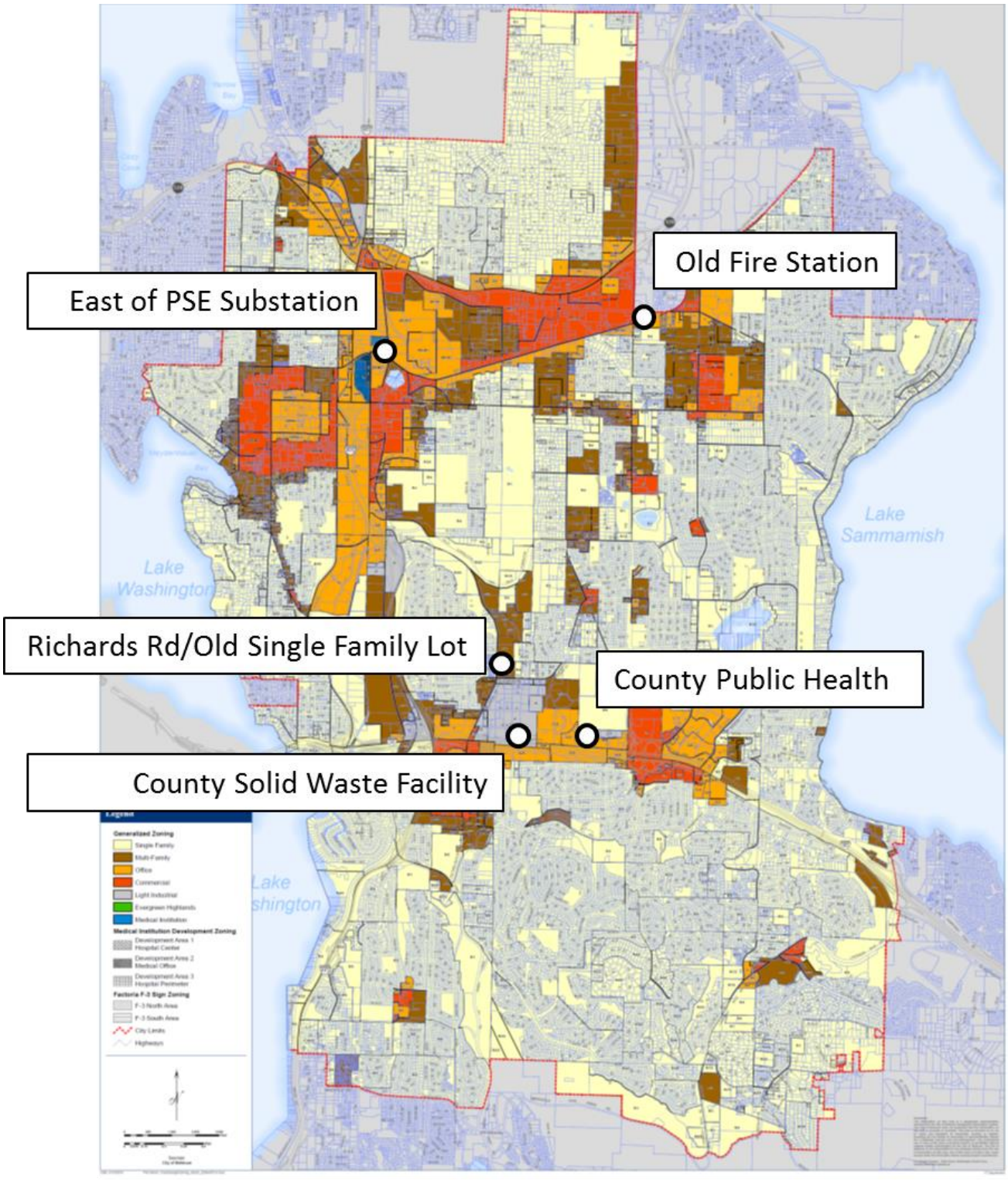
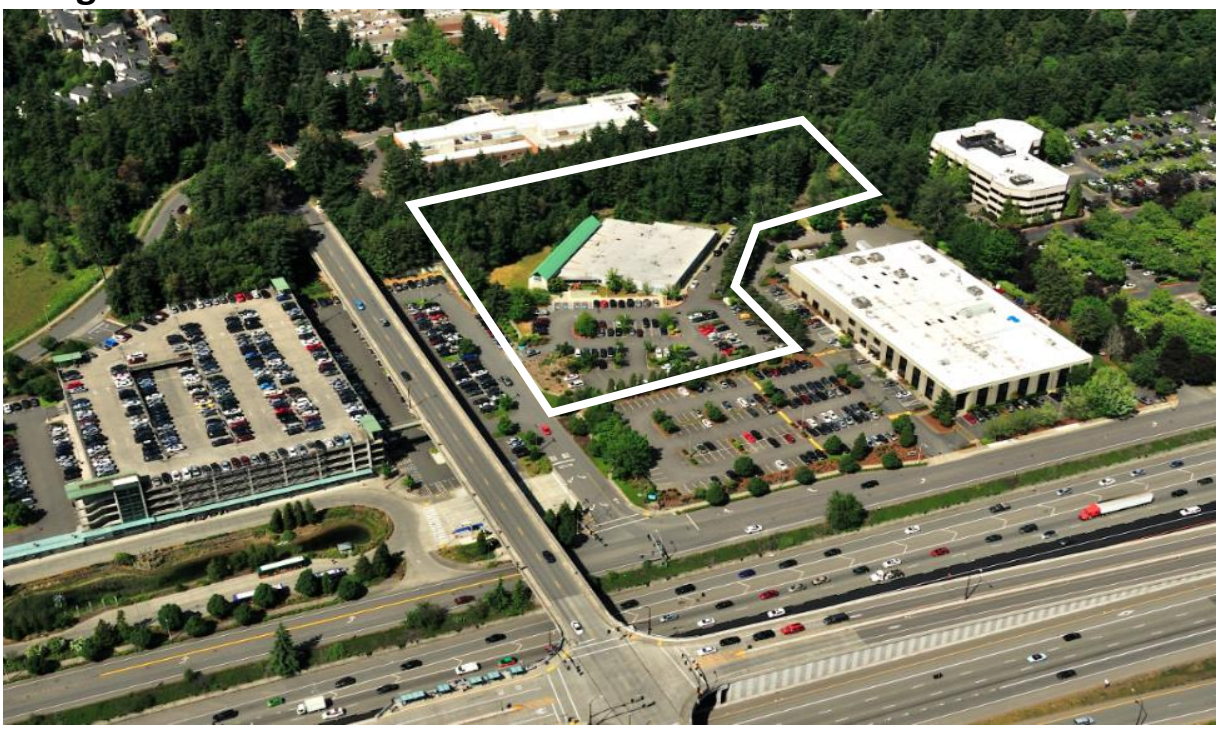
Sites Screened for the Eastside Men's Shelter and Supportive Housing Project



The City of Bellevue has worked with Eastside cities, including Redmond and Kirkland, in a regional approach to address needed shelters on the Eastside, as one part of a broad strategy to address increasing homelessness. Bellevue agreed to identify a permanent location for the Eastside Winter Shelter for men, continuing a service we have been providing in Bellevue since 2008. A homeless shelter for Eastside youth and young adults is located in the city of Redmond, and the City of Kirkland agreed to locate a shelter for single women and families.

Bellevue asked A Regional Coalition for Housing to explore surplus or underutilized publicly-owned properties as possible sites for the permanent location for the Eastside Men's Shelter project. Five sites, two County-owned and three City-owned, were identified as possible candidates based upon a set of screening factors. This included proximity to transit, proximity to existing supportive service providers, developable property of a sufficient size to accommodate the program, location within a predominantly commercial or mixed-use environment and other site-specific factors.

Eastgate Public Health Site



The four-acre King County-owned property at the Eastgate Public Health Center, was selected for further study as it provides a unique combination of attributes that separates it from the other sites that were screened. King County has flexibility to partner with a non-profit developer to accommodate a new building with the three components of an overnight shelter, day center, and permanent supportive housing. It provides optimal access to existing transit (directly adjacent to the Eastgate Park & Ride), collaboration opportunities with existing social services (directly adjacent to the Public Health clinic), potential partnerships with Bellevue College (employment support programs and service learning opportunities), and a location within an area that is planned for future mixed-use transit-oriented residential, retail and commercial uses.

BelRed Old Fire Station Site

This site on Bel-Red Road is a city-owned former fire station. The existing structures are old and may be able to be retrofitted for use as a shelter only, but not without extensive rehabilitation and remodeling. Alternatively, they could be demolished, in favor for a new structure for the shelter and day center. The site is small and somewhat constraining. Highland Middle School is across the street. Public transit is moderately available, as are access to social services. No services are in the direct vicinity, but are within moderate distances, including churches that support CFH programs. The site would likely have lower construction costs than other sites considered.

Richards Road Single Family Site

This site on Richards Road is a single family home purchased by the City as part of a transportation project. It does not contain any existing public use that would need to be relocated. The site is small and topographically challenging. It has poor transit service with no nearby supportive services. It is surrounded by single-family and multi-family residential development, with no commercial or mixed-use development nearby.

PSE Substation and Children's Hospital Adjacent Site

This site is owned by the City with no existing uses present. It is next to a PSE substation and has somewhat difficult access to the site from NE 12th Street. It has limited transit service presently, but in 2023, will be within walking distance of the Spring District / 120th East Link Station and adjacent to the future Eastside Rail Corridor trail. There are few support services within the immediate vicinity. This site is surrounded by institutional and office uses. A portion of the site may be needed for future expansion of the PSE North Bellevue Substation. Site also potentially impacted by adjacent wetlands.

King County Solid Waste Site

This site is owned by King County, and while it was included in the screening evaluation, the County has elected not to offer this site for the shelter, instead preferring a partnership at the Eastgate Public Health site. In contrast to the Public Health site, this site is owned by the County's Solid Waste Utility, which limits the County's flexibility in how the site is used. The County is using the property as staging for a construction project in the near term, after which the County will undertake a process to determine its ultimate future use.