
Executive Summary

Note to reader:

Information-gathering for the Greater Hansville Community Plan began in 2003. Data and statistical information therefore may not describe conditions during adoption year 2009. Please reference accordingly.

This executive summary describes the initiation of the Greater Hansville Community Plan, how a community-driven planning effort transitioned to a public planning process, the framework of the final plan, and major findings.

Background

The Greater Hansville Community Plan represents the fourth and final phase of a citizen-driven planning effort beginning in 2003. In the Spring of that year, the Hansville Community Center Board of Directors decided to address the change and growth observed in the Greater Hansville Area (GHA). The Board sponsored an effort bringing all organizations and neighborhoods North of Eglon/Little Boston Road together to plan for the area's future, rather than just "let it happen". The Board believed the Greater Hansville Area is a unique place, and the spirit of this community could only be preserved if local citizens actively took charge of their future.

Accordingly, some 24 organizations, collectively representing a comprehensive perspective of the Greater Hansville Area, were invited to participate in a "Futures Planning Process". For 2 ½ years, volunteers from the community donated hundreds of hours to help prepare a vision of a *preferred future*, and a specific list of *action items* to turn that vision into reality. The planning strategy included four phases:

1. Values Survey
2. Community Profile
3. Final Report
4. Implementation Plan

The Values Survey was conducted between 2004-2005, and represents the most comprehensive citizen assessment conducted in recent memory. Nearly 2,600 surveys were mailed to area residents including the entire 98340 zip code, adjacent neighborhoods, and property owners living in other cities and states. Responses were received from 386 households, amounting to a 15% return rate. The Values Survey is contained in its entirety in this document.

In 2005, a Community Profile was prepared by local volunteers, who contributed hundreds of hours of research and writing. The document is over 200 pages in length, and consists of 13 chapters describing the history, current conditions, and trends affecting many aspects of life in the GHA. Other than a handful of data requests fulfilled by Kitsap County staff, the Community Profile is an entirely citizen-driven description of the Greater Hansville Area. The Community Profile is contained in its entirety in this document.

The Final Report emerged in 2006, providing a summary of the process, the community's vision, and a call to action. The report was prepared by a Planning Committee (hereinafter the *Futures Planning Committee*) representing more than 20 GHA organizations. The Committee spent nine months studying the area's history, current direction, values, and preferred future outcomes. The Values Survey and Community Profile provided indispensable guidance. In addition to

summarizing the first three *Futures* phases and proposing a fourth and final phase, the Committee's Final Report contains the following elements:

- Community Values adopted by the Committee, based on the 2004 GHA Survey
- Likely and Preferred Futures
- Eight Action Items to make the Preferred Future happen

Results from the three phases above are collectively known as the Hansville Futures report. The scope of work proposed by *Futures* originators was publicized and documented. Reports and deliverables were made available to any interested party throughout the process, despite operating on an extremely limited budget. During each phase, updates and calls for participation were announced through a variety of popular media. Futures Planning Committee meetings and workshops were also publicized and open to the public. The Hansville Log, the GHA's most widely-circulated community newsletter, reported significant milestones throughout the *Futures* process, and the Log's virtual extension, www.hansville.org, continues to publish *Futures* documents and related information for public use.

The fourth phase of *Hansville Futures* concerns implementation. Futures documents proposed a comprehensive action plan, but also recognized that successes can and should be achieved by pursuing Action Items individually. An implementation strategy became clearer with assistance from Kitsap County in 2007.

Transition to Kitsap County

The Futures Planning Committee adopted Action Items because it did not want to stop at a vision statement that would only sit on a

shelf. In its Final Report, the Futures Planning Committee suggested that volunteers work toward implementing the Action Items through a combination of permanent standing committees, and task-based committees. The Committee also recognized that outcomes and futures efforts may differ than those proposed in the Final Report. The hope was that combined community-based efforts would generate positive outcomes for the Greater Hansville Area.

Those implementation efforts realized immediate success. The hard work and results of *Hansville Futures* caught the attention of Kitsap County Commissioners. It was recognized that the Greater Hansville Area needed a better linkage to local government. In 2007, the County established the Greater Hansville Area Advisory Council (GHAAC) to promote organization between Northern Kitsap neighborhoods and strengthen communication with the County. With the creation of GHAAC, the Hansville Futures process accomplished Final Report Action Item #1.

Futures Planning Committee members then began to address Action Item #2, which calls for a downtown master plan. The group separated in two: a downtown planning committee to address cultural and commercial activities in downtown Hansville, and a regional planning committee to address the needs of dispersed portions of the GHA.

By the end of 2007, Kitsap County Commissioners again sought to recognize the GHA by developing a community plan for the area. As a component of the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan, a GHA Community Plan would become a policy document guiding future decisions for the GHA. Preparation of a community plan was

placed on the County’s growth management docket for 2008 – 2009.

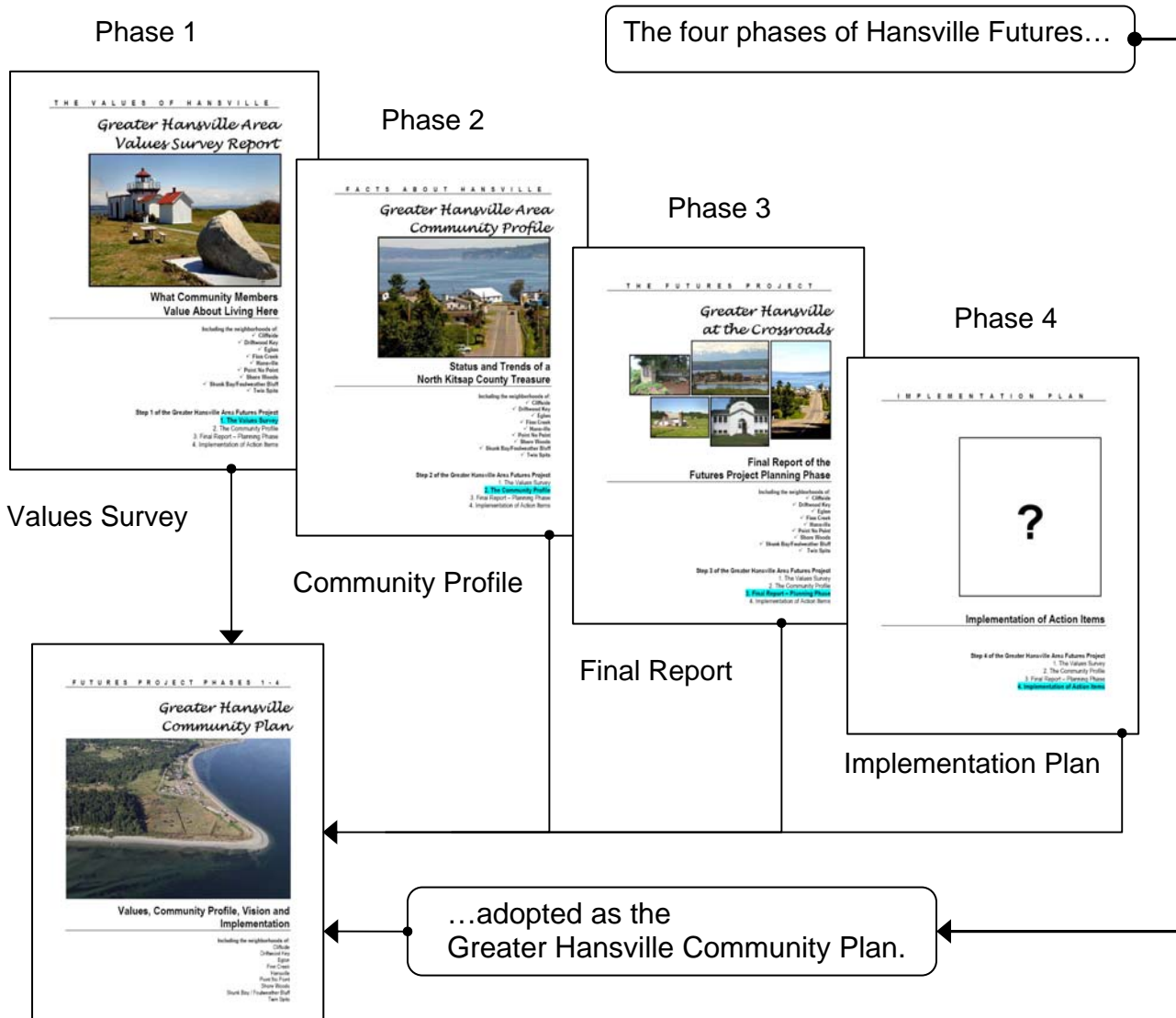
The GHA Community Plan would incorporate the first three *Futures* phases, and as an implementation plan, it would represent phase four of *Futures*. However, in order to become a legal policy document consistent with the state Growth Management Act, Kitsap County would need to facilitate a new planning process, and ensure Countywide public participation is incorporated into the plan. The County would establish a new committee (hereinafter the Planning Committee) to provide community planning input on an ongoing basis.

The Downtown and Regional Futures Planning Committees once again merged into a single sub-committee of the GHAAC, addressing all aspects of the GHA as a single Planning Committee. The County assisted GHAAC and Planning Committee representatives in inviting new Planning Committee members, and Department of Community Development staff established a public planning process.

The process would build on the first three *Futures* phases, but also evaluate *Futures* assumptions and make adjustments based on new public participation, existing County policies, and GMA requirements. As part of the Greater Hansville Community Planning process, DCD staff facilitated the first formal Planning Committee meeting on March 18, 2008. Meetings and workshops occurred monthly through the summer of 2009, including two open houses, a new community survey, and public hearings.



The first of three open houses at the Greater Hansville Community Center, January 24, 2009. Attendees identified issues related to the plan’s seven policy areas.



Tying each phase together

The GHA Community Plan is supported by existing data prepared during *Hansville Futures*. It establishes the community's vision, and includes implementing goals and policies. Narrative describing the area's history and existing conditions is also provided via the *Futures Community Profile*. The Plan includes seven policy implementation elements, each containing vision statements, goals, policies, and projects to aid in the Plan's implementation. Implementation elements are listed below:

- Land Use
- Economy
- Environment
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Services
- Public Infrastructure
- Transportation

A map of the study area is provided on the following page.

Hansville Community Study Area

