

## **Eastsound Vision:**

Eastsound is a diverse, vibrant community that embraces and emulates the wild and generous nature of Orcas Island and the Salish Sea. Life here flourishes year round, in the village, land, sea, and sky.

The village serves as our island's commercial and cultural center, connecting every facet of our community, each to the other.

We strive for a built environment that is worthy of our natural surroundings. We value and actively preserve open spaces, views, and access to the land and sea around us. We honor those who have stewarded this island before us. We are committed to our history, culture, arts, and to the deep and restorative stewardship of our ecosystem.

To ensure a thriving community for all, we champion sustainability and regenerative systems, tread lightly on the land, and shape our future in harmony with nature.

### **1) Eastsound is the commercial and cultural center of the island.**

To that end we will:

- a) ...rely upon Eastsound to provide essential public services and commercial trade relevant to the island community's basic needs.
- b) ...honor the indispensable value that our island schools represent for our community.
- c) ...support a culture that fosters the creative arts.
- d) ...support island-owned, socially responsible, environmentally low-impact businesses.

### **2) The Eastsound community embraces and encourages diversity.**

To that end we will:

- a) ...support an intergenerational community.
- b) ...create a safe and welcoming environment for all, regardless of race, heritage, gender, beliefs, sexual orientation, age, ability, or other demographic factors.

- c) ...make our village a safe and welcoming place for children.
- d) ...promote a culture that inspires and serves year-round and seasonal residents, as well as visitors.
- e) ...support affordable, year-round housing for middle and lower income households
- f) ...support aging in place.

### **3) Eastsound supports small business, entrepreneurship, and a year-round economy.**

To that end we will:

- a) ...create a sustainable economic plan for Eastsound.
- b) ...encourage and support affordable commercial and creative spaces.
- c) ...encourage infrastructure for people working remotely.
- d) ...support small-scale organic farming and create a year-round market for island goods, arts, crafts, and agriculture.
- e) ...encourage eco, agricultural, arts, wellness, and other forms of low-impact tourism.

### **4) Eastsound honors its natural environment.**

To that end we will:

- a) ...respect, preserve, and protect Eastsound's existing wetlands and implement watershed best-management practices.
- b) ...minimize stormwater runoff by using the best green and sustainable solutions available.
- c) ..protect, restore, and maintain Eastsound-area watersheds.

- d) ...rely upon existing in-town wetlands and drainage patterns to provide natural water treatment.
- e) ...preserve our open skies.
- f) ...preserve Eastsound's open and natural spaces for their habitat and restorative values to the community.
- g) ...protect our valuable coastal and marine habitats, spawning grounds, and sea life along Eastsound's shorelines, including Indian Island and near-shore waters.
- h) ...create low-impact pedestrian access to shorelines.
- i) ...anticipate and devise solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change and sea level rise that are in harmony with natural systems.

**5) Eastsound's built environment creates a vibrant, sustainable, livable village.**

To that end we will:

- a) ...require that future development be sustainable and prevent development that degrades the natural environment.
- b) ...preserve the unique character and scale of the village and strive towards a sense of harmony, cohesion and architectural consistency by maintaining and enhancing the Eastsound Design Standards.
- c) ...create and maintain a compact, walkable village that preserves and maintains public open spaces and offers a balanced mix of commercial and residential structures in the Village Core.
- d) ...create intimate, lively, inviting streetscapes and public spaces where young and old can mix, relax and socialize.
- e) ...eliminate light pollution and preserve undiluted night skies by reinforcing current lighting ordinances and supporting minimal, low profile lighting of the streetscape, for pedestrian safety and evening activity, only in conformance with "dark sky" protocols.
- f) ...recognize that the spaces between buildings and views of the surrounding hills, East Sound, and Straits of Georgia contribute to the village character.

- g) ...encourage a sense of discovery and tranquility, and provide opportunities for art in both public and private spaces.
- h) ...ensure that island development not outpace local resources, including but not limited to water, energy, sewage treatment capacity, and essential services.
- i) ...encourage affordable residential neighborhoods within the boundaries of the Subarea.
- j) ...support changes in allowable land uses, including incentives, to provide for innovative, affordable, year-round rentals.
- k) ...ensure a healthy balance of year-round residential rental units and transient rentals.

## **6) Eastsound honors its past.**

To that end we will:

- a) ...honor, preserve and share the history and heritage of those who have lived here before us and strengthen relationships with local indigenous people and cultures that have historic connections with Orcas Island.

## **7) Eastsound supports diverse modes of transportation**

To that end we will:

- a) ...create and maintain a walkable village designed to connect with surrounding areas and establish distinct routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.
- b) ...provide transportation alternatives to reduce vehicle traffic within the village.
- c) ...consider flexible infrastructure or part-time pedestrian-only zones to accommodate seasonal changes in population.
- d) ...establish an island-wide community transit system with Eastsound as its central destination.
- e) ...create low-impact perimeter parking that serves the village core.

## **8) Eastsound innovates.**

To that end we will:

- a) ...adopt an environmental sustainability index to measure our progress toward specific goals, including sustainable and renewable energy, energy efficiency, net zero waste, carbon negativity, and other markers.
- b) ...use our water resources wisely and sustainably.
- c) ...support public and private cooperatives.
- d) ...use sustainability, as we have defined it, as an essential criterion for growth and development.

## **9) Eastsound shall implement the principles in this vision.**

To that end we will:

- a) ...engage in ongoing community forums to realize this vision and raise the quality of life for the people and enhance the health of the ecosystems of Orcas Island and the Salish Sea.
- b) ...create a governing structure responsive to the Eastsound community.
- c) ...require the equitable application of clear, simple rules and codes as they apply to the Eastsound Subarea.

## **10) Definitions**

### **a) Definition of Compact Development:**

Compact development is development in which more efficient use of land through higher-density planning reduces sprawl, reduces dependency on private car use, creates walkable environments, and increases economic efficiency in the delivery of basic urban services.

Source: Arthur Brown, "Planning Glossary of Terms", *Defined Term*.  
<https://www.definedterm.com/a/definition/141964>

**b) Definition of Eastsound Subarea:**

The Eastsound Subarea is the area which comprises the whole of Eastsound. The Eastsound Urban Growth Area and the Eastsound Village Core are contained within it. The Subarea Plan provides land use and development guidelines specific to the Eastsound area as a component of the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan.

For an exact map of the Eastsound subarea, refer to Eastsound Subarea Plan Official Map:

<http://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3471>.

**c) Definition of Eastsound Urban Growth Area (UGA):**

The Eastsound UGA is bordered north and south by the sea, and is the central portion of the Eastsound Subarea. The Village Core is contained within it.

According to the Revised Code of Washington, UGAs are “areas within which urban growth shall be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature.”

For an exact map of the Eastsound UGA, refer to page one of this San Juan County map pdf:

[http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/smallarea/maps/uga/saep\\_uga\\_san\\_juan.pdf](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/smallarea/maps/uga/saep_uga_san_juan.pdf)

**d) Definition of Eastsound Village Core:**

The Eastsound Village Core is the area defined as “Village Commercial” on the Eastsound Subarea Plan Official Map:

<http://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3471>.

**e) Definition of Low-Impact:**

Low-impact human activity minimizes, mitigates, and eventually eliminates environmental damage.

**f) Definition of Regenerative:**

Regenerative processes restore, renew or revitalize their own sources of energy and materials, creating sustainable systems that integrate the needs of society in harmony with nature. Regenerative design is the biomimicry of ecosystems.

**g) Definition of Sustainability:**

Sustainability is our ability to maintain natural, economic, or social systems, at defined and measureable levels of diversity, production and health, indefinitely.

The human system is a dependent subsystem of the larger system within which it lives, the natural environment. Environmental sustainability must therefore be our top priority.

**h) Definition of Walkable:**

The term walkable implies a zone that allows easy and safe pedestrian travel to places in relatively close proximity.

Sources:

John Lavey, "What is Walkability?" *Community Builders*, 2 Feb. 2014, <https://communitybuilders.org/what-we-think/blog/what-is-walkability>, and

John Lavey, "Walkability 201: An Expanded Look" *Community Builders*, 10 Mar. 2014, <https://communitybuilders.org/what-we-think/blog/walkability-201-an-expanded-look>

**11) Notes**

- a) The order in which pillars and supporting statements are numbered and listed in this document does not imply any hierarchy or order of importance.