

1       **FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE**  
2               **KITSAP COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION TO THE BOARD OF**  
3       **COMMISSIONERS OF KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON REGARDING THE**  
4       **ADOPTION OF THE NORTH KITSAP TRAILS ASSOCIATION “STRING OF**  
5               **PEARLS TRAIL PLAN” AND ASSOCIATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**  
6               **AMENDMENTS**

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8       The Planning Commission of Kitsap County, Washington, finds as follows:

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10       1.    On May 7, 1998, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted the  
11            1998 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan. Adoption of the 1998 plan  
12            satisfied the requirements set forth in the Growth Management Act (GMA).  
13            The Comprehensive Plan has been subsequently amended during the  
14            period of 2000 through 2010.  
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16       2.    The Comprehensive Plan includes multiple goals and policies regarding the  
17            importance of non-motorized facilities to the County’s transportation, parks  
18            and open space systems.  
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20       3.    Throughout 2009 and 2010, the North Kitsap Trails Association conducted  
21            27 public presentations, 3 of which were published public open house  
22            meetings to discuss options and elements of a proposed trail plan for North  
23            Kitsap.  
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25       4.    On September 2, 2011 North Kitsap Trails Association submitted the String  
26            of Pearls Trail to the County to consider for adoption.  
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28       5.    On September 9th, 2011, Kitsap County selected to issue a State  
29            Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance and  
30            Notice of Adoption of Existing Environmental Documents. The SEPA  
31            comment and appeal period was extended to October 10, 2011. Two  
32            comments were submitted and no appeals were filed.  
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34       6.    On September 7th, 2011 Kitsap County submitted a 60-day notice of intent  
35            to adopt the NK String of Pearls Trail Plan and modify Comprehensive plan  
36            Goals and Policies, to the Washington State Department of Community,  
37            Trade and Economic Development (CTED). A CTED letter of  
38            acknowledgement of receipt was received on September 9, 2011. This  
39            comment period ends November 7, 2011.  
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41       7.    On September 21, 2011, Kitsap County issued the Notice of Planning  
42            Commission Public Hearing in the legal publication of record in regards to  
43            the proposed trail plan and comprehensive plan amendments.  
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- 1 8. On September 20, 2011, following timely and effective public notice, the  
2 Planning Commission held a briefing and work-study session to review and  
3 discuss the proposed trail plan and comprehensive plan changes.  
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- 5 9. On September 28, 2011, Kitsap County Special Projects issued a staff  
6 report on the proposed amendments consistent with the schedule identified  
7 in Kitsap County Code Title 21, Type IV Legislative Procedures.  
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- 9 10. On September 28, 2011, The County emailed all interested parties to date  
10 with a reminder of the Public Hearing before the Planning Commission to be  
11 held on October 4<sup>th</sup> and notice of 3 scheduled joint Public Hearings by the  
12 NKTA and County.  
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- 14 11. On October 4, 2011, following timely and effective public notice, the  
15 Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider verbal testimony on  
16 the draft amendments. Written testimony for consideration through the  
17 Planning Commission process was extended and closed on October 12th at  
18 4:30PM.  
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- 20 12. On October 18, 2011, the Planning Commission, following timely and  
21 effective notice, deliberated on the NK String of Pearls Trail Plan and  
22 proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments. At this meeting, the planning  
23 commission recommended several changes and or additions to the staff edit  
24 matrix affecting language in the trail plan.  
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- 26 13. On October 20 and 27, 2011, the North Kitsap Trails Association and Kitsap  
27 County held joint public meetings in North Kitsap to discuss and take  
28 comment on the proposed trail plan  
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- 30 14. The proposed trail plan and comprehensive plan amendments are  
31 consistent with the Washington state Growth Management Act (GMA), State  
32 Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and Kitsap Countywide Planning Policies.  
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- 34 15. The proposed NK Trail Plan is consistent with over 29 of the goals and  
35 policies contained within the 2008 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan.  
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- 37 16. The County conducted an extended public participation process to gather  
38 comment on the plan and produce a staff report and recommendation.  
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- 40 17. The proposed trail plan considers natural systems and topography in the  
41 location and design of proposed trails to minimize impacts to environmental  
42 features.  
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- 44 18. The proposed trail plan establishes predictability for future development  
45 while providing appropriate flexibility as projects evolve from the  
46 programmatic level of detail to project-specific.

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**THEREFORE**, to promote the public interest and welfare of Kitsap County's citizens, in accordance with the GMA and based upon the above mentioned findings, the Planning Commission in regular session recommends the following:

1. Approval of the North Kitsap String of Pearls Trail Plan, dated September 30th, 2011 and the Comprehensive Plan amendments to Goal T-18 and Policy T-75, dated September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, with recommended language revisions (Attachment A)

Approved by the Planning Commission of Kitsap County, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof, held this November 1st, 2011.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Paralez, Chair