

The Vision



In the year 2020, people living in Cowlitz County see themselves as part of an interlocking fabric of family, neighborhood, work, and community. This fabric fosters community partnerships that provide the support each person needs to be a healthy and contributing member of the community. In return, individuals have the opportunity to give back to the community by aiding others and by acting as responsible citizens.

In the year 2020, life in Cowlitz County reflects these attributes:

Healthy Lifestyles Individuals pursue lifestyles and relationships that support sound physical, mental, spiritual, and social/community health. Community members who are physically or mentally disabled have the opportunity and resources to live independently.

Economy The tax base adequately supports the growing economy. The local economy has sufficient number of jobs that pay a family wage and an adequate mix of jobs that meet the vocational aspirations of all individuals. The community has made a successful transition to technology. The well-trained local work force attracts good jobs.

Education Schools are a central focus of the community – both educational achievement and broader community uses. Community members place a high value on education and have access to a full-range of educational opportunities from pre-school to college and vocational education.

Families

Parents – Parents have the skills to raise their children. Parents play an important role in teaching healthy lifestyles and the values of honesty, work, citizenship, non-violence, and environmental respect.

Children – babies, toddlers, children, and youth receive developmentally appropriate care, health care, and nurturing from their families and the community.

Senior Citizens – Older people live independently for as long as possible. Supportive living arrangements exist in the community, as people grow frail. The community values the life experience of its older members and provides opportunities for them to continue contributing to the community.

Community The community's neighborhoods provide a safe environment for youth, families, and the elderly. The community provides cultural, recreational, and social opportunities.

The Environment Community members are stewards of the environment and work to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. The land use standards support the community's interest in keeping the environment healthy. Air and water quality standards meet or exceed state standards.

Hope and Dreams Community members have hopeful futures as they progress through childhood to adolescence to adulthood to older adulthood. All community members have ambitions and develop skills to achieve them.

Diversity The community embraces people of all ages, races, cultures, ability levels, and lifestyles.