Snohomish County 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

June 4, 2024

County Council
Planning Committee Briefing
Natural Environment Element

Hilary McGowan



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

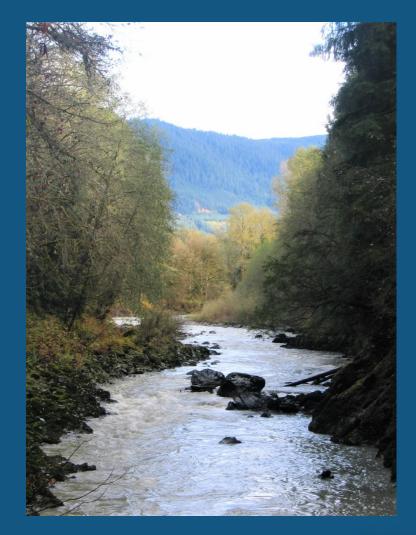
- Goal 9 Urban Tree Canopy Subelement
- Creates an urban forest management program for urban unincorporated areas that identifies, protects, and restores forests and plants that have significant value
- Modeled from the Evergreen
 Communities Act and the Urban Forest
 Management Act
- Subelement was 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

