

2024 Comprehensive Plan *Update*

Snohomish County 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

June 4, 2024

County Council

Planning Committee Briefing

Natural Environment Element

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Purpose of the Natural Environment Element

- *Implementing Federal, State, Regional, and Countywide laws and policies to protect and enhance the natural environment*
- *To implement interjurisdictional coordination for regional and local planning*
- *Protect the environment and enhance the quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water*



Three Things You Should Know

Adding New Goal for Urban Tree Canopy

Addressing Groundwater Protection

Incorporate Watershed and Salmon Recovery

Adding New Goal for Urban Tree Canopy

- *Goal 9 – Urban Tree Canopy Subelement*
- *Creates an urban forest management program for urban unincorporated areas that identifies, protects, and restores forests and plants that have significant value*
- *Modeled from the Evergreen Communities Act and the Urban Forest Management Act*
- *Subelement was drafted in response to a referral from County Council via Motion No. 22-096*



Addressing Groundwater Protection

- *Reflects updates in MPPs to support regulatory standards for meeting potable water requirements*
- *Proposed policy to classify recharge areas for aquifers according to the aquifer vulnerability*
- *Clarifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other science-based sources*



Incorporate Watershed and Fish Strategies

- *Proposed policy language provides additional strategies for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas*
- *Provides more focus on anadromous fish and supporting estuary restoration*
- *Reflects updates to the MPPs that promote innovative and environmentally sensitive development practices and conservation strategies*



Questions

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/5597/2024-Update>