growth Area (Forks UGA) includes the lands to which Forks may feasibly provide future urban services and those surrounding areas that directly impact conditions within the city limits. The city and county have coordinated activities in identifying the Forks UGA and in the development of interim management policies for the area within the Forks UGA but outside of the current city limits. The city and county have also agreed to formulate annexation policies for city annexations. This process was conducted according to the countywide planning policies and the contract governing the Clallam County Regional Planning Commission.

The Forks UGA was selected in order to ensure that urban services will be available to all new development. The Forks UGA boundary was based on environmental constraints, the concentrations of existing development, the existing infrastructure and services, the need for flexibility in location of new development, and the location of designated commercial forestlands. New development requiring urban services should be located in the Forks UGA. Water, stormwater facilities, utilities, telecommunication lines, and local roads should be extended to development in these areas.

Major considerations and goals

Developable land is available within and outside Forks city limits. Some available land is constrained by owners of large tracts of land who currently have little interest in developing their land. Therefore, unlike many cities, the allocation of available land

among competing uses will not be the sole factor in the city's decision-making process.

The following inventory is based upon a parcel based GIS inventory of the city and unincorporated lands within the Forks UGA by the Clallam County Department of Community Development and includes land uses within the entire UGA.

Residential land use

Purpose: To provide space for housing of all types, including single-family dwelling units, duplexes, multi-family dwelling units, mobile homes and mobile home parks.

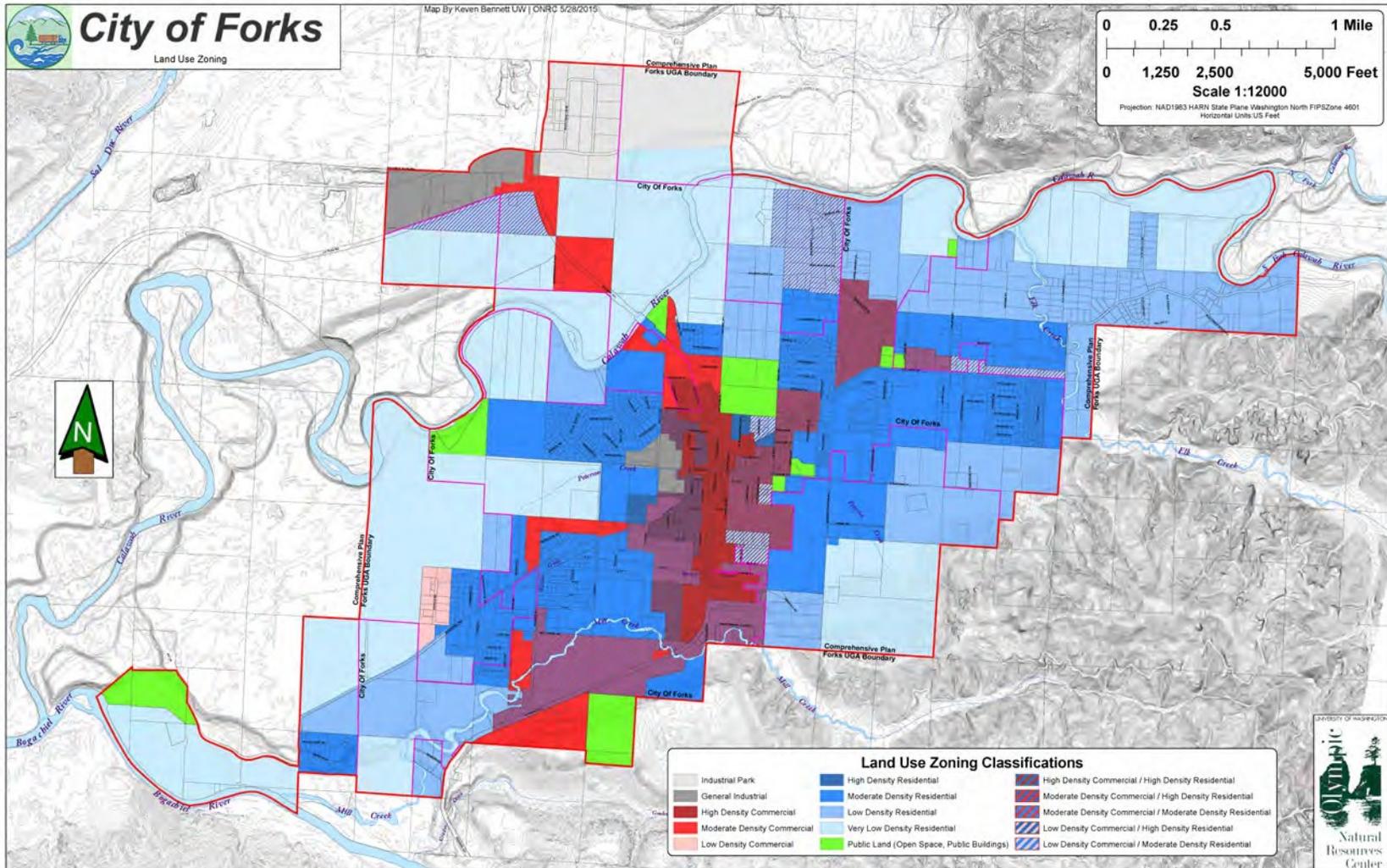
Total residential land use: the Forks UGA, including the City of Forks, has 3.325 acres or 70.7% of its total land area in residential uses.

Residences developed at greater than 1 dwelling unit per half acre are located throughout the city, punctuated by housing developments such as Sherwood Forest, Terra Eden, Ford Park and the Mansfield Addition. The most intense land use located outside of Forks city limits is adjacent to northeast Forks with developments along and proximate to Calawah Way and Merchant Road. There is also significant development along and proximate to Bogachiel Way heading east to the Valley View area. Duplexes are interspersed throughout the Forks UGA, with a concentration in the Thomas Third Addition and Elk Creek Loop.

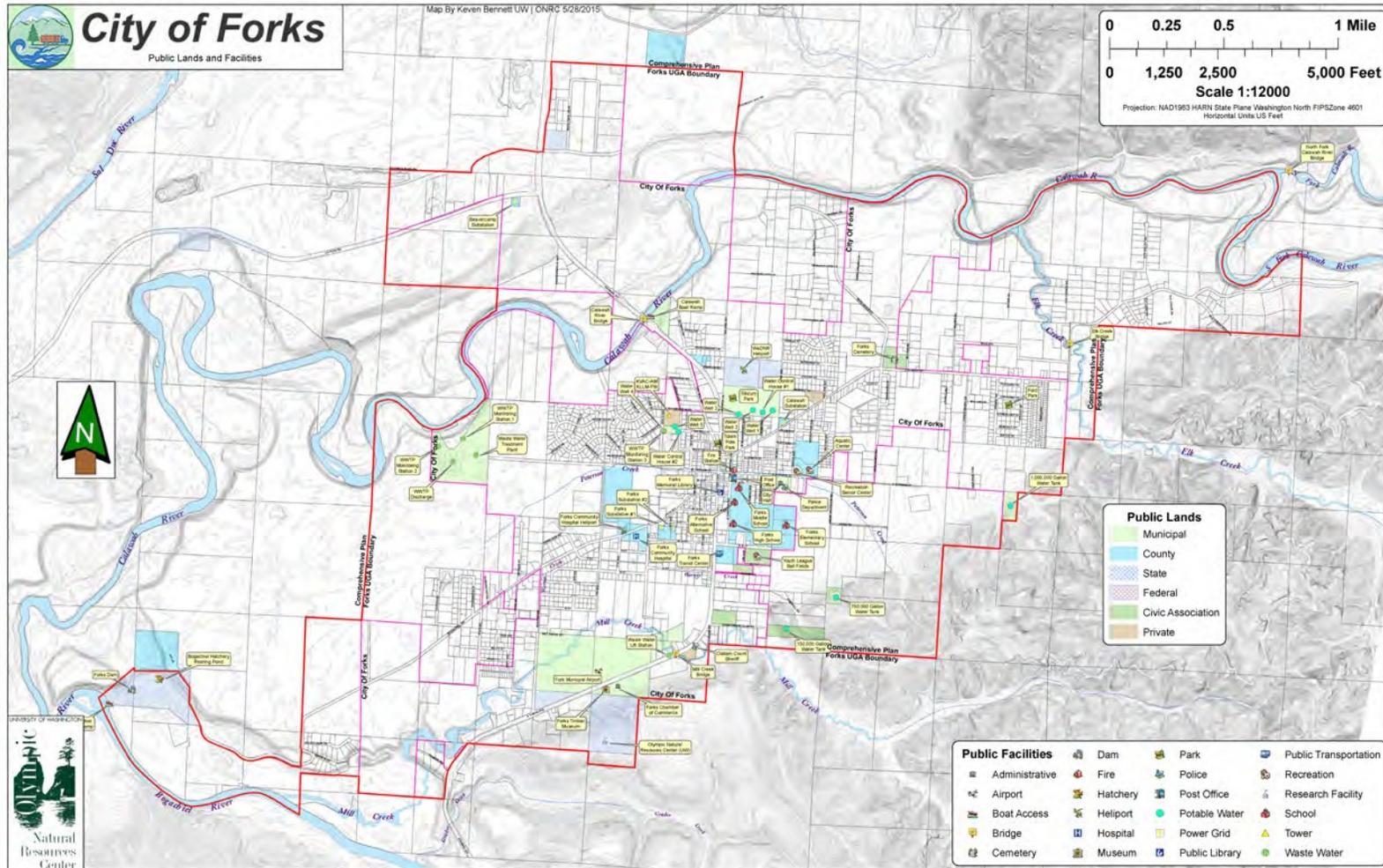
Residential land use	City	Uninc	UGA
Acres in residential land use	1,103	2,222	3,325
Acres total in each area	2,045	2,655	4,700
Percent residential in each area	53.9%	83.4%	70.7%

Source: Clallam County's UGA Analysis & 10 Year Review, 2007

There are relatively few dwelling units in the City of Forks at a density of less than 1 dwelling unit per half acre. The greatest



Forks Land Use Zoning Classifications



Forks Public Lands & Facilities

concentration of these types of homes are located west of Ford Park between Calawah Way and Division Street where a series of subdivisions are composed of lots a little greater than 1/2 acre in area. The Mansfield Additions, located in the southwest portion of the city, and the unincorporated areas of the Forks UGA contain dwelling units in this classification that are scattered throughout that area.

Approximately 2,481 acres or 75% of all zoned residential land within the Forks UGA in 2007 was in zones of less than 5.0 dwelling units (du) per acre that is below the threshold for providing urban services under GMA.

Residential zones	City				Uninc	
	F-R1	F-R2	F-R3	F-R4	URL	LD
DU/acre	0.2	2.0	5.0	17.4	2.0	9.0
Acres	372	184	540	7	1,925	298
Vacant	99%	65%	43%	41%	70%	36%
W/rdvpm potential	0%	26%	25%	58%	23%	59%
Fully developed	0%	0.3%	26%	0%	3%	1%
% UGA residential	12%	6%	16.	0.2%	58%	9%

Source: Clallam County's UGA Analysis & 10 Year Review, 2007

Build-out potential: The city has considerable potential for building within the existing incorporated land area including several undeveloped subdivisions. A large build-out potential allows flexibility in development and promotes low cost housing by reducing competition for available land.

Proposed residential use: residential zoning should include, as an option to conventional development and zoning, development regulations to allow flexible lot sizes with the same number of lots.

Commercial land use

Purpose: Designate land for commercial purposes of all types, including retail and wholesale trade, offices, hotels, motels, RV parks, restaurants, service outlets, automobile service stations, repair facilities and storage.

Total commercial use: the entire UGA has 101.5 acres or 2.4% of its total area in commercial uses.

Commercial land use	City	Uninc	UGA
Acres in commercial land use	225	23	248
Acres total in each area	2,045	2,655	4,700
Percent commercial in each area	11.0%	0.9%	5.3%

Source: Clallam County's UGA Analysis & 10 Year Review, 2007

Commercial uses are scattered throughout the Forks UGA with a concentration of commercial uses in the central business district that runs along both sides of Forks Avenue (SR 101) in the central part of the City of Forks. A mini-mall was created in the SR 101 corridor that has facilitated the development of new business. There is a need for more parking to provide residents and tourists with easier access to the central business core.

The unincorporated UGA has commercial uses scattered throughout with a large number located along Merchant Road on the north side of the City of Forks.

Market area: Forks commercial uses serve the UGA, northwest Jefferson County, and to a limited extent Clallam Bay, La Push, and Neah Bay. Tourism is an increasingly important industry, as evidenced by the heavy concentration of hotels and restaurants in Forks central business district.

Proposed commercial use: The commercial designation used on the Comprehensive Plan Map indicates the areas of future commercial development including the following classifications:

- " **Heavy commercial:** High intensity land use including the central business district of the Forks UGA to encourage development along arterials such as SR 101. Some residential capacity, preferably high density, is permitted in this designation.
- " **Moderate commercial:** Moderate intensity land use located immediately adjacent to the Heavy Commercial area in the Forks central business district including commercial nodes and strip

commercial areas with sufficient roadways to immediately connect this area with arterials. Residential zoning is permitted in this designation, preferably medium to high-density units.

" **Light commercial:** Light intensity land use designation that incorporates neighborhood small businesses and home based businesses/offices used to provide transition between Commercial zones and Residential zones. This designation may overlap with low to medium residential zoning designations.

The commercial zoning intensity designations incorporate numerous factors in determining the level of intensity associated with a commercial zone including traffic, parking, noise, sewage, lighting, and pollutants. The Forks Zoning Code incorporates a series of "overlay" zones that allow for a mixed use and varying degrees of densities of land use. The Zoning Code allows the owner to use the least restrictive building code requirements, provided however, that land uses used in the overlay must be permitted in each land use zone. Meaning that in a Light Commercial, Medium Residential overlay Zone, if the desired land use is "permitted" in one zone but "conditional" in the other, the owner developer would have to comply with the conditional use requirements.

Industrial land use

Purpose: Designate land for manufacturing, mineral resource extraction, processing, and warehousing. The only industrial uses in the UGA are comprised of a couple sand and gravel operations, shake mills, and lumber yards.

Total industrial land use: The Forks UGA has 73.3 acres or 1.8% of its total designated for industrial land use.

Industrial land use	City	Uninc	UGA
Acreeage in industrial land use	199	274	473
Acreeage total in each area	2,045	2,655	4,700
Percent industrial in each area	9.7%	10.3%	10.1%

Source: Clallam County’s UGA Analysis & 10 Year Review, 2007

Economic trends: An industrial park has been developed to encourage the development of a timber manufacturing industry within the Forks UGA. More jobs are expected as a result of the creation of a wood drying operation that is part of the industrial park project. Due to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and harvesting restrictions in the commercial forest acreage base, many wood products industries have shut down over the last few years.

Market area: The market for wood products extends from Clallam County to international trade.

Mixed-use

Purpose: Designate lands for mixed-use in horizontal or vertical developments for retail, office, housing, and public use.

Total mixed-use: The UGA has 515 acres or 11.0% designated for mixed-use development opportunities.

Mixed-use	City	Uninc	UGA
Acreeage in mixed-use	384	131	515
Acreeage total in each area	2,045	2,655	4,700
Percent mixed-use in each area	18.8%	4.9%	11.0%

Source: Clallam County’s UGA Analysis & 10 Year Review, 2007

Public land use

Purpose: Designate public and semi-public uses such as parks, schools, community recreation centers, public utilities, parking lots, city halls, libraries, and fraternal organization facilities.

Total public land use: The UGA has 161 acres or 3.9% used for public purposes.

Public land use	City	Uninc	UGA
Acreeage in public land use	134	5	139
Acreeage total in each area	2,045	2,655	4,700
Percent public land in each area	6.6%	0.2%	3.0%

Source: Clallam County’s UGA Analysis & 10 Year Review, 2007

Description of existing public uses: The City of Forks has one developed park, Tillicum Park, located in the north entrance to the City that serves multiple purposes ranging from a tourist rest stop to a staging place for community events such as the Forks Old Fashioned Fourth of July. The park has various offerings including a skateboard park, horseshoe pits, large covered area, an ADA compliant playground, an arena and 3 high school approved ball fields. The City also owns 2 other sites that are parks that includes the triangle park that is associated with the Totem Pole and the park located in Ford Park.

The demand for ball fields has been alleviated by the Forks Lions Club, which built ball fields in nearby Beaver, Washington, the ball fields of the Quillayute Valley School District that are open to public use, and the West End Youth League Association ball fields on the donation of land by Mr. Ed Duncan.

A landscaped triangle at the intersection of SR 101 and Sol Duc way serves as a rest area for some people as does some lawn area in front of the Forks Recreation Center.

The West End Aquatic Center, consisting of a work out center, lap pool, exercise classroom, and a community center was built using voter approved bonds and grant funds. After a few years of operating, the Center was closed following the defeat of an operations levy. The Center is now operated as public-private partnership and is well used by a wide range of the community.

The State constructed a boat launch along the Calawah River located immediately east of SR 101's Calawah River Bridge that will be heavily used by local and tourist populations. Following the State's construction of the Calawah River boat launch, the State deeded the 5.4 acres to the City which has operated the boat launch ever since.

Open space

Purpose: Designate utilitarian open areas (mostly created by buffers) to preserve critical areas identified through performance standards in the Forks Interim Critical Areas Ordinance. While it is a requirement of the GMA to plan for and identify open space, there

is sufficient open space available through timberlands and state and national park lands.

Park land use	City	Uninc	UGA
Acreage in park land use	18.0	0.0	18.0
Acreage total in each area	1,271.2	2,882.1	4,153.3
Percent park in each area	1.4%	0.0%	0.4%

Source: 2006 Forks Comprehensive Plan

An open space designation is based upon the land's association with wildlife or critical areas, or access to the lands by the general public including lands:

- " Limited to utilitarian open areas - (mostly buffer areas) to preserve critical areas identified through performance standards in the Forks Interim Critical Areas Ordinance; or,
- " Used to designate lands associated with fish and wildlife habitats - to be protected wherever possible with little or no interference with private ownership; or,
- " Used to designate lands within the Forks UGA - available to the public for recreational purposes.

Definitions of open space are as follows:

Open space public access: Lands designated as open space public includes city parks and other real property designated for recreational uses. Public access is the primary indicator of areas designated as open space public.

Open space limited access: Lands designated as open space limited access are private or public lands associated with a critical area, fish, or wildlife habitat. Open space limited access lands will not be restricted from being used for forest management purposes, unless (1) there is a City or County ownership interest in these lands; and, (2) affirmative action is taken by the City or County by passage of an ordinance to limit such practices. These lands may, as permitted by law, be harvested, used as staging areas for emergency services to include fire-fighting activities, used in connection with sewer treatment, used for research purposes, and used for other purposes permitted by law. These lands, regardless

of ownership, may be restricted with regard to access by the general public.

Incentives (such as increases in density) may be made for developers who incorporate open space public lands into their developments.

Proposed The City of Forks has approximately 18 acres of developed parkland. Although this is far below the National Parks and Recreation (NPS) standard of 10 acres per 1,000 population the park lands surrounding the Forks UGA should more than compensate for this deficiency. However, further study should be done to determine if the current availability of parkland for public use could be expanded by development of land currently owned by the city or the county, or through future land acquisition.

The inventory does not include information about the quality of the social services provided through the local government educational facilities, churches, cemeteries, emergency services, and the library. The city recognizes that changes in the population will affect these services and will require the planning of appropriate facilities. The agents managing each of these facilities need to work with the city to incorporate their future plans with this comprehensive plan.

Natural resource lands

There are no designated natural resource lands within the Forks UGA. The Forks UGA is surrounded by commercial forestlands and there are numerous areas within the Forks UGA that are heavily wooded.

However, there are a few farms of substantial size that raise cattle and hay. Several of these farms are of a historic nature that should be continued, thereby, protecting an aspect of the region's history and culture ensuring a continued connection to the region's history and culture.

Vacant land

Vacant land within the UGA includes 2,912.2 acres or 70.2% of the total.

Vacant land	City	Uninc	UGA
Acreage in vacant land	646.0	2,266.9	2,912.9
Acreage total in each area	1,271.2	2,882.1	4,153.3
Percent vacant in each area	50.9%	79.0%	70.2%

Source: 2006 Forks Comprehensive Plan

Forks UGA acreage allocations

	2014	LUP	2014	LUP
Residential	1,334	3,625	32.1%	74.0%
Commercial	144	530	3.5%	10.8%
Industrial	73	329	1.7%	6.8%
Public facilities	208	236	5.0%	4.8%
Vacant, underdeveloped	2,399		57.7%	
Tribal		18		0.4%
Open space – public access		36		0.7%
Open space – limited access		121		2.5%
Total	4,157	4,896	100.0%	100.0%

2014 – projected acreage in use per 2006 Comprehensive Plan

LUP – proposed land use plan acreage per 2006 Comprehensive Plan

Source: 2006 Comprehensive Plan

Essential public facilities siting process

Citywide Site Evaluation Committee: Essential public facilities are determined by the state Office of Financial Management (OFM), in accordance with GMA provisions. When essential public facilities are proposed the city will appoint an advisory Citywide Site Evaluation Committee composed of citizen members selected to represent a broad range of interest groups and expertise including one individual with technical expertise relating to the particular type of facility. The Committee will develop specific siting criteria for the proposed project and identify, analyze, and rank potential project sites under the following considerations:

- Existing city standards for siting such facilities.
- Existing public facilities and their effect on the community.
- The relative potential for reshaping the economy, environment, and the community character.
- The location of resource lands or critical areas.

- *Essential public facilities should not be located beyond the UGA unless self-contained and do not require the extension of urban governmental services.*

Community involvement: The city will use timely press releases, newspaper notices, public information meetings, and public hearings to notify citizens in all relevant jurisdictions. The city will notify adjacent jurisdictions of the proposed project and will solicit review and comment on the recommendations of the Citywide Site Evaluation Committee.

Goals and policies

LU GOAL 1

Conserve and protect water resources.

LU Policy 1.1

Retain any existing publicly owned open surface water systems in a natural state and undertake programs to rehabilitate any degraded conditions.

LU GOAL 2

Land use regulation should respect private property rights and only compromise such rights when (1) highly significant objectives essential to the public health, safety or welfare cannot be attained in any other manner, or (2) the other beliefs expressed herein cannot be furthered in any other manner.

LU Policy 2.1

Comprehensive Plan and Zoning map designations should allow for significantly more land than is necessary to accommodate projected development.

LU Policy 2.2

Ample space should be provided for commercial development along SR 101 to allow for development of tourism.

LU Policy 2.3

Comprehensive Plan map designations and amendments should allow for maximum flexibility in development standards.

LU Goal 3

Development should be encouraged and facilitated by land use regulation that is simple, user friendly, and inexpensive in application for both government and property owners.

LU Policy 3.1

All land use permitting processes should be consolidated as much as possible.

LU Policy 3.2

Brochures in easy to understand language should be prepared to explain the permitting process to permit applicants.

LU Policy 3.3

Unnecessary public hearings and public notification requirements should not be incorporated into land use regulation. The City will work to ensure that public hearings and notice requirements are kept at a minimum in land use permitting processes.

LU Goal 4

The rural character should be encouraged, but not mandated by legislative bodies.

LU Policy 4.1

Zoning and permitting legislation should continue to permit current levels of agriculture within the FUGA in order to protect substantial, as well as historic farms.

LU Policy 4.2

If a landowner's property value or use is reduced by virtue of land use regulation, the City of Forks and Clallam County shall endorse any efforts by Forks UGA residents to obtain compensation from state or federal agencies that require such regulation. Regulations that reduce the value or use of private property should be minimized. Landowners should be fully compensated for any such regulation.

LU Policy 4.3

Impacts on capital facilities should be considered and mitigated when consistent with the other policies herein when land use regulation is formulated and implemented. Planning should promote the efficient construction and use of capital facilities.

LU Policy 4.4

Efforts should be made to identify legal mechanisms whereby large developments can be held responsible for impact fees without placing a

similar burden on more moderate (\$1 million or 30 people) development. Large development projects can strain municipal services to the detriment of other users. Large developments should mitigate these impacts.

LU Policy 4.5

Land uses should be segregated by comprehensive plan and zoning classifications into generally defined and flexible residential, commercial and industrial areas. Segregation of land uses into generally defined and flexible residential, commercial, and industrial zone classifications are a desirable means of preventing incompatible adjacent land uses and stabilizing property values.

LU Policy 4.6

Continued unemployment and underemployment necessitates the creation of opportunities for the development of business. Home-based industries are an essential part of the economic vitality of the planning area and should be permitted in all zoning classifications to the extent compatible with surrounding land uses. Home-based industries should be allowed in all zoning classifications and at a minimum should be permitted if they do not create any significant disruption to adjoining uses.

LU Policy 4.7

When assessing requests for rezones, review of the requested rezone on preexisting adjacent land uses should be a part of the Planning Commission's efforts.

LU Policy 4.8

Continue efforts in partnership with the Quileute Tribe, State's Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and Clallam County that will identify historical resources that can be plotted and recorded in a comprehensive inventory of buildings, structures and sites within the FUGA. The City of Forks and Clallam County historical and archaeological sites have intrinsic educational, cultural, heritage, and economic value.

LU Policy 4.9

The City of Forks and Clallam County should develop incentives, without imposing penalties, for property owners who maintain their stewardship of historical lands, sites, and structures

Economics

Forks traditional economic base of timber harvesting was seriously undermined in the late 1980s as a result of judicial and executive actions concerning the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Forks Economic Development Steering Committee (FEDSC) proposed creation of industrial park centered around timber products and actively marketing the industrial park to other manufacturers.

The US Forest Service (USFS), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Quillayute School District, and the Clallam Bay Correctional Facilities are major employers employing hundreds of people from the Forks UGA. The Forest Service, Quillayute School District, and the Department of Natural Resources saw a reduction in staff during the 1990s and 2000s as a result of declining state and federal budgets. In addition, the continued pressure on state budgets continues to require the community to spend significant political efforts to maintain both services and jobs associated with those state funded agencies. The Clallam Bay Correctional Facilities, however, has increased staff and believes this trend will continue for the foreseeable future.

Tourism has grown to be a significant, important source of economic growth with numerous small, family owned businesses being the source of such growth. Concern remains, however, about ensuring that the tourism sector is one that does not become entrenched in lower wage jobs or cyclical employment.

Economic conditions

In the last two decades, Forks experienced a rapid shift from a heavily dominated natural resource based economy to one that is now mixed between natural resources, the retail and service sector, and government. A concentrated effort has been made to further develop the manufacturing aspect of the local economy. Future efforts need to be made by the City and the community to re-establish the manufacturing sector of the local economy.

In late 2014 and 2015, the lumber manufacturing sector of the Westend was decimated with the closure of Interfor Beaver-Forks and the Allen Mill. These mills closed, along with others in the state, removing high paying family waged jobs in Forks. While efforts have begun regarding the means of identifying and developing replacement employment opportunities, such efforts will take a significant period of time and investment by private industry partnered with local, state, and federal leaders.

Reduction in timber demand forced the area to seek means of diversifying its economic base. The Olympic Corrections Center and the Clallam Bay Correction Center helped stabilize the Forks economy during the transition. Federal money also aided in retraining displaced timber workers, as well as assisting with social problems that accompany high unemployment.

Employment trends

Timber harvesting: Timber harvesting and management, in spite of all of the challenges, remains an active economic sector of the West End. Predominately centered around private timber lands which have remained at a relatively consistent level, it is hoped that State harvest levels will increase to the actual authorized levels. In addition, there could be additional growth from federal forestlands in the decades to come.

Tourism: Is a vital, growing sector that has helped to diversify the economic base of the community. While the natural surrounding beauty and recreation activities have been a constant draw, pop cultural interests such as “Twilight” have fueled the tourism sector. Forks is over 3 hours from the highly populated I-5 corridor positioning the west end of Clallam County as an ideal “get away location”. As a result, the growth in the tourism sector has benefited many of the retail businesses while benefiting the hospitality businesses. Forks has several motels and restaurants capitalizing on tourism as well as retail merchandise stores. Although tourism continues to grow, there remains a concern that growth in the sector may not result in higher paying wages.

Public sector employment conditions: Many of the large employers in the community are government agencies including the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) with 2 facilities located within an hour of Forks, Quillayute Valley School District, Forks Community Hospital, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Industry growth: More land will be needed for industrial uses and will be partially provided by Forks Industrial Park. The Forks UGA Land Use map designates land adjacent to Forks Industrial Park acreage “industrial” land.

Industry renewal: With the existing industrial park, as well as the Quileute Tribe purchasing the former Rosmond Mill/110 Business Park, (Ki’tla Center) there appears to sufficient property for the industrial development in the near future.

Forks entered into a partnership with Clallam Transit in the operation of the transit facility located at the corner of “G” Street and SR 101. Part of that partnership includes potential acreage for commercial development with much of the infrastructure in place.

Goals and policies

It is the goal of the City, working with others, to see the improvement of the economic environment of the West End by assisting the Greater Forks area in improving the economic environment by facilitating and encouraging development of industrial, commercial, and public sector operations and creating a stable, healthy and diversified employment base.

ECON GOAL 1

Increase economic activity in areas specifically designated for business, commercial, industrial and mixed uses.

ECON Policy 1.1

Develop and implement a long-term strategy to recreate the lost family wage jobs associated with recent mill closures.

ECON Policy 1.2

Determine potential manufacturing sectors that could readily adapt, or with some minor investment re-purpose the existing infrastructure at the industrial park.

Plan and improve Quillayute Airport including all utilities, roads, and other improvements.

ECON Policy 2.2

Continue to ensure that the Forks community has access to the necessary telecommunications and technology infrastructure essential for modern business.

ECON Policy 2.3

Plan and construct a 1,000,000-gallon water storage tank and water storage capacity at the Forks Industrial Park.

ECON Policy 2.4

Operate and maintain a solution for wastewater and sludge treatment.

ECON GOAL 3

Responsibly manage and protect the natural environment and utilize renewable resources for long-term, sustainable economic development.

ECON Policy 3.1

Make environmental protection a business opportunity by marketing Forks’ pristine environment as an ideal location for conducting environmental research.

ECON Policy 3.2

Encourage expansion of agriculture and farmers’ markets, particularly for local products.

ECON Policy 3.3

Work with Clallam County to develop storm water management plans to assist future development.

ECON Policy 3.4

Meet or exceed Clean Air and Clean Water goals established by applicable state and federal entities.

ECON GOAL 4

Become a community of creative solutions where government, education, and business recognize, appreciate, and adopt an entrepreneurial spirit.

ECON Policy 4.1

Encourage and assist entrepreneurial efforts.

ECON Policy 4.2

Provide businesses help in determining the type of assistance needed (i.e. business counseling, planning, financing, marketing, employee concerns, training, etc.) and provide the assistance or facilitate the delivery of assistance from other resources such as the Small Business Development Center, SCORE.

ECON GOAL 5

Actively support tourism, recreational, cultural, heritage, and social activities as a significant element in expanding employment opportunities.

ECON Policy 5.1

Assist with the marketing, promotion, operation, of tourism-related and other special event enhancement program and project coordination.

ECON GOAL 6

Establish and maintain productive communication and outreach relationships to improve economic development efforts and effectiveness.

ECON Policy 6.1

Support the Quillayute Valley Park & Recreation District's (QVP&RD) community center and aquatic center development and operations.

ECON Policy 6.2

Support Chamber of Commerce efforts to expand and recruit new businesses.

ECON Policy 6.3

Support coordinated efforts in the West End aimed at business innovation, retention, and expansion. Actively participate in Clallam County EDC initiatives relevant to all other plan elements areas as they arise.

ECON Policy 6.4

Support University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU) efforts, studies, and other actions and participate in projects with UW and WSU, or other entities, that have relevance to Forks economic development.

ECON Policy 6.5

Participate in committees and develop coalitions with entities whose missions relate to economic development initiatives to include local, state, tribal and federal agencies, as well as private organizations.

ECON GOAL 7

Develop regulations that effectively promote economic development.

ECON Policy 7.1

Review laws, policies and procedures affecting rural economic development.

ECON Policy 7.2

Represent area economic development interest and needs before government bodies, agencies, and regional economic development organizations.

ECON Policy 7.3

Communicate economic development efforts.

ECON GOAL 8

Monitor and improve the accountability and performance of actions related to economic development.

ECON Policy 8.1

Prepare, distribute, and invite feedback on economic development efforts undertaken by the City.

ECON Policy 8.2

Maintain an economic development work plan to include performance benchmarks and measurements.

Housing

Population

The population of Forks increased from 1,120 residents in 1950 to 3,565 residents in 2015 or by 318%. The population has varied dramatically over the years with positive and negative gains and no discernible pattern. Annexation of new territory by the City of Forks has also resulted in an increase in the city's population base.

Forks population growth

	County	City	% County	UGA	% UGA
1950	26,396	1,120	4.2%		
1960	30,022	1,156	3.9%		
1970	34,770	1,680	4.8%		
1980	51,648	3,060	5.9%		
1990	56,204	2,838	5.0%		
2000	64,179	3,120	4.9%		
2010	71,404	3,532	4.9%		
2015	72,650	3,565	4.9%	4,338	82.1%
2020	73,616	3,439	4.7%	4,479	76.8%
2025	75,022	3,550	4.7%	4,624	76.8%

Source: Washington State OFM and Clallam County 2007

Projections: Forks population growth has been estimated by Clallam County using a linear projection growth factor used to determine future land use demand. Clallam County projections expect the City of Forks to decrease in population from 3,565 persons in 2015 to 3,550 persons by 2025 or by -0.5% while the UGA will increase from 4,338 persons in 2015 to 4,624 persons by 2025 or by 106.6%. The City of Forks percent of the population in the UGA is expected to decline from 82.1% in 2015 to 76.8% by 2025 as some lands in the unincorporated areas of the UGA develop residential housing.

Forks' population varies due to the transient nature of the community as a result of timber harvesting, prison staff career advancements, prison inmate followers, growth in the Hispanic community, and changes in government budgets. Diversification offers the potential of

a more stabilized population growth as well as economy. "Urban flight" may also increase new residents in the Forks UGA as well as surrounding areas.

Communication technologies may increase population, as more individuals live in rural areas and conduct their business affairs via telephone and computer. As the nation's population ages it is possible retirees from other areas will move into the Forks UGA.

Demographics

The US Bureau of the Census conducts the decadal census consisting of a detailed and comprehensive assessment of employment, housing, income, household, and other statistics every 10 years that is used to determine electoral districts, income sharing, and other federal measures. The decadal census is based on census tracts that are statistical boundaries for the collection of information that are organized and grouped into jurisdictional areas such as Clallam County and Forks.

The US Bureau of the Census initiated the American Community Survey (ACS) to provide current information on an annual basis. The ACS is based on annual random statistical sampling of municipal jurisdictions that are collated over a multiple years span to provide an accurate projection of socioeconomic conditions and trends. The information below is based upon the 2009-2013 ACS survey.

The American Community Survey (ACS) - is an ongoing statistical survey by the US Census Bureau, sent to approximately 250,000 addresses monthly (or 3,000,000 per year). The ACS regularly gathers information previously contained only in the long form of the decennial census. It is the largest survey other than the decennial census that the Census Bureau administers.

The following summary socioeconomic characteristics were compared for the United States, Washington State, Puget Sound (King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, Clallam County, and Forks - detailed statistics are provided in the Appendix.

Age distribution – before World War II, the nation’s population was distributed within a triangle (pyramid if male and female are arrayed side by side) where the greatest proportion of the population in the youngest age group (0–5 years) gradually declined in proportion into the older years due to age-related attrition until it reached zero or no living persons.

World War II, however, displaced men from the home front putting off normal family rearing and fertility. When the war ended, and men returned, births were concentrated in the post-war years creating a “baby boom” or bulge in the age distribution.

Births, or the birth rate, declined after the “baby boom” due to a number of post-war factors including an increasing divorce and marriage dissolution rate, a higher percentage of working mothers, and a desire for smaller families including an increasing proportion who do not desire having children. Health advances also increased life expectancies extending the proportion of the population that lives into advanced years.

Age distribution charts reflect a “bell-jar” rather than a pyramid as the “baby boom” ages into the upper age brackets and the following population is proportionally smaller.

Forks’ 2013 age distribution – reflects these factors as well as the unique attractions the city has for select age-related populations. Forks has a slightly higher percentage of its population 0–14 years and 20–34 years and a slightly higher percentage concentration 60–74 years than Clallam County, Puget Sound, Washington State, or the US.

Median age – in Forks (33.9 years) is significantly lower than Clallam County (49.4) and slightly lower than Puget Sound (37.0), Washington State (37.3), and the US (37.3) reflecting the age-specific attractions each city has developed.

Percent of the population 65 years and older – in Forks (14% of the total population) is significantly lower than Clallam County

(25%) but higher than Puget Sound (11%), Washington State (13%), and the US (13%).

Average household size – in Forks (2.34 persons per household) is slightly higher than Clallam County (2.28) but lower than Puget Sound (2.56), Washington State (2.54), and the US (2.63).

Household types – in Forks in families (60%) is slightly lower than Clallam County (61%) than Puget Sound (63%), Washington State (65%), and the US (66%).

Married couple families – in Forks (68% of all family households) is significantly lower than Clallam County (80%), Puget Sound (78%), Washington State (77%), and the US (73%).

Male-headed families – in Forks (12% of all family households) is significantly higher than Clallam County (5%), Puget Sound (7%), Washington State (7%), and the US (7%).

Female-headed families – in Forks (20% of all family households) is significantly higher than Clallam County (14%), Puget Sound (16%), Washington State (16%), and the US (20%).

Single-parent (male and female-headed) households – are proportionally more sensitive than two-parent households to factors contributing to poverty and sub-standard living conditions such as housing costs, health care costs, and other increases in the cost of living. The number of such households is increasing at a faster rate than households with two parents. Shifts in proportions of various groups comprising city population also shift the need for various types and sizes of housing. Some families require larger homes to accommodate larger extended families. Some groups, such as single-parent households, require smaller and more efficient housing due to lower incomes resulting from a single working parent.

Percent of non-family households living alone – in Forks (87% of all non-family households) is higher than Clallam County (81%) than Puget Sound (77%), Washington State (78%), and the US (82%).

Non-family households living alone over the age 65 – in Forks (20%) is significantly lower than Clallam County (37%) than Puget Sound (22%) but lower than Washington State (26%), and the US (29%).

Percent civilians employed in the labor force – in Forks (53% of the total labor force) is slightly higher than Clallam County (44%) but significantly lower than Puget Sound (61%), Washington State (58%), and the US (58%).

Percent civilians employed in base industries (agriculture, mining, manufacturing) – in Forks (24% of all industrial employment) is significantly higher than Clallam County (18%), Puget Sound (18%), Washington State (19%), and the US (19%).

Percent self-employed in own business – in Forks (12% of all workers) is significantly higher than Clallam County (10%), Puget Sound (6%), Washington State (6%), and the US (6%).

Mean travel time to work in minutes – in Forks (17.2 minutes) is significantly lower than Clallam County (20.6), Puget Sound (28.0), Washington State (25.7), and the US (25.5).

No vehicles available to household – in Forks (7% of all households) is similar to Clallam County (8%), Puget Sound (6%), Washington State (8%), and the US (7%).

Hispanic or Latino of any race – in Forks (14% of the total population) is higher than Clallam County (5%), Puget Sound (9%), and Washington State (11%) but lower than the US (17%).

Primary language other than English – in Forks (10% of the population 5 years and older) is higher than Clallam County (5%) but lower than Puget Sound (21%), Washington State (19%), and the US (21%).

Resided in same house 1 year ago – in Forks (91% of all households) is significantly higher than Clallam County (86%), Puget Sound (82%), Washington State (83%), and the US (85%).

Implications

Forks demographics in general – are more similar with Clallam County than Puget Sound, Washington State, or the US reflecting the city's more rural, resource oriented economy that has influenced the city's employment, housing, services, and other facilities and attracted age-specific populations and households.

Even so, Forks in total is less urban than Clallam County with more base industry (agriculture, forestry, and manufacturing) employment, lower incomes, lower housing costs, and more ethnic, non-English speaking populations.

Forks' future demographics will largely depend on how specific demographic groups are attracted to the city by the city's future and unique economic, land use, transportation, and housing conditions and public policies.

Housing types

Percent in detached single-family units – in Forks (56% of all housing units not including mobile homes or trailers) is lower than Clallam County (71%), Puget Sound (60%), Washington State (63%), and the US (62%).

Percent in mobile homes or trailers – in Forks (32% of all housing units) is significantly higher than Clallam County (15%), Puget Sound (4%), Washington State (7%), and the US (6%).

Percent in multifamily of more than 20+ units – in Forks (2% of all housing units) is significantly lower than Clallam County (4%), Puget Sound (13%), Washington State (9%), and the US (9%).

There has been relatively few new houses constructed in Forks in recent years particularly during the economic recession. New housing that has been added has been predominately from the installation of mobile and manufactured housing on individual lots. The quicker construction/installation periods associated with such manufactured homes is a factor in this trend.

Building permits

Year	House	Mobile	Multi-family	Total
2000	0	22	0	22
2001	0	7	0	7
2002	0	10	0	10
2003	1	9	0	10
2004	1	14	0	15
2005	2	13	0	15
2006	5	5	0	10
2007	7	9	0	16
2008	6	7	4	17
2009	3	8	0	11
2010	1	9	6	16
2011	3	7	0	10
2012	1	9	0	10
2013	2	7	0	9
2014	4	6	0	10
2015	4	1	0	5
2016	1	7	0	8
2017	3	3	0	6
Average	2.44	8.50	0.56	11.50

disabled individuals who are capable of living on their own. A veterans housing facility was also opened that assists low income veterans in need of transitional and other housing.

Manufactured housing - manufactured homes are transported in parts and then placed on concrete pads or block foundations. While substantially greater in both size and price than a "mobile home" this type of dwelling is classified a mobile home.

Climate is a major contributing factor to the condition of housing stock providing a significant amount of rainfall and a sustained period of dampness resulting in rot, mold, and mildew. The slightest puncture in the housing exterior can result in a significant level of damage to the structure and quite possibly to the residents if mold and mildew form.

Development patterns

Settlement has occurred uniformly around the city center with density increasing towards the center of the city. While larger subdivisions in the early 1990s, creating more than 50 lots, most subsequent activity has been small divisions of land or in many cases boundary line adjustments between existing lots. The creation of new lots, via subdivision or short plat applications, is not an entirely reliable indicator of the location of future development, since there are numerous subdivisions or short-plats in Forks that have remained undeveloped for several years.

Source: Forks Planning Department - *Note: the Multi-family column represents the number of buildings, not the number of units.*

Vacant housing units - in Forks from the 2009-2013 ACS (7% of all housing units) was lower than Clallam County (13%), comparable to Puget Sound (7%), but lower than Washington State (9%), and the US (13%). However, in the past two years there has been a significant demand for family rental housing indicating that vacancies have declined. One reason for this may be the conversion of former rental houses into short term vacation rentals.

Transition and assisted housing - a small group home exists for individuals with developmental challenges, and the Hospital maintains the long-term care facility. A Section 811 project was constructed that provides some interaction with mentally

An area that remains relatively unaltered is that portion of the Forks UGA that is located southeast of Forks City Hall. These large holdings retain rural agricultural uses in very close proximity to various services.

Income

Median family income – in Forks (\$53,875) is significantly lower than Clallam County (\$59,169), Puget Sound (\$84,049), Washington State (\$72,168), and the US (\$64,719).

Per capita income – in Forks (\$21,151) is significantly lower than Clallam County (\$25,865), Puget Sound (\$35,207), Washington State (\$30,742), and the US (\$28,155).

Percent of families in poverty – in Forks (13.4% of all families) is higher than Clallam County (8.4%), Puget Sound (7.5%), Washington State (9.0%), and the US (11.3%).

Percent of the population in poverty – in Forks (19.9% of all persons in the population) is significantly higher than Clallam County (14.6%), Puget Sound (11.4%), Washington State (13.4%), and the US (15.4%).

Resources

The City of Forks has access to federal and state funds for purposes of subsidizing affordable housing. Forks pursued various funds during the latter half of the 1990s to improve the existing housing stock using Community Development Block Grants. In addition, efforts were made to ensure that adequate rental subsidies were available to qualified west end families.

Housing costs

Percent owner occupied – in Forks (63% of all occupied housing units) is significantly lower than Clallam County (70%) but comparable to Puget Sound (61%), Washington State (63%), and the US (65%).

Median house value in 2013 – in Forks (\$129,200 of all owner-occupied housing units) is significantly lower than Clallam County

(\$222,200), Puget Sound (\$324,111), Washington State (\$262,100), and the US (\$176,700).

Percent renter occupied – in Forks (37% of all occupied housing units) is significantly higher than Clallam County (30%) but comparable to Puget Sound (39%), Washington State (37%), and the US (35%).

Median rent in 2013 – in Forks (\$631 of all renter occupied housing units) is significantly lower than Clallam County (\$802), Puget Sound (\$1,094), Washington State (\$973), and the US (\$904).

Affordable housing

Forks City Council created an ad hoc housing advisory committee consisting of government agencies, real estate agents, and housing advocates to pursue:

- Housing rehabilitation programs;
- Shelter for victims of domestic violence;
- Assisted living facilities for developmentally disabled;
- Assisted living facility, or some senior based housing with services associated; and
- Creation of low to moderate-income home ownership opportunities.

The Committee was relatively successful in obtaining funds for emergency and non-emergency rehabilitation of existing housing stock.

Senior housing was pursued in various means by different partners but was never able to go beyond the conceptual analysis stage due to costs. St. Francis Circle, a proposed privately sponsored senior housing project, was not realized due to the untimely death of the project proponent, Joe Burke.

Using Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) awards, the City partnered with Clallam County Housing Authority, Concerned Citizens (Sunshine Rainbows), and Forks Abuse Center for victims of domestic violence and facilities for the developmentally disabled.

Housing demand

The number of households in the City of Forks will decline from 1,524 households in 2015 to 1,517 households in 2025 while the total Forks UGA will slightly increase from 1,854 households in 2015 to 1,976 households in 2025 if household size remains a constant 2.34 persons per household per the ACS 2009–2013.

Households and housing requirements

City of Forks	2015	2020	2025
Projected population	3,565	3,439	3,550
Persons per household 2013	2.34	2.34	2.34
Projected households	1,524	1,470	1,517
Number housing units 2013	1,651	1,651	1,651
Surplus or (deficit)	127	181	134
Forks UGA	2015	2020	2025
Projected population	4,338	4,479	4,624
Persons per household 2013	2.34	2.34	2.34
Projected households	1,854	1,914	1,976
Number housing units 2013	na	na	na
Surplus or (deficit)			

Source: ACS 2009–2013 and Clallam County 2007

The number of persons per household could continue to decline as the population ages or increase slightly if Forks attracts younger households in childbearing and family-rearing stages directly affecting the number of households and thereby the number of future needed housing units.

Land availability

Forks had an estimated 2,399 acres of vacant and underdeveloped land within corporate city boundaries in 2014 including vacant lots in platted subdivisions and short-plats. Additional capacity is likely available in mixed-use development potential within the commercially zoned business core.

Build-out potential

	2014	LUP	2014	LUP
Residential	1,334	3,625	32.1%	74.0%
Commercial	144	530	3.5%	10.8%

Vacant, underdeveloped	2,399		57.7%	
Total	4,157	4,896	100.0%	100.0%

2014 – projected acreage in use per 2006 Comprehensive Plan

Source: 2006 Comprehensive Plan

However, most vacant land within the City of Forks is outside the sewer service area a significant amount of land is owned by persons not interested in development at this time which could reduce the actual amount of available land and thereby potential housing.

Affordable housing

HUD’s affordable housing cost standards – indicate a household should not pay more than 25% for direct housing costs (rent or mortgage) or 30% for all costs including utilities, maintenance, Insurance, and other incidentals.

ACS 2009–2013 and HUD’s Comprehensive Housing Affordability Statistics (CHAS) data correlates what income groups are actually paying for mortgages or rents in relation to a percentage of income compared with HUD’s Annual Median Family Income (HAMFI) ranges for municipal jurisdictions.

Housing costs as a percent of household income

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 15%	na	na	53	9%
15–19%	270	54%	117	21%
20–24%	26	5%	66	12%
25–29%	11	2%	90	16%
30–34%	44	9%	56	10%
35+%	148	30%	185	33%
Total		100%	567	100%

Owners – with a mortgage

Source: ACS 2009–2013

In Forks 192 or 39% of owner households with a mortgage and 214 or 43% of renter households are paying more than 30% of household income for direct housing costs.

Publicly assisted housing income ranges – are established by the US Housing & Urban Development Department (HUD) for each community in the nation based on the income and housing cost factors within each community. HUD income range classifications include:

- **Extremely Low Income** – a family’s annual income must not exceed approximately 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI)(note – this limit is often higher than 30% of the AMI because the limit must be greater than state poverty guidelines).
- **Very Low Income** – a family’s annual income must not exceed approximately 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI).
- **Low Income** – a family’s annual income must not exceed approximately 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Household size	Extremely low-income	Very low-income	Low-income
1 person	\$12,150	\$20,300	\$32,450
2 persons	\$15,930	\$23,200	\$37,050
3 persons	\$20,090	\$26,100	\$41,700
4 persons	\$24,250	\$28,950	\$46,300
5 persons	\$28,410	\$31,300	\$50,050
6 persons	\$32,570	\$33,600	\$53,750
7 persons	\$35,900	\$35,900	\$57,450
8 persons	\$38,250	\$38,250	\$61,150

Source: HUD, Income Eligibility Limits by Household Size, Clallam County 2015

Publicly assisted housing

Subsidized housing units in Forks were reduced when a portion of the Pacific Apartments was lost to a fire and substandard “Pink Project” facility was demolished. Three facilities are available for the general public who have extremely low-income households (less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI)) have been developed in Forks. A fourth facility, Sarge’s Place, provides transitional housing and other housing services to military veterans and their families.

	Clallam Co Properties	Units	Forks Properties	Units
Section 8	3	82		
LIHTC	12	667		
USDA RD 515	6	223	2	56
Section 202	1	12		
Section 811	1	14		
Public Housing	2	263		
Total	12	641	2	56

Source: HUD

Ox Bow Associates, a 20-unit apartment complex located at 821 East Division Street, was developed with the USDA Rural Development (RD) Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program and Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and utilizes the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), Section 515, and Rural Development Rental Assistance charging no more than 30% of household income to lower income tenants who make no more than 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Peninsula Apartments, a 36 unit apartment complex with 60 bedrooms occupied by no more than 114 residents located at 2603 St Francis Street, was developed with the USDA Rural Development (RD) Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program and operates with a project-based Section 8 contract charging no more than 30% of household income to lower income tenants who make no more than 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

St. Catherine of Sienna was a multi-mixed unit development undertaken to provide a spectrum of housing in the community. The project consists of studio and one bedroom apartments with multi-bedroom townhouses that are managed in association with the Peninsula Housing Authority.

Homelessness

Shelter Providers Network organized the first Clallam Countywide survey of homeless people in 2003 that led to a countywide visioning process around ending homelessness that was adopted by Clallam County Board of Commissioners in 2005. Sequim, Port Angeles, and Forks are included in the Clallam County Plan to End Homelessness.

As part of the 10-Year Plan The Clallam County Homelessness Task Force (HTF) was established as an advisory committee to the Board of Commissioners to include representatives from Sequim, Port Angeles, Forks, Clallam County Health & Human Services, Clallam County Tribal governments, Olympic Medical Center, West End Outreach Services, Serenity House of Clallam County, Olympic Community Action Programs, United Way of Clallam County, WorkSource, and representatives from the local homeless community.

Clallam County Point-In Time Homeless Count

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Individuals	571	445	354	336	347
Families w/children	484	361	367	269	333
Total	1,055	806	750	605	680

Source: Clallam County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, 2010

In Clallam County there were 571 homeless individuals and 484 homeless families with children or 1,055 homeless in total in 2006 compared with 347 individuals and 333 families with children or 680 homeless in total or 35.5% less homeless by 2010 than in 2006.

Reasons for Homelessness in Clallam County

	Number	Percent
Unable to pay rent/mortgage	246	36.2%
Alcohol or drug use	198	29.1%
Job loss	165	24.3%
Temporary living situation ended	164	24.1%
Poor credit rating	158	23.2%
Family break-up	152	22.4%

Mental illness	151	22.2%
Victim of domestic violence/sexual abuse	144	21.2%
Medical problems	96	14.1%
Lack of job skills	87	12.8%
Convicted of a felony	81	11.9%
Evicted for non-payment	79	11.6%
Evicted for other reasons	56	8.2%
Medical bills costs	51	7.5%
Convicted of a misdemeanor	38	5.6%
Lack of childcare	31	4.6%
Discharged from institution or jail	31	4.6%
Aged out of foster care	13	1.9%
Language barrier	4	0.6%
Failed job drug-screening	2	0.3%
Responded to 1 or more categories	638	93.8%
	680	100.0%

Source: Clallam County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, 2010

Note - percentages recalculated based on number of respondent completed surveys.

Major reasons for homelessness in Clallam County include inability to pay rent or mortgage (36.2%), alcohol or drug use (29.1%), job loss (24.3%), temporary living situation ended (24.1%), poor credit rating (23.2%), family break-up (22.4%), mental illness (22.2%), and victim of domestic violence or sexual abuse (21.2%) though homeless surveys indicated more than a single factor was the cause.

Duration of homelessness by household

	2008	2009	2010
One month or less	30	43	276
2-3 months	28	39	0
4-12 months	38	72	8
More than 1 year	133	146	77
Total households	229	300	361

Source: Clallam County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, 2010

Homeless households in Clallam County are generally homeless for less time, one month or less, since the development of the initial Clallam County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in 2006. However, a significant number including 77 households in 2010, remain homeless for a year or more.

Housing First – is a best practices alternative to the current system of emergency shelter/transitional housing, which has tended to prolong the length of time that families remain homeless. The Housing First methodology is premised on the belief that vulnerable and at-risk families who have become homeless are more responsive to interventions and social services support after they are in their own housing, rather than while living in temporary/transitional facilities or housing programs. With permanent housing, families can begin to regain the self-confidence and control lost when they became homeless.

The Housing First approach stresses the return of families to independent living as quickly as possible. Created as a time-limited relationship designed to empower participants and foster self-reliance, not engender dependence, the Housing First methodology:

- Provides crisis intervention to address immediate family needs, while simultaneously or soon thereafter assisting families to develop permanent housing and social service plans.
- Helps homeless families move into affordable rental housing in residential neighborhoods as quickly as possible, most often with their own lease agreements.
- Provides 6 months to 1 year of individualized, home-based social services support after the move to help each family transition to stability.

Goals and policies

HOUS GOAL 1

Pursue economic development opportunities as part of its Forks' governmental functions that result in additional higher wage job opportunities in the community, while maintaining a diversity of job opportunities across the employment spectrum.

HOUS Policy 1.1

Pursue efforts that retain and expand employment opportunities that have a higher wage component.

HOUS Policy 1.2

Pursue objectives (policies, fiscal, etc.) that raise the median household income of the community while reducing the percentage of the community's residents living on incomes designated as being within the "poverty levels" established by the Federal government.

HOUS Policy 1.3

Proactively address efforts that undermine the economic fabric of the community including proposals by federal and state agencies to reduce services; or, alter natural resource policies in such a manner that create additional economic harm.

HOUS GOAL 2

Support efforts to promote the area and region to new employers looking for a dedicated, skilled, and loyal workforce, while also supporting efforts that help existing employers meet their business needs.

HOUS Policy 2.1.

HOUS GOAL 3

Segregate land uses into generally defined and flexible residential, commercial, and industrial zoning classifications as a desirable means of preventing incompatible adjacent land uses and stabilizing property values.

HOUS Policy 3.1

Maintain regulatory flexibility when it comes to residential development across the entire land base of the Forks UGA.

HOUS GOAL 4

Promote residential development in and about locations close to commercial areas, employment, schools, and park or recreational areas.

HOUS Policy 4.1

Ensure residential uses are allowed in and about the downtown

core of Forks, thereby ensuring easy access, motorized and/ or pedestrian, from residential areas to essential services.

HOUS Policy 4.2

Require new developments address needs for road, sidewalk, and utility access that provides future flexibility or changes associated with future growth and/ or development.

HOUS GOAL 5

Encourage development of multi-family housing, single-family units, and other types of housing and ensure these developments are incorporated within the existing commercial and community structures in the city.

HOUS Policy 5.1

Implement flexible residential zones that allow multi-family housing, single-family units, and other housing types throughout the city.

HOUS Policy 5.2

Encourage guesthouses and auxiliary apartments in residential zones as long as the unit maintains an appropriate residential character and quality living environment.

HOUS Policy 5.3

Promote development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and possibly cluster and cottage housing where compatible with surrounding single-family development.

HOUS GOAL 6

Ensure Home-based industries are an essential part of the economic vitality of the planning area and are permitted in all zoning classifications to the extent compatible with surrounding land uses.

HOUS Policy 6.1

Allow home-based industries in residential zones to permit home occupations or professions which are incidental to or carried on in a dwelling place and do not change its residential character in a manner that is disruptive to adjoining property owners.

HOUS GOAL 7

Encourage creation of safe and affordable housing that meets federal lending standards through new construction and/or rehabilitation efforts.

HOUS Policy 7.1

Increase opportunity for all residents to purchase or rent affordable, safe, and sanitary housing.

HOUS Policy 7.2

Pursue state and federal programs to meet this objective.

HOUS Policy 7.3

Pursue and benefit from a multi-jurisdictional collaborative approach to housing rehabilitation of substandard housing, addressing the lack of affordable housing, and addressing shortages in special needs housing.

HOUS Policy 7.4

Partner with local agencies to access funding in developing new structures, or rehabilitating older structures, to address the needs of emergency, transitional, supportive, and permanent affordable housing.

HOUS GOAL 8

Increase housing opportunities, as part of or in conjunction with supportive services, for residents with special needs.

HOUS Policy 8.1

Retain flexible residential zones that allow for different types of housing.

HOUS Policy 8.2

Continue involvement in federal and state funding programs that can be utilized to help in fulfilling this objective.

HOUS Policy 8.3

Develop partnerships with other local and state agencies, as well as private businesses, that results in the construction of facilities for individuals with special needs.

HOUS GOAL 9

Rehabilitate substandard housing and redevelop deteriorated housing.

HOUS Policy 9.1

Continue rehabilitation efforts that address the community's substandard housing stock by a combination of public and private investment.

HOUS Policy 9.2

Coordinate with local agencies, neighborhood-based groups, or other volunteer organizations to promote rehabilitation efforts.

HOUS Policy 9.3

Utilize enforcement provisions for dangerous buildings and consider incentives to motivate owners to repair and improve maintenance of their structures.

HOUS GOAL 10

Participate in efforts to create safe, affordable home ownership opportunities recognizing that home ownership creates stability and the potential of economic advancement.

HOUS Policy 10.1

Support the Peninsula Housing Authority and other local entities efforts to provide home ownership education and counseling.

HOUS Policy 10.2

Guide new construction to available lots within the central core of the community to reduce the infrastructure costs associated with new development projects.

HOUS GOAL 11

Remain flexible in order to address new or emerging needs within the community.

HOUS Policy 11.1

Promote flexibility and adaptability with affordable housing issues to be able to respond to change.

HOUS Policy 11.2

Understand the housing needs of the region's natural resource workers and their families developing a collaborative approach to their needs.

HOUS GOAL 12

Develop a variety of permanent affordable rental housing units of various sizes and locations to meet the changing needs of the community and meet the needs of special populations.

HOUS Policy 12.1

Provide home ownership opportunities and related educational programs to allow low to moderate-income families to be able to successfully apply.

HOUS Policy 12.2

Support development of transitional housing for individuals with special needs.

HOUS Policy 12.3

Support development of migrant housing for natural resources workers living in the community on a transitional or semi-permanent basis.

HOUS Policy 12.4

Assist "hard to house" individuals in finding safe, affordable housing from which these individuals can access a variety of services associated with their specific situations.

HOUS GOAL 13

Prevent people from becoming homeless through prevention, diversion, and re-entry strategies in collaboration with county-wide efforts to end homelessness (10-yr End Homelessness Plan).

HOUS Policy 13.1

Advocate the rapid placement into permanent housing or maintenance of current permanent housing for all populations through increased prevention, short-term rental, and utility assistance options for households.

HOUS Policy 13.2

Ensure an adequate supply of affordable, accessible housing for homeless, formerly homeless, and very-low income households using a "Housing First" model.

HOUS Policy 13.3

Link homeless people to appropriate services and remove barriers by providing sufficient and coordinated supportive service delivery strategies.

HOUS Policy 13.4

Provide leadership at federal, state, and local levels and across all sectors to establish and implement the Clallam County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and achieve results for individuals and families, youth and children, including Veterans and their families experiencing chronic homelessness or first-time economic homelessness.

HOUS Policy 13.5

Expand data collection to know the extent and details of local homelessness to identify directions for addressing the problem; and evaluate the results of homelessness efforts to identify best practices for resolving and effectively assisting the homeless population.

Transportation

The Transportation Element has been developed in accordance with Clallam Countywide Planning Policies, and has been integrated with all other planning elements to ensure consistency throughout the comprehensive plan. The Transportation Element specifically considers the location and condition of the existing traffic circulation system; the cause, scope, and nature of transportation problems; the projected transportation needs; and plans for the addressing all transportation needs while maintaining established Level of Service (LOS) standards.

The City of Forks is an active participant in two transportation planning organizations – Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the Coastal Corridor Planning body.

" The Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) – consists of representatives from four counties (Clallam, Mason, Kitsap, and Jefferson), nine cities, four transit agencies, 57 port districts, ten Indian nations, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and members of the private sector.

" The Coastal Corridor Planning Body (CCPB) – includes representatives from the various governments and agencies associated with SR-101.

While the Coastal Corridor Planning Body was primarily focused upon planning for means to enhance economic development along SR-101, the Regional Transportation Planning Organization is working on efforts to improve the regional transportation system.

The City of Forks lies on the relatively flat Quillayute Prairie running generally west and east of US-101, which is called South Forks Avenue within Forks city limits. In 1992, the City had 15.3 miles of roadway, with 2.8 miles classified as arterial streets.

Functional classifications

A 4-tiered classification system categorizes functional characteristics of Fork's street system.

Principal arterial and state routes – Forks is bisected by US-101 and is the only regional highway with direct city access. SR-110/La Push Road extends from US-101 at the north city limits to the Quileute Reservation at La Push and the confluence of the Quillayute River.

No immediate changes in regional traffic flow through the city are expected. In the long term, however, improvements to US-101 are being considered in WSDOT's Transportation Improvement Program and in the Regional Transportation Plan.

Minor arterials – distribute traffic from highways to secondary arterials and local access streets and include Bogachiel Way, Calawah Way and Division Street. Portions of all three streets are county roads.

" Bogachiel Way - via the county road portion, provides the primary method of accessing the southwestern portion of the FUGA, is a highly traveled and is classified as a collector to US-101 and the downtown core of Forks. Bogachiel Way is 2.76 miles in length, with an average pavement width of 23 feet, and right-of-ways being a total of 60 feet wide.

" Division Street - is predominately a city road serving the downtown core of Forks and the public facilities located in the southeastern quadrant of the urban growth area. The eastern most portion of Division Street, starting at the Peterson Road, is a county roadway with relatively minimal usage at the present time. Division Street is classified as a collector due to the potential increase in residential traffic.

" Calawah Way - is predominately a city road serving the northeastern sector of the FUGA. Almost all of Calawah Way is

city roadway, except for the portion providing access to the Elk Creek area. This is the only means of accessing the most eastern portion of the FUGA, and is heavily traveled. This road is a collector linking to US-101 and the downtown core of Forks. Calawah way is 3 miles in length, with an average pavement width of 27 feet, and right-of-ways varying from 40 to 60feet in total width.

Collector arterials – collect and distribute traffic from higher capacity streets to local access streets and include Sol Due Way and Russell Road, which are primarily residential streets though Russell Road functions as a minor collector from Bogachiel Way to US-101 /South Forks Avenue.

Local roads – provide access to individual properties throughout the City and include the remainder of the streets in Forks including public owned as well as privately owned roads.

Parking facilities

Commercial development in Forks Business District has increased the demand for off-street parking facilities in the downtown area. The increased parking demand is currently being satisfied by on-street parking on collector and arterial roadways that aggravate traffic congestion on collector roadways.

Transit

Transit is most important for those who do not have an alternative means of transportation.

Regional bus service is provided daily to the east and to the north by Clallam Transit. Connections can be made from Port Angeles to private carrier services, and to the privately owned and operated Black Ball Ferry to Victoria, British Columbia.

The City of Forks is served by Clallam Transit with a local Forks route that connects to a regional commuter route running regularly from Forks to Port Angeles. In addition, the Quileute Tribe operates a transit route from La Push to points within the City of Forks. Additional connections exist from the Forks Transit Center to West Jefferson and Grays Harbor Counties.

A test operation was initiated of a coordinated effort of Clallam, Jefferson and Greys Harbor Transit to provide transit services from Forks to the Greys Harbor area. In the first few months of operation, the route exceeded expectations. It was expected that this route would become a popular tourist route in the spring and summer months. However, most routes currently run Monday through Saturday, thereby making transit usage somewhat unfavorably for tourists.

Pedestrian/bicycle trails

From 1997 through 2018, the City has been engaged in a systematic effort to connect via sidewalks key public facilities and high population areas in the core portion of the UGA. This has increased significantly the safe, dedicated walkways for pedestrians to use in the City. Additional needs exist for connecting Ford Park and Alder Grove to the center of town, as well as a more direct route from the Transit Center to the Forks Community Hospital.

Currently, there are only 4 bicycle racks available to cyclists in the FUGA located at ShopRite Grocery, Forks Memorial Library, Quillayute Valley School District, and Olympic Mountains Bikeshop.

Curbs, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting

The city may provide curbs, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting directly, or may regulate their provision and upkeep. These features contribute to the safety and quality of neighborhood and downtown streets.

Past transportation problems

Many transportation improvements are designed to alleviate problems identified through traffic accident reports, street maintenance staff reports of poor conditions on roadways, identified areas with heavy traffic congestion, and citizen complaints regarding safety or roadway conditions.

Airport

The Quillayute and Forks Municipal Airports are used primarily by small private planes. Additionally, both have repeated use by

government aircraft. Quillayute has been identified by oil spill responders as a potential emergency response site.

Level of Service (LOS)

Forks and Clallam County utilize the Highway Capacity Manual methodology for determining Level of Service (LOS) that considers land use, speed limits, number of turn bays and the average daily traffic volume. The methodology divides land use into 3 categories: urban, transitional, and rural.

The City of Forks, as with other cities within Clallam County, is considered transitional Level of Service (LOS).

Level of Service (LOS) is the ability of a roadway or intersection to carry a volume of traffic and is typically measured using a 6-tiered rating system.

At an LOS of 'A' motorists experience freely flowing traffic with seldom more than one vehicle waiting at an intersection. An LOS of 'F' represents gridlock indicating a failure of the roadway or intersection to accommodate traffic volumes. LOS in between A and F represent intermediate degrees of traffic volume and waiting times. LOS of 'D' and better indicate there is reserve capacity on a roadway or intersection.

Transitional Category Level of Service (LOS)

	<35 mph	40 mph	45-50 mph	55 mph
LOS A	600	800	5,500	7,500
LOS B	2,200	8,600	9,700	11,700
LOS C	12,200	12,800	13,900	15,800
LOS D	27,700	18,600	19,400	19,800
LOS E	na	27,700	27,700	27,700

Source: Highway Capacity Manual

The Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) determined that an LOS C standard should be maintained on all roads within the Forks UGA.

All major roadways within the Forks UGA are rated LOS C or better indicating there is capacity to accommodate more traffic without excessive waiting times or congestion. A section of US-101 has a LOS D rating though US-101 and SR-110 are highways of statewide significance for which LOS is set by WSDOT. While the section of US-101 is below the standard the RTPO established the RTPO has determined that for State Highways, a LOS D rating is acceptable.

Build-out LOS was calculated by comparing the number of developed lots to the number of potential lots based upon a minimum lot size of 7,000 square feet with the difference calculated in a set percentage. The percentage was used as a potential growth factor and multiplied by the current Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume to determine Build-out LOS. All state highways and major arterial roads within the Forks UGA will realize LOS of D-F at build-out development.

However, the potential of maximum build out in the UGA is highly unlikely in the next 20 years.

LOS summary for roads within the Forks UGA

	From mile post	To mile post	Existing LOS	Buildout LOS
Bogachiel Way	0.00	0.44	B	D
Calawah Way	0.00	0.59	C	F
Calawah Way	0.59	0.81	C	D
Calawah Way	0.81	1.64	C	E
Division Street	0.00	0.05	B	D
US-101	5.37	7.51	D	E
US-101	7.51	8.49	B	D
Sol Duc Way	0.00	0.17	B	D

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume counts – were determined for most of the arterial and collector roadways from the Washington state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) District Office, Clallam County Planning Department, and the City. Existing and Future average daily traffic volume (ADT) for US-101 was provided by the Puget Sound Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PSRTPO) and endorsed by Clallam County as the official Inventory of State Routes within Clallam County.

Future ADT and Buildout ADT were calculated by applying a ratio of existing lots to potential lots to determine the impact upon the FUGA's roadways.

Road width deficiencies: were determined by subtracting pavement width from pre-determined standards set by the Washington State Board of Transportation.

The pre-determined standards are based upon an ADT, with a higher volume of travel requiring a greater road width.

Road width and lane width standards in feet

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume	Road width	Lane width
<150	20-24	10
151-400	24	10
401-750	26	10
751-1,000	28	10
1,001-2,000	34	11
>2,001	40	12

Source: Washington State Board of Transportation

The Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) determined that, as a standard, roadways with a road width deficiency greater than 12 feet would be substandard. Almost every arterial roadway in the Forks UGA will be substandard at existing pavement widths at Buildout LOS traffic volumes.

Forks road width deficiencies greater than 12 feet

	From mile post	To mile post	Deficiency
Bogachiel Way	0.00	0.44	18
Calawah Way	0.00	0.59	22
Calawah Way	1.64	1.79	14
Cook Road	0.00	0.15	15
Division Street	0.05	0.49	14
Fernhill Road	0.00	0.35	14
Page Road	0.30	0.32	15
Sol Duc Way	0.00	0.17	12

Transit level of service (LOS) standards

Transit LOS standards must not work at cross-purposes with the arterial roadway LOS standard. The city has not adopted LOS standard for transit, since Forks does not provide transit services but will coordinate with Clallam County to establish and adopt LOS standard for the Clallam Transit system.

Concurrency

Because the city receives relatively few development permit applications and a single development may have a significant impact on the city as a whole, the city reviews each permit for concurrency at the time of permit application. This does not mean the applicant must be concurrent at the time of permitting. The city will apply the concurrency test to any permit for more than a single dwelling unit or more than 1,500 feet commercial space.

Future needs and alternatives

The following analysis addresses those improvements identified by the Regional Planning Commission as having a direct impact upon the transportation network of the Forks UGA and should be considered in the development of future transportation improvement plans by Clallam County and the City of Forks. Funding for such projects should also be reviewed as part of any long term planning done by either the City of Forks or Clallam County.

- " Construct and expand sidewalks outward from the central core of the Forks UGA towards the major residential population centers.
- " Widen and pave the following roads
 - " East Division Street
 - " Rankin Road
 - " Fern Hill Road
 - " Bogachiel Way between Russell and Cook Roads
 - " Cook Road
 - " D. Mansfield Road
- " Increase circulation by connecting the following streets
 - " Connect Woodpecker Lane to Big Pine Way
 - " Connect chuckhole way to Big Pine Way
 - " Connect Big Pine Way to Merchant Road or Big Burn Place
 - " Connect Merchant Road to East Division, after the improvement and widening of East Division past Peterson Road

- Connect Terra Eden Street to Campbell Street
- Connect E Street with Peterson Street
- Connect Wiley Street with Russell Road
- Identify a means of providing addition ingress/egress to the Terra Eden
- Identify means of relieving congestion within the core business sector of the Forks UGA

Safety improvements

Accident frequency data provided by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) District Office, Clallam County Sheriff's Office, and from the city's Police Department records identified the following roadways and intersections as having a high accident frequency.

- Bogachiel Way
- Calawah Way
- Russell Road
- Merchant Road and Calawah Way intersection

The Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) recommends these areas be studied to determine what improvements could be made to increase the level of safety for residents and drivers. The following improvements should be considered to alleviate potential hazards – traffic signal modification, improved roadway maintenance, pedestrian displays at signal installation, lane modification, and segments of bicycle and pedestrian ways.

Six-year financing plan

The Six-Year Financing Plan for transportation is the result of an iterative process that balances the goals of all comprehensive plan elements. The timing and funding for transportation are restricted by the concurrency requirement and the binding nature of LOS standards. The city is required to create a six-year financing plan for both transportation and capital facilities, however, for transportation the city is also required to provide such services concurrently with new development.

Existing and new transportation facilities must meet the adopted LOS standards. As new development occurs, expenditures on maintenance of existing facilities must be adequate to continue provision of the adopted LOS. Although not required in capital facilities planning, the operating

costs of transportation facilities become important factors in ensuring that a moratorium on new development will not be needed.

Goals and policies

TRANS Goal 1 :

Provide an effective roadway network with adequate capacity to meet, at the adopted LOS Standard, the demand for various modes of travel in the city. Provide safe, convenient, and efficient transportation for all residents and visitors to the city including improvements to existing facilities as well as extensions of transportation to new developments.

TRANS Policy 1.1

Require appropriate signage for designation of streets and to provide protection to pedestrian, bicycle, and driving populations

TRANS Policy 1.2

Work with Clallam County and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to expand all modes of regional transportation to the Forks UGA and destinations in the west end of Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

TRANS Policy 1.3

Construct and expand sidewalks from the central business core of the Forks UGA to outlying residential areas.

TRANS Policy 1.4.

Require city-approved signs for new roadways created by developers of new housing developments.

TRANS Policy 1.5

Review development proposals to mitigate impacts to surface water runoff, and where necessary to ensure safety of road conditions, require additional drainage improvements.

TRANS Policy 1.6

Conduct a parking study for the central business district and determine what means are available to provide additional safe parking in the FUGA's business core.

TRANS Policy 1.7

Develop and implement strategies to reduce congestion within the central business core of the Forks UGA.

TRANS Goal 2:

Increase non-motorized on and off-road improvements and opportunities within the Forks UGA.

TRANS Policy 2.1

Require developers of new housing projects to provide road-width, sidewalks, bicycle shoulders and trails, and drainage requirements in accordance with City standards.

TRANS Policy 2.2

Coordinate the development of a long-term sidewalk construction plan with businesses, residential communities, and the school district.

TRANS Policy 2.3

Develop on and off-road bicycle routes and trails in the Forks UGA in accordance with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.

TRANS Goal 3

Reduce the accident rate at representative locations on the roadway system within the city by at least 15%.

TRANS Policy 3.1

Identify and resolve high accident intersections on both the collector and arterial system within the Forks UGA.

TRANS Policy 3.2

Perform required and requested maintenance activities related to traffic control devices and roadway material within guidelines established by the Department of Public Works.

TRANS Policy 3.4

Maintain traffic data such as traffic counts and accident data to support studies, planning, and operational activities for the Department of Public Works.

TRANS Policy 3.5

Enhance the safety of pedestrians and motorists in regard to sidewalk design and maintenance, lighting requirements, signs, and access to properties.

Community facilities

City Hall

City Hall facilities for public administration were expanded and remodeled in 1993 and are currently in good condition. More parking spaces are necessary but it is anticipated that there is enough vacant land surrounding Forks City Hall to accommodate this need. No significant expansion is anticipated in the next 20 years.

Police and fire protection

The city provides 24-hour police protection with a paid professional civilian and uniform force.

The City is part of an excellent volunteer fire crew composed of 45 members who have a proven response time unmatched by many paid fire departments. The Fire District's building is in need of replacement.

Library

The Forks Branch of the North Olympic Library System occupies a large building on Main Street that should adequately serve the western portion of Clallam County for the next 20 years. The Library's circulation exceeds 7,000 items per month. Services include children and adult programs, homebound patron services, meeting facilities, and much more. In addition, the Library's technological advances allow patrons to access the world's "information highway."

Public education facilities

Current educational facilities may not be sufficient to meet the anticipated growth in student populations in the next 20 years. The Quillayute Valley School District is studying the feasibility of expanding Forks High School. Sufficient real property is available for expansion assuming state funding can be obtained.

Medical and emergency facilities

Forks Community Hospital serves the Forks UGA and west end of Clallam County. The Hospital has undertaken many expansions to meet the needs of the West End communities.

A well-trained EMT ambulance corps provides 24-hour service.

Solid waste disposal

Solid waste collection is provided by a private company currently under contract with the City of Forks for the Forks area and regulated by the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) for the unincorporated Forks UGA.

Residents of the UGA can also deposit solid waste at the Lake Creek transfer station that is located a few minutes north of town. Solid waste from the private companies is transported to the Port Angeles Landfill, which is nearing capacity. Forks required its contracted garbage company initiate a recycling program and the garbage company plans to open a solid waste transfer station in the Forks Industrial Park.

Essential public facilities

Essential public facilities are determined by the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) subject to a local siting process. When essential public facilities are proposed the City will appoint an advisory City-Wide Site Evaluation Committee composed of citizen members selected to represent a broad range of interest groups and expertise including one individual with technical expertise relating to the particular type of facility. The committee will develop specific siting criteria for the proposed project and identify, analyze, and rank potential project sites.

The City-Wide Site Evaluation Committee will at a minimum consider the following:

- Existing city standards for siting such facilities.
- Existing public facilities and their effect on the community.
- The relative potential for reshaping the economy, environment, and the community character.
- The location of resource lands or critical areas.

- Essential public facilities should not be located beyond the UGA unless self-contained and do not require the extension of urban governmental services.

The City will use timely press releases, newspaper notices, public information meetings, and public hearings to notify citizens in all relevant jurisdictions. The City will notify adjacent jurisdictions of the proposed project and will solicit review and comment on the recommendations of the City-Wide Site Evaluation Committee.

Goals and policies

COMFAC Goal 1

Assure Forks residents receive ample, quality, and reliable community facilities and services.

COMFAC Policy 1.1

Work with and coordinate the deployment of infrastructure with land development in the FUGA.

COMFAC Policy 1.2

Ensure a straightforward means of permitting essential distribution systems exists while protecting the public's interest in knowing the activities occurring within their neighborhoods.

COMFAC Policy 1.3

Encourage and educate households to help in waste reduction and recycling of waste materials.

UTIL Policy 1.4

Maintain a cost effective and responsive solid waste and recycle collection system.

Parks

The City of Forks has one park, Tillicum Park, located in the north entrance to the city that serves as a rest stop for tourists and a staging place for community events such as Rainfest and the Forks Old Fashioned Fourth of July. Tillicum Park will be marginally sufficient for the expected growth over the next 20 years.

The demand for ball fields has been alleviated by the Forks Lions Club, which built ball fields in nearby Beaver, Washington, the ball fields of the Quillayute Valley School District that are open to public use, and the Little League Association ball fields on the donation of land by Mr. Ed Duncan. The latter has seen an expansion to include a youth football field.

A landscaped triangle at the intersection of SR 101 and Sol Duc Way serves as a rest area for some people as does some lawn area in front of the Forks Recreation Center.

The Forks Recreation Center is an important community meeting place in the City of Forks that also serves as a youth and senior center. A bond has been proposed and rejected for the construction of a swimming pool adjacent to the recreation center. Public support for a swimming pool persists and a project is included in the capital facilities element of this comprehensive plan.

Recently, the State constructed a boat launch along the Calawah River located immediately east of SR 101's Calawah River Bridge that will be heavily used by local and tourist populations.

Goals and policies

PARK Goal 1

Develop and maintain a system of open space, park, and recreation facilities that is attractive, functional, and accessible to all residents.

PARK Policy 1.1

Continue to use outdoor school recreation facilities in cooperation with Quillayute Valley School District.

PARK Policy 1.2

Acquire additional park spaces as they become available and are needed to support additional residential development.

PARK Policy 1.3

Expand and develop park sites and establish a method of financing for expansions and development.

PARK Policy 1.4

Improve public access and connection to park and open space areas with sidewalks, paths, and trails for walking and biking.

PARK Policy 1.5

Design, develop, and maintain park, open space, and recreation facilities with sensitivity and respect for natural systems retaining significant trees and vegetation in the natural state.

Utilities

This Utilities Element has been developed in accordance with Section 36.70A.070 of the Growth Management Act to address utility services in the city of Forks and the adjacent urban growth area.

The Utilities Element specifically considers the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication lines, water and sewer facilities. This element also identifies general utility corridors.

The city of Forks and Clallam County recognize that planning for utilities is the primary responsibility of the utility providers. However, this Utilities Element incorporates plans prepared by the providers in order to identify ways of improving the quality and delivery of services provided in the city the Forks UGA.

Federal and state laws/regulations

Utility services are regulated in Washington State by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). The WUTC, composed of 3 members appointed by the governor, is empowered to regulate utilities (including, but not limited to, electrical, gas, irrigation, telecommunication, and private water companies). State law (IWAC 480-120) regulates the rates and charges, services, facilities, and practices of specific utilities. Any change in customer charges or service provision policy requires WUTC approval.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is an independent 5-member commission with the US Department of Energy. FERC establishes rates and charges for the interstate transportation and sale of natural gas, for the transmission and sale of electricity, and the licensing of hydroelectric power projects. In addition, the Commission establishes rates or charges for the interstate transportation of oil by pipeline.

Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (1986 amended)

This legislation established two classifications of water quality standards.

" Primary contaminants - are directly related to public health such as bacterial, turbidity, inorganic chemicals, trace organics, or radionuclides. When water sampling determines the presence of primary contaminants exceeds permitted maximum level, immediate corrective action is required.

" Secondary contaminants - impair the aesthetic qualities of the water and do not endanger the public's health. In 1986, the Act was amended and required utilities to test for an additional 83 contaminants. The City participates in such testing and annually sends out a notice to all of its water customer information on the test results.

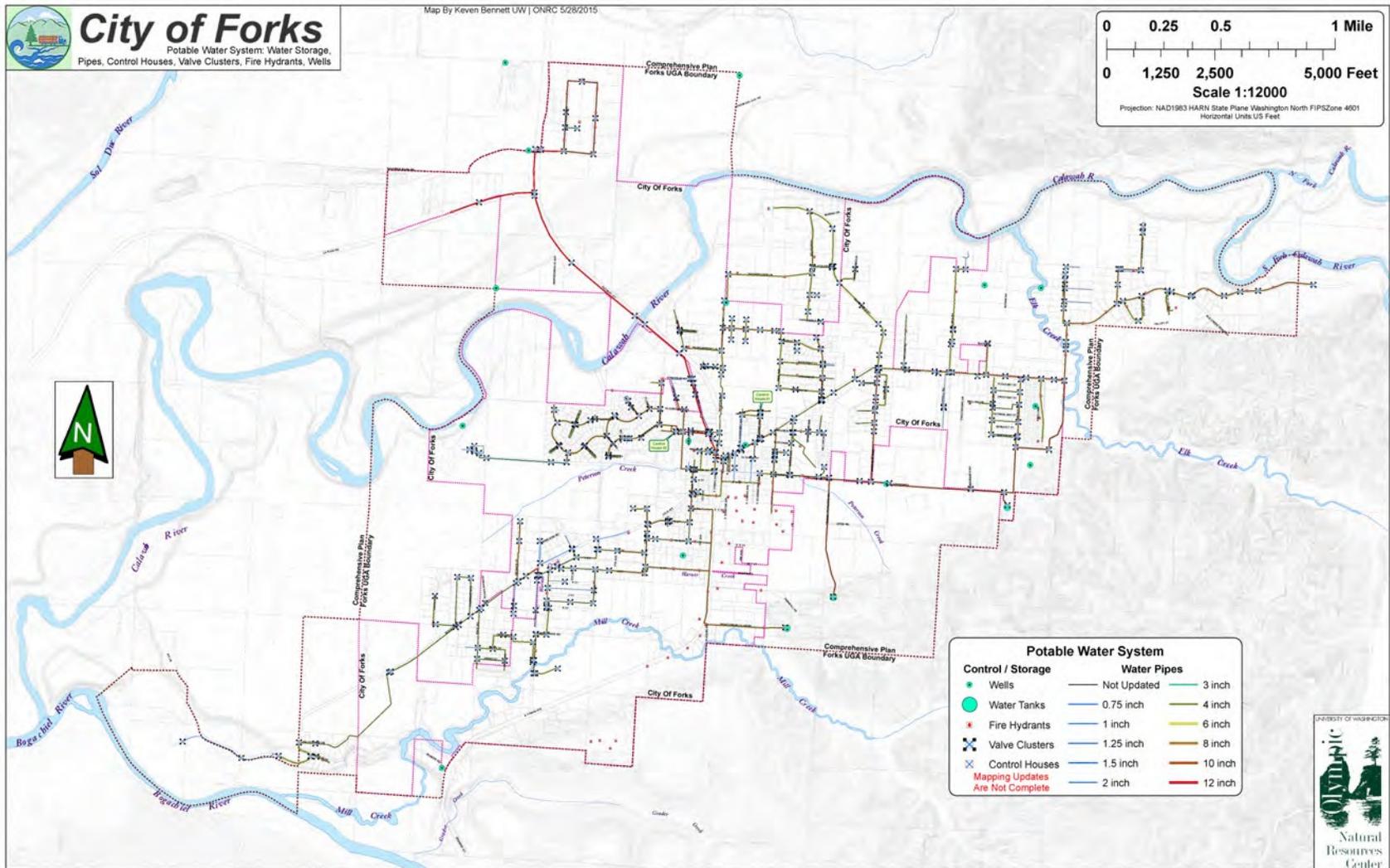
1991 Clean Air Amendments

The passage of the Washington State Clean Air Act in 1991 indicates a state intent to promote the diversification of fuel sources for motor vehicles to reduce atmospheric emissions and reliance on gasoline for strategic reasons. The Act requires 30% of newly purchased state government vehicle fleets to be fueled by alternative fuel by July 1992, (increasing by 5% each year). The Act also encourages the development of natural gas vehicle refueling stations.

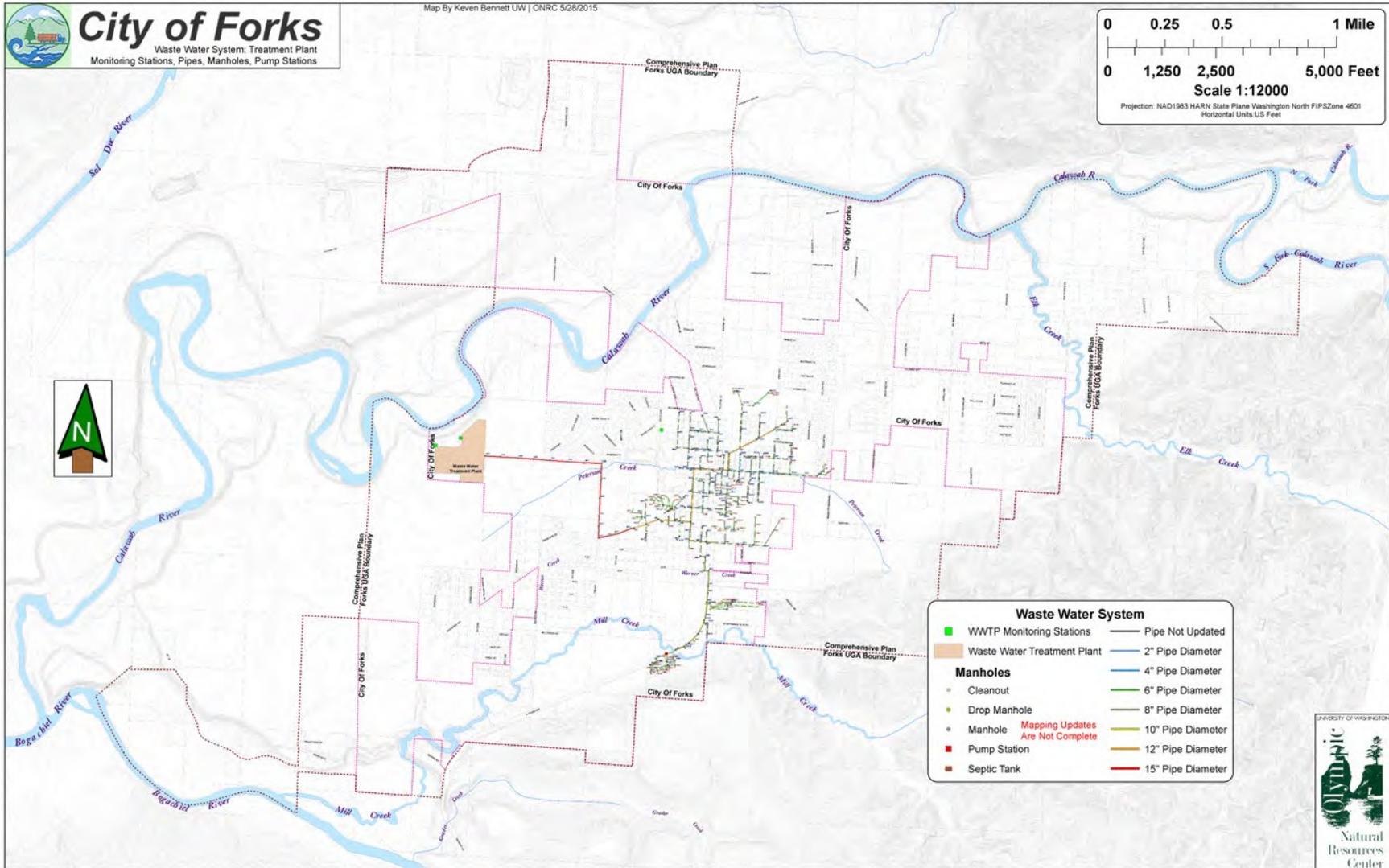
Water

The ability to provide water, via the City of Forks' water supply system, was a critical factor in determining the UGA boundaries. Prior to 1953, Forks Prairie was provided water by the Forks Water Company, a private company that obtained water by extraction from Elk Creek. In 1953, the Town of Forks took over water supply responsibilities and currently the City of Forks provides water services to all areas within the Forks UGA.

The Forks UGA is supplied water through the use of 5 wells that are associated with 2 fields believed to be supplied by the same



Forks Potable Water System



Forks Wastewater System

aquifer. All 5 wells were installed prior to 1980. Water from the wells is chlorinated and fluoridated, and has continually met or exceeded state and federal water purity standards. The working capacity available to the Forks UGA is 1,445 gallons per minute (GPM) and the City's water supply system is at 60% operational capacity. Efforts in the late 1990s to locate another aquifer in the area near the industrial park proved to be unsuccessful.

Water from the wells is stored in 3 water tank reservoirs. Two reservoirs, totaling 900,000 gallons, are over 35 years old, while the 1,000,000 gallon reservoir is more than 25 years old. The City has protected and enhanced the reservoirs to ensure this critical infrastructure remains available to the community. Sufficient land is available for expansion.

The current water supply system includes over 22 miles of pipeline. The City's water distribution system is maintained and regularly upgraded by the City's Public Works Department in accordance with the Forks Water System Plan..

The quality of the water provided by Forks is good and the service meets present needs and those projected for the next 20 years. The maximum capacity for the Forks Water System is 1,390 gallons per minute (gpm) as determined by the City of Forks Comprehensive Water System Plan. According to 1987 statistics cited in the Water Plan, there are 2.75 persons per connection.

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services recommended daily connection usage rate is 800 gallons per day. The projected population for 2015 of 6,234 persons in the Forks UGA would require 1,259 gallons per minute which is below the 1,390 gallon per minute capacity of the existing water system..

Wastewater disposal facilities

Prior to 1985, all houses in the Forks UGA operated sewer disposal systems using septic tanks. In 1973 and 1977, a referendum to create a utility district develop a sewer treatment plant were defeated. However, in 1985, a utility district was created in a smaller section of the Forks UGA centered around the downtown area prompted by the 1982 state ban of

new on-site septic systems. The district through grants and levies commissioned the building of a sewer treatment facility that began operation in 1986.

The award winning facility utilizes a system of "rapid infiltration" through the use of a large lagoon to aerate the wastewater and 8 earthen basins to absorb the treated effluent into the ground. The system incorporates some unusual and innovative features that include long-term extended aeration treatment; single sludge nitrification/denitrification; rapid infiltration of wastewater effluent; and permanent on-site land application of waste sludge to second growth timber.

Up until 2002, the City received numerous awards for this innovative system. However, in 2002, the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) notified the City that the previous system was no longer an acceptable means of treating bio-solid waste. The City, utilizing reserve funds pursued an innovative biosolid screw press built in Japan. The City obtained a license to operate a Class A biosolid treatment facility built around the innovative screw press which was the first such operation in the State of Washington. The City has consistently received awards for this system since this change installation

The current system operates at a point where additional annexations of property outside the district cannot occur in order to ensure service to the undeveloped lands within the district. However, there are areas of the Forks UGA that do not have access to the existing sewer system. Efforts to expand the system have thus far been limited to small additions. A significant hurdle to expanding the system to other parts of the City and UGA are the high costs in materials and with initial connection assessments.

Future expansion will require the un-serviced areas to form a utility district, and the City would need to obtain additional outside agency funds with which to extend the sewer system.

There are no plans to increase the capacity of the sewage treatment plant although additional land to the west and southwest of the current facility has been designated as open space limited access, providing the city, upon acquiring ownership, with the ability to

expand the current facility if required. A bond was proposed for added sewage treatment capacity and was rejected by the voters.

Stormwater facilities

The City's stormwater system is composed of a network of public and private facilities that include wetlands and drainage ways, publicly owned ditches, culverts, and swales. Current facilities are inadequate to handle substantial increases in stormwater drainage associated with increased development.

Electric utility

During the 1940's, the City of Forks received some electrical power from a locally owned diesel generator. In the mid-1950s a transmission line was built to serve the western end of Clallam County and the Public Utilities District (PUD) Number 1 of Clallam County (District) has been serving the Forks UGA since then.

The current source of electrical power supplied to the FUGA is from purchases from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), as well as secondary power markets when power suppliers began selling on the open market energy to power distributors. While the current agreements with Clallam County PUD and Bonneville Power Administration restrict the amount that can be purchased from other sources, it is expected that these restrictions will be loosened, if not eliminated, in the future. Electricity is primarily generated from hydroelectric facilities located along the Columbia River and delivered through the regional and local transmission system.

According to the PUD, there is ample capacity to meet existing demand for the Forks UGA over the next 20 years. The District has a long history of cooperating with the City of Forks regarding distribution improvements and upgrades.

The District's electrical facilities of less than 69,000 volts (69 kV) are distribution facilities of 69,000 volts (69 kV) or more are transmission facilities. The Forks UGA is serviced by four "distribution" substation facilities located in 1) the industrial area in the northern section of the Forks UGA; 2) at a site on

the north side of Calawah Way near the intersection with 5th Avenue NE; and 3) two substations located near the corners of "E" Street SW and 5th Avenue SW.

The Forks UGA is fully served by these substations with distribution lines that extend service to all residential, commercial, and public customers. The District's 69kV transmission lines serve the distribution substations for the Forks UGA.

The PUD, with funds from BPA, completed an aggressive conservation program that funded customer cost-effective energy improvements including the addition of insulation, energy-efficient windows, lighting, and heating units.

The City is participating in research efforts that could produce small quantities of electricity that could remove facilities from the PUD grid during BPA's peak load periods thereby reducing PUD costs. The City will continue to work closely with PUD to find ways to conserve electrical usage.

Telephone

The City of Forks has had telephone services since 1908. CenturyTel is the current service provider for Forks and the remainder Western Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

In 1999, a group worked collectively with CenturyTel on a telecommunication system that would expand uses while attracting potential business clients needing access to broadband-based data services. The Forks Integrated Community Network (ICN) began at the zenith of the telecommunications industrial boom of the late 1990s. While the boom turned to bust, the ICN effort continued pursuit a modernized digital infrastructure for Forks and ultimately a digital fiber optic loop around the Olympic Peninsula connecting CenturyTel to the Qwest system.

The philosophy of ICN was the concept that "one's area code should not limit one's educational, recreational, business or health care opportunities" - a slogan paraphrased from an educational goal of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

The effort to develop the necessary infrastructure associated with broadband applications, as well as the necessary skill sets within the community to utilize those applications, have been vigorously pursued – many times in a collaborative fashion between various entities. A detailed review and discussion of the ICN process can be found in, [From Timber to Technology: A Community's Efforts to Bridge the Digital Divide](#), written by Julie Steinkopf Rice as part of a US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Economic Development Initiative Grant the City received.

ICN efforts resulted in the deployment of broadband services in the Forks UGA in 2001, upgrade of the main telecommunications infrastructure along the Western Olympic Peninsula, creation of a redundant digital distribution network, and ensuring the ability to meet demand for literally hundreds of phone lines. Since the telecommunications industry is required to provide service on demand, CenturyTel has indicated there is capacity for the City and UGA. However, there are concerns that additional high-speed connectivity is needed within the immediate area of Forks and the other West End communities.

Television

Television service has been provided to the City of Forks since at least 1966. In the late 1990s, cable/ television services become problematic as prices increased for the services provided by Millennium Digital.

Millennium Digital was unregulated by the City of Forks. Millennium disconnected over 120 customers located just outside the Forks UGA in 2003 and customer satisfaction was a concern. The company filed for bankruptcy and left all of their equipment in place. The City and other utility providers have had to remove such equipment as time permits.

It is difficult to determine the number of households that have television services by the increasing use of small satellite dishes. At one time over 80% of the households within the Forks UGA subscribed to cable services.

Goals and policies

UTIL Goal 1

Assure Forks residents receive ample, quality, and reliable utility services at cost effective rates.

UTIL Policy 1.1

Pursue technologies and materials that reduce the City's consumption of electricity within its own facilities.

UTIL Policy 1.2

Work with and coordinate the deployment of infrastructure with land development in the Forks UGA.

UTIL Policy 1.3

Ensure a straightforward means of permitting essential distribution systems exists while protecting the public's interest in knowing the activities occurring within their neighborhoods.

UTIL Policy 1.4

Recognize that utilities *providers* have an obligation to serve and provide the same level of service to all customers.

UTIL Policy 1.7

Work with service providers to improve the coverage of wireless communication opportunities including high-speed Internet access within the Forks UGA.

UTIL Policy 1.8

Work with Clallam County PUD #1 to expand service and reliability.

Capital facilities

Level of service (LOS) standards

Due to the small size of the City of Forks, level of services standards are not used to assess capital facility needs, except for transportation facilities, as required by the Growth Management Act (GMA).

The City pursues projects through an implementation strategy overseen by the Mayor with ongoing communication and cooperation between various disciplines, including the Planning Director, Public Works Director and Clerk/Treasurer.

Capital Facilities Program (CFP)

The Capital Facilities Program (CFP) sets capital projects that the jurisdiction plans to undertake and presents estimates of the resources needed to finance the projects.

Capital projects recommended for future development may be altered or not developed due to cost or changing circumstances. The Capital Facilities Program (CFP) is a 6-year rolling plan that may be revised and extended annually to reflect changing circumstances.

For the purposes of capital facility planning, capital improvements are major projects, activities, or maintenance, generally costing over \$10,000, requiring the expenditure of public funds over and above annual operating expenses. Capital projects have a life expectancy of more than 10 years and result in an addition to the city's fixed assets and/or extend the life of the existing capital infrastructure.

Capital projects do not include capital outlay items such as equipment or the city's rolling stock, nor do they include the capital expenditures of private or non-public organizations. Minor projects, activities, or maintenance costing less than

\$10,000, are considered minor maintenance and are not a part of capital improvements.

Capital projects may include design, engineering efforts, permitting, environmental analysis, land acquisition, construction, major maintenance, site improvements, energy conservation projects, landscaping, initial furnishings, and equipment.

Capital facility projects include:

- " Water systems
- " Sewer treatment systems
- " Forks comprehensive flood management plan related projects
- " City Hall and city compound building and grounds
- " Parks and recreation
- " Airports, industrial park, mill holdings, technology center, and transit center

Financial issues

State initiatives negatively impact Forks operating budget:

- " Initiative 695 - eliminated the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax allocation to cities eliminating some of Forks' operating revenues.
- " Initiative 747 - restricts the City's property tax revenue to an annual increase of 1% above the amount generated in the year before without a vote to reset the property tax levy rate lid. Due to a non-diversified tax base and a very low existing tax rate, a 1% property tax increase only generates about \$10,000 in new revenue annually.

The combined effects of initiatives, a non-diversified tax base, and unreliable economic trends limit Forks' ability to balance the City's operating budget resulting in a growing gap between operating

revenues and expenses that the City is currently balancing with limited reserve funds, tight management controls, and good financial planning.

Forks' will not be able to continue this practice for many years without cuts in services or increases in operating revenues. The City will continue to explore alternative funding sources and means to reduce expenses without impacting the quality of City services.

Goals and policies

CAPFAC Goal 1

The City of Forks will provide needed public facilities to all residents within its jurisdiction in a manner that protects investments in existing facilities and maximizes the use of existing facilities. Capital improvements will be provided to correct existing deficiencies, to replace worn out or obsolete facilities and to accommodate desired future growth, as indicated in this element, and subsequent revisions when time permits.

CAPFAC Policy 1.1

Capital improvement projects determined to be of relatively large scale and high cost (\$10,000) will be included in the annually adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

CAPFAC Policy 1.2

Capital improvement projects will be evaluated and prioritized using all of the following criteria:

- *Whether the project is needed to correct existing deficiencies, replace needed facilities, or to provide facilities needed for future growth;*
- *Eliminate public hazards;*
- *Eliminate or capacity deficits;*
- *Financial feasibility;*
- *Site needs based on projected growth patterns;*
- *New development and redevelopment;*
- *Plans of state agencies;*
- *Local budget impact; and*
- *Location and effect upon natural and cultural resources.*

CAPFAC Goal 2:

Future development will bear a fair share of facility improvement cost necessitated by the development.

CAPFAC Goal 3

The City will manage fiscal resources to support ~~of~~-needed capital improvements for previously issued development orders and for future development and redevelopment.

CAPFAC Policy 3.1

The city will adopt annual capital budgets and a 5- year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that will be used as the guide in drafting and implementing the City's capital budgets.

CAPFAC Policy 3.2

Debt will be managed so that City Charter limits on general obligation debt (15% of assessed value) will not be exceeded.

CAPFAC Policy 3.3

Efforts will be made to secure grants or private funds whenever available to finance capital improvements.

CAPFAC Policy 4:

Fiscal policies will direct expenditures for capital improvements consistent with other Comprehensive Plan elements.

CAPFAC Goal 4

The City of Forks and Clallam County will coordinate land use decisions and financial resources with a schedule of capital improvements to meet service needs, measurable objectives, and provide existing and future facility needs.

CAPFAC Policy 1

The City of Forks and Clallam County will support and encourage joint development and use of cultural and community facilities with other governmental or community organizations in areas of mutual concern and benefit.

CAPFAC Policy 2

The City of Forks and Clallam County will emphasize capital improvement projects that promote conservation, preservation, or revitalization of commercial, industrial, and residential areas in the Forks Urban Growth Area.

CAPFAC Policy 3

Proposed plan amendments and requests for new development

CAPFAC GOAL 5

Continue to provide quality and responsive municipal services to Forks residents.

CAPFAC Policy 5.1

Maintain an appropriate ratio of police officers to population.

CAPFAC Policy 5.2

Continue to investigate any cost savings or efficiency modifications to City operations and services with adjoining jurisdictions.

CAPFAC Policy 5.3

Continue to develop and expand the City's website by making available more services, information, and links to other government agencies.

CAPFAC Policy 5.4

Resolve a long-term fiscal strategy for managing City revenues at a level sufficient to continue to provide quality City services.