

# COMMUNITIES OPEN HOUSE

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2006**

**Open House 6:30 – 8:30, Presentation at 7:00**

**Cascade Elementary School Cafeteria**

**16022 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Renton 98058**

**IF YOU LIVE OR WORK IN THE BENSON HILL COMMUNITIES**

Including: Cascade, Cascade Vista, Renton Park, Spring Brook and Spring Glen

**THIS MEETING IS FOR YOU**

The **Benson Hill Communities** are located between Renton and the Fairwood Incorporation area

The City of the Renton is poised to make agreements with King County and partner with special districts to actively pursue annexation of your area.

~~Please join King County, the City of Renton and the Benson Hill Communities Progress Group (BHCpg) to find out more.~~

## The Purpose of the Communities Open House

**Gather information** about what might change in your community if voters pursue annexation to the City of Renton, or remain unincorporated.

**Provide feedback** to the proponents of annexation, the City of Renton, and the County about your concerns about the issues related to annexation.

**Discuss Issues** with your neighbors.

**Distribute Information** to the community so residents can make their own choices about a changing governance.

The City of Renton, King County, and representatives from the Benson Hill Communities Progress Group (BHCpg) will be available to answer your questions.

## King County Annexation Initiative

The King County Annexation Initiative is a County effort to promote annexation and incorporation of the remaining urban unincorporated areas.

Unincorporated areas are areas outside city limits but inside the urban growth area of King County. The initiative is consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act and planning policies enacted over a decade ago by cities and King County government.

Your area, identified as part of Fairwood/Soos Creek in the King County Comprehensive Plan, is part of the King County Annexation Initiative.

## HOW CAN RENTON AFFORD TO BE OUR GOVERNMENT

### WHEN KING COUNTY SAYS IT CAN'T

Cities and Counties have different taxing authority under state law. Counties have been designated and are equipped with the taxing resources to provide regional and local rural services. Cities are structured and have the tools to most efficiently provide urban local services. This does not mean that joining a city requires residents to pay more taxes; rather that cities have greater flexibility in how they collect and spend tax dollars. For example, the local portion of the property tax King County collects in unincorporated areas must be spent for roads. In cities, local property taxes contribute to a general fund that elected officials have the option to direct towards the priorities of their communities—be it roads, public safety, economic development, or a variety of other services.

Cities, such as Renton, also have a larger local sales tax base to support local services. Becoming incorporated gives residents more value per tax dollar spent and frees up resources for the county to provide regional services that everyone in the county benefits from, including criminal justice, public health and human services, regional parks, and bus service.

#### Benson Hill Communities Annexation Resources:

##### City of Renton

[www.ci.renton.wa.us/ednsp/annexation.htm](http://www.ci.renton.wa.us/ednsp/annexation.htm)

425-430-6575

##### King County

<http://www.metrokc.gov/annex/fairwood.aspx>

206-296-1017

##### Benson Hill Communities Progress Group (BHCpg)

[www.bensonhill.com](http://www.bensonhill.com)

