

Planning Commission Review
Goals and Policies 7/26/223
Full Chapter 9/26/23

City Council Review
7/10/24



Chapter 5: Natural Environment

5.1 PLAN CONTEXT

The Natural Environment Chapter implements the vision of Poulsbo as a city enriched with valued natural features that enhance the quality of life for the community. The streams, forested hillsides, marine shoreline, and other natural features have shaped Poulsbo’s character. Residents and visitors value natural resources and count on them being protected to enjoy into the future.

As Poulsbo continues to grow, the impact of that growth on the natural environment becomes more pronounced. In order to adequately meet the need for protection and preservation, the Natural Environment Chapter sets a framework that recognizes the relationship between Poulsbo’s natural environment, land use planning, and a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory efforts. Impacts of development are minimized primarily through regulations on development, while most enhancements to the natural environment are primarily through non-regulatory and voluntary efforts.

Balancing the conservation and protection of the natural environment with population growth, economic development goals, and increasing recreational access is a key purpose of statewide planning rules and regulations. Direction is provided through statewide planning goals, the Growth Management Act (GMA), and the Shoreline Management Act (SMA). Statewide Planning Goal 10 (RCW 36.70A.020) instructs jurisdictions to: “Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.”

This Chapter includes goals and policies to protect the natural environment and to guide future growth in a manner that minimizes impacts. The Natural Environment goals and policies address:

- Environmental Stewardship
- Critical Areas
- Shorelines and Liberty Bay
- Water Quality and Basin Planning
- Climate Change
- Air Quality
- Urban Forestry



5.2 GOALS AND POLICIES

Environmental Stewardship

Of the many roles the City of Poulsbo must fulfill, and one of its most demanding, is that of steward of the city's natural environment. The demand is challenging to the city because it has the requirement to accommodate and plan for urban densities, with the responsibility to ensure that the environment is managed wisely. Through the Comprehensive Plan, numerous goals and policies are articulated to help the city achieve its vision for the future; no one goal, or policy is pursued to the exclusion of others. In weighing environmental protection against other needs, including urban growth, housing, economic development and recreation opportunities, the City balances these goals and achieves protection through a variety of means, including regulation of property, incentives, and public programs.

GOAL NE-1

Protect, sustain, and provide for healthy and diverse ecosystems within the Liberty Bay watershed.

Policy NE-1.1

The City shall protect critical areas, habitat and the natural environmental quality through land use plans, surface water management plans and programs, comprehensive park plans, development regulations and site-specific project review.

Policy NE-1.2

The City shall maintain regulations such as the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), which provide protection for all regulated critical areas - a) wetlands; b) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers (aquifer recharge areas); c) frequently flooded areas; d) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; and e) geologically hazardous areas.

- The City's CAO development standards shall incorporate and utilize appropriate and applicable best available science for purposes of designating and protecting all regulated critical areas and give "special consideration" to conservation and protection measures for anadromous fisheries.
- The City shall continue to require, as set forth in the CAO, completion of environmental studies by qualified professionals to assess the impact of proposed development on critical areas.
- The City's CAO shall include penalties to be imposed on property owners or developers who degrade the function or value of wetlands.

Policy NE-1.3

The City shall coordinate planning with adjacent jurisdictions, tribes, countywide planning groups and watershed groups, to protect critical area habitat and water quality. The city will participate in watershed planning efforts and consider watershed impacts during decision making.

Policy NE-1.4

The City shall promote innovative and environmentally sensitive practices techniques in site planning, design, materials selection, construction, and maintenance.



Policy NE-1.5

The City shall support environmental stewardship on private and public lands through partnerships and voluntary efforts to protect, restore and enhance the quality and functions of the City's critical areas and their associated buffers.

Policy NE-1.6

The City shall provide provisions for reasonable use of property according to legal precedent and laws.

Policy NE-1.7

Support integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessments.

Policy NE-1.8

Support hydrological functions and water quality, including restoring shorelines and estuaries, removing fish-blocking culverts, reducing use of toxic products, and retrofitting basins to manage stormwater.

Critical Areas

The Washington State GMA requires every county and city to adopt policies and development regulations that designate and protect critical areas (RCW 36.70A.060(2)), which are defined, mapped (to the greatest extent feasible), and regulated in the City's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). Critical areas are defined in RCW 36.70A.030(5) as Wetlands, Areas with a critical recharging effect of aquifers used for potable water, Frequently flooded areas, Geologically hazardous areas, and Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

Science plays a central role in delineating critical areas, identifying functions and values, and identifying protection strategies. GMA requires counties and cities to include the best available science (BAS) when reviewing and revising their critical areas policies and regulations ([RCW 36.70A.172](#)) to protect the functions and values of critical areas and must give "special consideration" to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

Wetlands

Wetlands are designated critical areas that are integral features of Poulsbo landscape and the local hydrologic cycle. In wetlands, the presence of water at or near the surface creates distinct soil types and supports a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Wetlands reduce floods, contribute to stream flows, and improve water quality, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and offer opportunities for research and scientific study and outdoor education. Each wetland provides various beneficial functions, but not all wetlands perform all functions, nor do they perform all functions equally well. Large wetlands, and those hydrologically associated with lakes and streams, have relatively more important functions in the watershed than small, hydrologically isolated wetlands.



GOAL NE-2

Protect the water quality, flows and ecological integrity of wetlands by appropriately regulating land uses and storm water, through the development review process.

Policy NE-2.1

The City's Critical Areas Ordinance shall protect existing wetland functions in order to maintain water quality, retention, and wildlife habitat. New development adjacent to protected wetlands shall be subject to vegetative buffers as identified in the Critical Areas Ordinance and other applicable development standards that ensure protection of the wetland and buffer during development.

Policy NE-2.2

The City shall continue to update its existing wetland database using the most recent information available by including identification and delineations completed in conjunction with a land use permit.

Policy NE-2.3

Wetland identification, delineation and rating shall be as according to Washington State Department of Ecology's currently adopted manual and rating system, or as amended hereafter. The City's Critical Areas Ordinance identifies these documents as the appropriate documents for wetland identification, delineation, and rating.

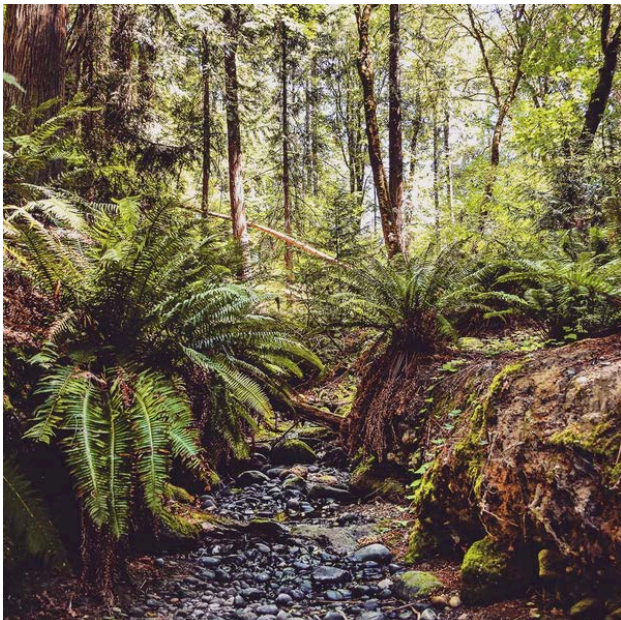
Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Groundwater aquifers supply water to lakes, wetlands, and streams and to public and private wells that provide drinking water. Rainfall contributes to surface water and recharges the groundwater as precipitation infiltrates through the soil. Land development changes the natural aquifer hydrologic cycle and reduces the land's capacity to absorb and retain rainfall and reduces the groundwater recharge potential.

The GMA requires the classification of recharge areas for aquifers according to the vulnerability of the aquifer. Vulnerability is the combined effect of hydrogeological susceptibility to contamination and the contamination loading potential. High vulnerability is indicated by land uses that contribute contamination that may degrade groundwater and hydrogeological conditions that facilitate degradation. Low vulnerability is indicated by land uses that do not contribute contaminants that degrade ground water and those conditions that do not facilitate digression.

GOAL NE-3

Ensure safe and adequate water supplies and protect groundwater quality from potential contaminant sources.



Policy NE-3.1

The city, Kitsap Public Utility District, Kitsap County Health Department, and Kitsap County will continue to be responsible for coordinating water quality protection and planning in multi-jurisdictional watersheds.

Policy NE-3.2

The city, in cooperation with the Kitsap Public Utility District, should continue to identify and map aquifer recharge areas within the city and its urban growth area. Such areas shall be subject to regulations to protect the integrity of identified aquifer recharge areas.

Policy NE-3.3

Proposed development in areas identified as a Critical Aquifer Recharge Area may be required to prepare a hydrogeological report. The City's Critical Areas Ordinance shall set forth the criteria for when such a report is required and the information to be included.

Policy NE-3.4

The City shall include regulations in its Critical Areas Ordinance to enhance recharge of the Poulsbo aquifer. These regulations should include: low impact development standards that provide for infiltration of storm water; and small-scale, Best Management Practices required for smaller development that is exempted from requirements for constructed storm water facilities.

Frequently Flooded Areas

Frequently flooded areas are lands in the floodplain subject to at least a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year, or within areas subject to flooding due to high groundwater. These areas include, but are not limited to, streams, rivers, lakes, coastal areas, wetlands, and areas where high groundwater forms ponds on the ground surface. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) delineates flood hazards along major river and stream corridors to identify areas at risk from floodwater. This information is used for both floodplain management and insurance rating. FEMA maps have been adopted by the city. When assessing the potential for a flood hazard on a given site, City staff utilizes the FEMA maps; therefore, flood hazards are not reproduced on the City's Critical Area maps.

Alterations to natural floodplains generally result in increasing the flooding risk to people and property, and impact fish and wildlife habitat. Traditional flood control practices have been particularly damaging to fish and wildlife habitat, but contemporary methods are striving to provide an acceptable level of flood protection to people and property, while at the same time preserving and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Reducing risk to people and property is best achieved by limiting floodplain development and ensuring that allowed development does not increase flood elevations and flow velocities, change flood flow patterns, reduce flood storage, increase erosion, or increase the area of flood inundation.

GOAL NE-4

Reduce the risk of damage to life, property, and the natural environment from flooding through appropriate regulatory means.

Policy NE-4.1

The City shall preserve the natural flood storage functions of 100-year floodplains where feasible. The City shall encourage and emphasize non-structural methods for flood prevention and damage reduction, as appropriate. No blockage of floodwaters shall be allowed that could impact neighboring properties.

Policy NE-4.2

Encourage maintenance of natural vegetation in floodplains to minimize runoff into streams and reduce the damage caused by increased stream flow, stream velocity, and flooding.



Geologically Hazardous Areas

Geologically hazardous areas are places highly susceptible to erosion, landslides, earthquakes, or other geologic events. In Poulsbo, the most hazardous of these areas is typically found along the marine shorelines and stream ravines. Poulsbo's landscape is typical of North Kitsap County, with numerous hills and valleys, streams, and frontage on the waters of Puget Sound. Elevations range from sea level to 440 feet, with moderate to steep slopes. Two ridges run along each side of Liberty Bay and gradually rise in elevation to the north, accentuating the general topographic trend in Poulsbo. The west leg of the ridge slopes gradually toward Liberty Bay, while the eastern leg slopes in a broken pattern of knolls, valleys, and benches to the eastern shore.

GOAL NE-5

Manage development in geologically hazardous areas to protect public health and safety.

Policy NE-5.1

The Critical Areas Ordinance shall provide standards that assist in protecting human life, property, and essential services from potential geologically hazardous areas. Site-specific studies submitted with development proposals in areas mapped as geologically hazardous shall be required to evaluate the risk, potential impacts and identify necessary mitigations of the proposed development.

Policy NE-5.2

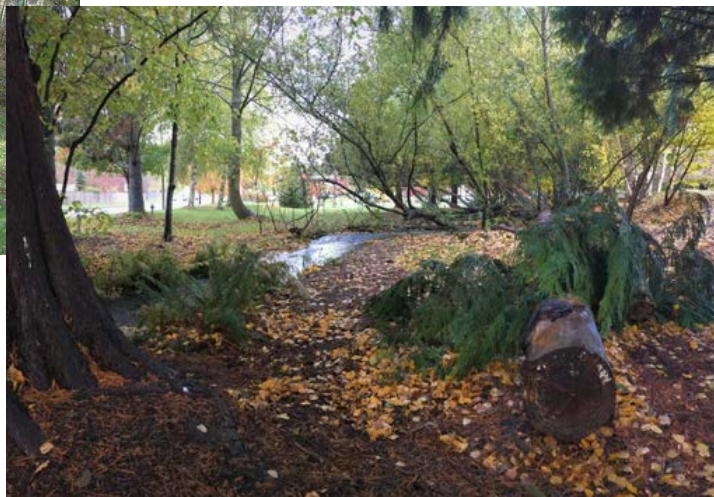
The City shall classify, and map all known geologically hazardous areas and areas of geologic concern. Incorporate information from site-specific geotechnical reports and erosion problems into the City's Geographic Information System to ensure the map remains relevant.

Policy NE-5.3

Protect geologically hazardous areas, especially forested steep slopes, recognizing that these areas provide multiple critical area functions, such as preserving vegetated areas for wildlife habitat, linking habitats to valley riparian areas, stabilizing slopes, and allowing for groundwater infiltration providing a water source to wetlands and streams.

Policy NE-5.4

Minimize and control soil erosion during and after development through the use of best available technology, best management practices, and other development restrictions. Allow the City to place additional conditions when determined necessary in identified Geologically Hazardous Areas.



Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Fish and wildlife habitat conservation means land management for maintaining population of species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that the habitat available is sufficient to support viable populations over the long term and isolated subpopulations are not created. This does not mean maintaining all individuals of all species at all times, but it does mean not degrading or reducing populations or habitats so that they are no longer viable over the long term. Counties and cities should engage in cooperative planning and coordination to assure long term population viability.

Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas contribute to the state's biodiversity and occur on both publicly and privately-owned lands. Designating these areas is an important part of land use planning for appropriate densities, urban growth boundaries, open space corridors, and incentive-based land conservation and stewardship programs. (WAC 365-190-130(1).

Streams Classification

All identified streams in the city are classified according to the Washington State stream classification systems. The City's CAO utilizes the State Interim Water Typing in WAC 222-16-031 to define stream types. This stream classification system provides "special consideration" of anadromous fisheries. The city further classified South Fork of Dogfish Creek into five distinct reaches, each with requirements and consideration to the specific reach.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area Designation

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has developed a catalog of habitats and species considered to be priorities for conservation and management. WAC 365-190-130(4) strongly suggests that local jurisdictions base their fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas designation on the WDFW priority habitat and species listings.

According to the WDFW Priority Habitats and Species List, priority species include Federal and State Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, and Candidate species; animal aggregations (e.g. heron colonies, bat colonies) considered vulnerable; and species of recreational, commercial, or tribal importance that are vulnerable. These priority species require protective measures for their survival due to their population status, sensitivity to habitat alteration, and/or recreational, commercial, or tribal importance. Priority habitats are habitat types or elements which offers unique or significant value to a diverse assemblage of species. A priority of habitat may consist of a unique vegetation type (e.g. shrub-steppe) or dominant plant species (e.g. juniper savannah), a described successional stage (e.g. old-growth forest), or a specific habitat feature (e.g. cliffs.)

All of the WDFW priority habitat and species that are applicable to Kitsap County and Poulsbo are species of fish, shellfish, birds, and mammals that are aquatic, marine or water dependent. Regulatory measures, such as required buffers, resource management areas, setbacks, preparation of habitat management plans, and other development standards apply to Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas as identified in the City's CAO.

GOAL NE-6

Protect biological diversity by appropriately regulating fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.



Policy NE-6.1

The City's Critical Areas Ordinance shall require vegetative buffers along surface waters to protect anadromous fish and wildlife habitat. New development shall be subject to buffers or resource management areas, as identified in the Critical Areas Ordinance and other applicable development standards.

Policy NE-6.2

The City shall protect the natural habitat functions of listed or candidate Endangered Species. The City's Critical Areas Ordinance shall establish appropriate protection measures and procedures for habitat conservation.

Policy NE-6.3

The City shall continue acquiring appropriate land when it becomes available and affordable, primarily to preserve its function as fish and wildlife habitat. The Dogfish Creek estuary shall continue to be a priority habitat area for acquisition.

Policy NE-6.4

Encourage public-private partnerships and voluntary efforts to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Support these efforts on public lands by continuing the successful Parks and Recreation Department work parties, and other approved volunteer coordination efforts.

Policy NE-6.5

Encourage informational and educational programs and activities dealing with the protection of wildlife. An example of such a program is the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary program established by the State's Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Policy NE-6.6

The City's Critical Areas Ordinance shall include penalties to be imposed on property owners or developers who degrade the habitat function or values of streams or stream buffers.

Policy NE-6.7

Use of fencing, flagging, or tape to mark stream buffer boundaries during construction shall be required as a land use permit condition. No construction activity or mechanical equipment shall be allowed in these delineated areas.

Policy NE-6.8

Avoid/minimize fine sediment inputs to creeks by eliminating or controlling sediment sources by requiring best management practices and the preparation of an erosion and sediment control plan for sites where vegetation clearing, earth movement, or other soil disturbing activities are proposed to occur.

Policy NE-6.9

The City shall implement as appropriate the "Dogfish Creek Restoration Project Master Plan," prepared by ICF International, July 2010. The City shall coordinate with the Suquamish Tribe on the planting plan and scheduling of the habitat rehabilitation installation.

Policy NE-6.10

Encourage best management practices in the use of herbicides and pesticides near surface waters.



Shorelines and Liberty Bay

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) (RCW 90.58) establishes the concepts of preferred uses and priority uses in shoreline areas. RCW 90.58.020 indicates that preferred uses are those "which are consistent with control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment or are unique to or dependent upon use of the state's shorelines." This section further states that priority uses include single family residences, ports, shoreline recreational uses, water dependent industrial and commercial developments and other developments that provide opportunities for the public to access the shoreline environment. To the maximum extent possible, the shorelines should be reserved for "water-oriented" uses, including "water-dependent", "water-related" and "water-enjoyment" uses, as defined in the SMA.

The overarching policy is that "the public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible consistent with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally." Coordinated planning is necessary in order to protect the public interests associated with the shorelines of the state, while, at the same time, recognizing and protecting private property rights.

Shoreline Environment Designations

The City's shoreline jurisdiction includes all Liberty Bay shorelines and aquatic areas within the city limits and the tidally influenced (estuarine) portion of Dogfish Creek north of Lindvig Way, and shorelands from 0-200 feet of the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of Liberty Bay. The City has also "predesignated" all of the shorelines within its unincorporated Urban Growth Area, and the SMP addresses these shorelines as well as those located within the City limits.

As required by the SMA, the City has established shoreline environment designations, which serve as an "overlay" to the City's comprehensive plan land use designations. These designations are applied to specific shoreline areas to guide the use and development of these areas. There are six environments applied to the City's shorelines - Shoreline Residential 1 and 2, High Intensity, Urban Conservancy, Natural and Aquatic; these environments have been mapped and are identified on Figure NE-6.

GOAL NE-7

Ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological values and functions, as required by the Shoreline Management Act 90.58 RCW.

Policy NE-7.1

Proposed development projects shall be reviewed for consistency with the no net loss policy, taking into account (1) the environmental limitations and sensitivity of the shoreline area; (2) proposed mitigation for anticipated impacts; (3) the level of infrastructure and services available; and (4) other comprehensive planning considerations.



Policy NE-7.2

New development and redevelopment in all shoreline environment designations shall be consistent with the "preferred use" and "priority use" provisions as set forth in 90.58.020 RCW and WAC 173-26-201, or their successors.

Policy NE-7.3

The City should identify potential opportunities within City-owned shoreline properties for offsite mitigation of shoreline impacts, through restoration of native vegetation and/or habitat functions within the shoreline buffer area.

Policy NE-7.4

The City should encourage appropriate multiple users and uses to share current and future over-water and in-water facilities and structures, to minimize the need for new, individual over-water and in-water facilities and structures.

Policy NE-7.5

Designated critical areas within the shoreline shall be protected by the standards in the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), unless the SMP provides for protection that is more stringent than provided in the CAO, in which case the more stringent protection shall apply.

GOAL NE-8

Manage the City's shorelines by implementing specific policies, use regulations, and development standards for each of the shoreline environments identified in the City's Shoreline Master Plan.

Shoreline Residential

The Shoreline Residential (SR) environment is intended to accommodate residential development consistent with the City's shoreline management standards; protect ecological functions and natural habitat, and restoration when feasible; and provide public access and recreational uses, where appropriate.

Policy NE-8.1

New development and redevelopment in the SR environment shall be of a type consistent with a residential environment and shall be compatible with surrounding residential land uses.

Policy NE-8.2

In the SR-1 environment, the existing natural environment should be preserved as much as possible, with new development and enlargement of existing structures within the buffer area being limited to water-dependent use, reasonable use, and/or limited expansion.

Policy NE-8.3

The SR-2 environment use regulations shall provide a transition between the preservation focus of the SR-1 environment, to the adjacent residential development outside of the shoreline jurisdiction.

Policy NE-8.4

When new development or redevelopment is proposed with more than four dwelling units, designated public access, and designated public views shall be preserved, and enhanced when possible.



High Intensity

The High Intensity (HI) shoreline environment provides for those areas of existing moderate commercial and mixed commercial/residential development. This environment allows for optimum use of shoreline areas that are presently developed with commercial uses, while seeking opportunities to protect habitat and ecological functions from further degradation.

Policy NE-8.5

As set forth in WAC 173-26-211(5)(d) or as subsequently amended, new uses in the HI environment should be prioritized. First priority should be given to water-dependent uses. Second priority should be given to water-related uses and third priority to water-enjoyment uses. New non-water-oriented uses are allowed under the following circumstances: as a minor part of mixed-use development that includes water-dependent uses; when accessory to uses that are water-dependent, water-related or for water-enjoyment; when the site is physically separated from the shoreline from another property or public right-of-way; or when there is no direct access to the shoreline from the site.

Policy NE-8.6

Full utilization of the area designated as the HI environment should be achieved before further expansion of the HI environment is allowed unless it is demonstrated that the demand for water-oriented commercial uses cannot be satisfied within the existing HI environment designation.

Policy NE-8.7

Existing non-water-oriented uses in the HI environment, such as restaurants and retail shops, may continue to operate under the provisions of the City's zoning ordinance. Redevelopment should be encouraged as water related or water enjoyment uses that will take advantage of water views and provide public views and public access where feasible.

Policy NE-8.8

Compatibility of adjacent land uses and activities in the HI environment shall be encouraged through the design and location of new development and redevelopment, as well as landscaping, visual screening, signage, and lighting, to minimize potential adverse impacts to neighboring properties and protect the aesthetic qualities of the shoreline.

Urban Conservancy

The Urban Conservancy (UC) shoreline environment preserves existing natural landforms and native shoreline vegetation as much as possible, while promoting public shoreline access, views, and recreation along with continuance of existing developed uses.

Policy NE-8.9

New development, or redevelopment or change of land use on commercially zoned property in the UC environment shall not increase the existing density or intensity of land use, exceed the size and scale of existing structures within the shoreline buffer and setback, or extend further waterward than the existing development.

Policy NE-8.10

Standards should be established for shoreline stabilization measures, vegetation conservation, and shoreline modification in the UC environment, with the intent to protect against further degradation of shoreline values and functions.

Policy NE-8.11

In the UC environment, water-oriented uses shall be encouraged over nonwater-oriented uses for new development or redevelopment.



Policy NE-8.12

Restoration of shoreline ecological functions, maintenance of designated public views, and establishment/maintenance of public access shall be priorities when new development or redevelopment is proposed in the UC environment.

Policy NE-8.13

The City should explore opportunities to acquire property from willing landowners within the UC areas where there are opportunities for expanding public park lands, improving shoreline and estuary restoration and protection efforts, and increasing public access.

Natural

The Natural (N) shoreline environment is established to protect and restore shoreline areas that are relatively free from human influence, undeveloped, and/or include intact or minimally degraded shoreline functions that are sensitive to proposed impacts from development.

Policy NE-8.14

The N environment in public shoreline parks should be retained for public recreation and public access, and managed to maximize environmental preservation, with a focus on retaining and restoring natural shoreline and habitat functions.

Policy NE-8.15

Within the N environment, scientific, historical, cultural, and educational research uses, and low-intensity recreational access uses, may be allowed provided that no net loss of shoreline values and functions will result.

Policy NE-8.16

N areas along the Dogfish Creek estuary shall continue to be preserved and restored, and the establishment and maintenance of public access, public enjoyment, and public views shall be encouraged where a net loss of ecological functions will not occur.

Policy NE-8.17

The City should explore opportunities to acquire property or obtain public use easements from willing landowners within 0-100 feet of the shoreline, when such acquisition would benefit existing and proposed shoreline public access paths and/or would adjoin existing public shoreline parks.

Aquatic

The Aquatic (A) shoreline environment includes all lands waterward of the ordinary high-water mark within the City’s jurisdiction, including public and private tidelands, state submerged lands, and areas designated as critical saltwater habitat.

Policy NE-8.18

Regulations for the A environment should promote preservation and restoration of nearshore ecological function, and preservation and restoration of identified critical saltwater habitat areas.

Policy NE-8.19

Overwater or in-water development and uses on navigable waters or submerged lands should be located and designed to minimize interference with surface navigation; to minimize adverse visual impacts; and to allow for the safe, unobstructed passage of fish and wildlife, particularly those species dependent on migration or on the nearshore environment.

Policy NE-8.20

Uses and activities in the A environment should be reviewed for compatibility with adjacent upland uses and environments.



Policy NE-8.21

New or expanded overwater or in-water structures should not be allowed except as part of a permitted water-dependent use that requires the specific overwater or in-water structure to function correctly.

Policy NE-8.22

Public recreational use of state uplands and submerged lands shall be protected against competing uses that would interfere with or restrict these uses.

Policy NE-8.23

Future aquaculture uses are not anticipated within the City’s shoreline jurisdiction, for reasons including geographical limitations (shallow, tidal bay), potential conflicts with navigation, and water-quality concerns. However, some scale or form of aquaculture may be appropriate and may be considered through a Shoreline Conditional Use permit.

Public Access

The SMP Guidelines require dedication and improvement of public access in developments for water-enjoyment, water-related, and non-water-dependent uses and for the subdivision of land into more than four parcels, except when it is demonstrated to be infeasible due to reasons of incompatible uses, safety, security, or impact to the shoreline environment or due to constitutional or other legal limitations that may be applicable [WAC 173-26-221(4)(d)(iii)]. Alternatively, the local government may opt to develop a shoreline public access plan that provides more effective public access than the above requirement, as described in WAC 173-26-221(4)(c).

GOAL NE-9

The City shall develop a shoreline public access plan, consistent with the requirements of WAC 173-26-221(4)(c), which identifies existing and proposed public shoreline access points, requirements for dedication of public shoreline access with new shoreline development or redevelopment, and other opportunities for increasing and improving public access to the City’s shorelines and the waters of Liberty Bay.

Policy NE-9.1

The shoreline public access plan should be consistent with and supportive of other relevant comprehensive plan elements, especially the transportation and recreation elements, and with other approved plans and projects for public shoreline access, circulation, and recreation.

Policy NE-9.2

Public participation and input shall be invited, in accordance with the requirements of WAC 173-26-201(3)(b)(i), to identify and prioritize in the shoreline access plan the preferences of the City’s residents for new and improved access points and other amenities that will increase the public’s ability to enjoy the City’s shorelines and the waters of Liberty Bay.

Shoreline Features

GOAL NE-10

Protect the historic, archaeological, and cultural features and qualities of the Poulsbo shoreline.

Policy NE-10.1

Where possible, identified archaeological areas and historic sites along the City’s shorelines should be permanently preserved.

Policy NE-10.2

Consideration should be given to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Chapter 43.51 RCW to provide for the protection, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of sites, buildings, and structures located along the shoreline that are significant to history, architecture, archaeology, or culture.



Water Quality and Basin Planning

Liberty Bay and its tributaries are located both within and outside of the city limits of Poulsbo, and are identified within Water Resource Area (WRIA) 15. Liberty Bay is about 4 miles long and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile wide. The deepest point is 39' at its center. Extensive tide flats cover much of the northern Liberty Bay at low tide. Circulation is somewhat limited due to the enclosed shape of the bay.

The Liberty Bay watershed is about 22,000 acres. There are nine primary streams in the watershed, five of which are all or partly located in Poulsbo: Poulsbo Creek, Bjorgen Creek, Dogfish Creek, Barrantes Creek, and Johnson Creek. At 4,700 acres, the largest drainage in the watershed is Dogfish Creek, which forms the head of Liberty Bay. Over 50% of the historically forested watershed is now developed, with over 30% of that area classified as impervious. Most of the highly developed areas are concentrated near Poulsbo and Keyport. Concentrated forests and small farms cover the rest of the watershed.

Water quality is the primary consideration for the continued health of Liberty Bay. Good water quality sustains aquatic life, but quickly deteriorates when pollutants, such as sediment, nutrients, organic material, and toxicants are either dumped or discharged into the surface water, or are washed in by storm water runoff. Control of pollutants at their source is the first and best method to prevent water quality problems. Reducing non-point source pollution, the contaminated runoff from land surfaces, remains a major goal that involves the entire community. Each individual, business, and government entity is a potential contributor to water quality improvements by reducing or eliminating erosion, reducing or eliminating the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers; and by properly using and disposing of oil and grease and hazardous materials like paints and solvents.

GOAL NE-11

Protect the water quality and ecological integrity of Liberty Bay by appropriately regulating land uses and storm water through the development review process, and by participating in watershed planning efforts.

Policy NE-11.1

Protect critical saltwater habitats in recognition of their importance to the marine ecosystem of Liberty Bay and Puget Sound. These habitats can provide critical reproduction, rearing and migratory nursery areas for fish, juvenile salmon, mollusks such as oysters, marine plants and animals. Habitats of special concern include kelp beds; marine vegetation areas including eelgrass beds; spawning areas for herring, smelt and sand lance; juvenile salmonid migration corridors; rock sole spawning beds; rockfish settlement and nursery areas; and lingcod settlement and nursery areas.

Policy NE-11.2

The City will continue to implement, as appropriate, recommendations of the City of Poulsbo Liberty Bay TMDL Implementation Plan (2016).

Policy NE-11.3

Cooperate with regional and local agencies to monitor surface water quality and implement measures to identify and address any sources of pollution.

Policy NE-11.4

Cooperate with regional and state governments and agencies in the development and implementation of watershed management plans or other types of basin plans which are upstream or downstream from Poulsbo.



Climate Change

Climate change refers to significant and long-term alterations in the Earth's average weather patterns, including temperature, precipitation, wind, and other climate-related factors. Addressing climate change requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses both mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (preparing for the impacts). Efforts to combat climate change encompass a wide range of actions, including policy initiatives, technological innovations, sustainable land management, and changes in individual and community behavior. Mitigating climate change not only helps to protect the planet's ecosystems and biodiversity but also safeguards the well-being and prosperity of current and future generations.

GOAL NE-12

Support achievement of regional and state greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Policy NE-12.1

Collaborate with other government agencies (such as Puget Sound Regional Council, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology, Kitsap County, other cities) and the private sector to develop and implement strategies for addressing climate change and greenhouse gas reductions.

Policy NE-12.2

Encourage conservation by use of alternative energy sources and energy management technologies.

Policy NE-12.3

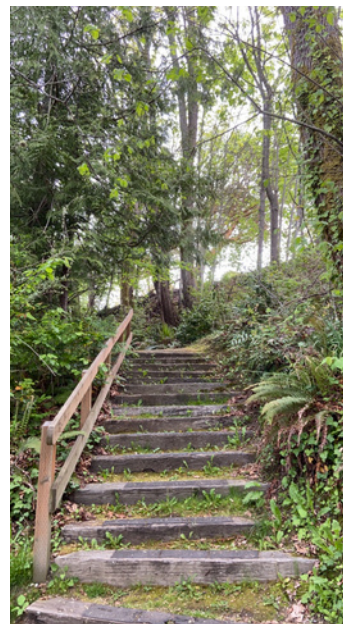
Protect natural resources that sequester and store carbon such as wetlands, estuaries, stream buffers and urban tree canopy.

Policy NE-12.4

Reduce vehicle miles traveled and driving alone through land use and transportation strategies that provide opportunities and access to walking, biking, and transit. Support regional and state efforts to electrify the transportation system.

Policy NE-12.5

Encourage the reduction of building energy consumption through green building practices and promote the adaptive reuse of existing buildings recognizing the emission-reduction benefits of retaining existing buildings.



GOAL NE-13

Support regional, state, and local efforts to increase climate resilience by participating in resilience planning and climate preparedness.

Policy NE-13.1

Support state, regional and countywide actions that support resilience by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on land, water, infrastructure, and health.

Policy NE-13.2

Address rising sea water by planning the siting of new hazardous industries and essential public services away from the 500-year floodplain.

Policy NE-13.3

Assess potential vulnerabilities of the City's infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as flooding, storm surge, sea-level rise, and land hazards.

Policy NE-13.4

Enhance the City's urban tree canopy to support community resilience, mitigate urban heat and stormwater runoff. This can be accomplished through a program of tree planting in public areas, including street trees, public parks, public open spaces, and public facilities. Consider programs that create incentives for residents and business to plant trees on their private property, in addition to any required applicable landscaping standards.

Policy NE-13.5

Promote and incentivize creation and implementation of Firewise strategies in coordination with county fire districts, the WA Department of Natural Resources, community groups, and landowners in forest and urban interface / intermix areas.

Policy NE-13.6

Provide educational material and resources for new and existing property owners to use in lowering their risk for wildland fires including fire resistive construction techniques, construction and maintenance of defensible spaces, and fire-resistant landscapes, fuel reduction, and land use practices.

Air Quality

Air quality within the Puget Sound airshed is regulated at both the national level and the regional level through the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. ch.85). Air quality is generally assessed in terms of whether concentrations of air pollutants are higher or lower than ambient air quality standards set to protect human health and welfare. Air pollution has a disproportionate effect on sensitive groups such as children, the elderly, and people with heart and lung diseases. Air pollution is also a quality-of-life issue. The main sources of air pollution in the Puget Sound region are vehicular and marine traffic, industrial emissions, wood stoves and fireplaces, outdoor burning, and other sources such as lawnmowers, aircraft, trains, and other recreational vehicles.

GOAL NE-14

Support compliance with federal, state, regional and local air quality standards through coordinated, long-term strategies that address the many contributors to air pollution.

Policy NE-14.1

Improve air quality through continued coordinated land use and transportation planning and management.



Policy NE-14.2

Promote alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle, including telecommuting/teleworking, car sharing, and transit, as strategies for reducing trips and vehicle-related air pollution.

Policy NE-14.3

Reduce airborne particulates through a street sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, covered loads of hauled materials, and other methods to reduce dust sources.

Policy NE-14.4

Consider policies and programs for purchasing clean and efficient fuels for city vehicles and equipment.

Policy NE-14.5

Amplify messaging from official agency watches and warnings to city residents about air quality and recommended actions to reduce exposure to wildfire smoke and particulate matter.

Urban Forestry

The urban forest is an important part of the Poulsbo landscape. Urban forests are dynamic ecosystems that provide critical benefits to people and wildlife. Urban forests help to filter air and water, control storm water, reduce the impact of high winds, conserve energy, and provide animal habitat and shade. They add beauty, form, and structure to urban design. By reducing noise and providing places to recreate, urban forests strengthen social cohesion, spur community revitalization, and add economic value to communities.

Climate change and its impact on existing and new trees as well as new wildland urban interface (WUI) requirements will continue to impact the ways the city regulations tree protection and preservation. Balancing these sometimes competing requirements with property owners’ rights to develop and manage their property is an ongoing challenge.

GOAL NE-15

Recognize that trees provide many important benefits to our natural and built community - such as reducing erosion, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, providing wildlife habitat, producing oxygen, and beautifying the community. The City shall recognize and enhance these benefits by encouraging the preservation and management of trees on public and private lands, protecting trees from unnecessary removal or damage during development, and promoting the planting of new trees.

Policy NE-15.1

Continue to support and assist the City’s Tree Board in its efforts for the promotion, preservation, and enhancement of Poulsbo’s public tree resources.

Policy NE-15.2

Maintain or increase the tree canopy in the city through tree retention and/or replacement by:

- Implementing educational programs for property owners and managers;
- Provide incentives for tree retention and planting, including the City’s Heritage Tree program;
- Prohibit or limit the amount of significant tree removal on undeveloped property without an approved land use development permit;
- Protect healthy stands or groves of trees on property proposed for development;
- Require where appropriate, financial assurances for required tree planting and maintenance.



Policy NE-15.3

Street trees shall be a priority for any public improvement on the City's Urban Collector, Commercial Collector and Neighborhood Collector street classifications. Further, street trees will be required for all Residential Collector streets created through new residential developments. Types, sizing, and space requirements shall be as established in the City's Master Public Tree Plan (as amended). Street trees should be installed in planter strips or tree wells located between the curb and any sidewalk where feasible. Where streets are not a practical location, consider designating areas within the development where trees will be required to be planted on developable lots or separate tracts of land.

Policy NE-15.4

Existing trees within a proposed development project is an important factor in its site planning, including determination of building, parking, open space and other feature locations. Tree preservation provisions that encourage the early consideration of tree protection during design and planning of development proposals shall be developed for inclusion in the City's Development Regulations.

Policy NE-15.5

Appropriate native tree species or non-native trees naturally adapted to local conditions should be encouraged and incorporated, in all new public project landscaping. City public projects and capital improvement projects should be designed to preserve trees to the maximum extent possible.

Policy NE-15.6

No forest harvesting of property (i.e. forest practice conversion type activity) or tree cutting/clearing shall be approved or authorized by the City until such time as the City has approved a land use development permit.

Policy NE-15.7

Identify and plant suitable native trees and vegetation within degraded stream and wetland buffers and on steep slopes as a critical step in ecological conservation and erosion control.

Policy NE-15.8

When funding is available, complete an assessment of the urban tree canopy to evaluate the extent, health, and diversity of trees across the city.

Policy NE-15.9

Encourage and incorporate into the City's tree canopy adequate species diversity and an appropriate mix of tree types (evergreen vs. deciduous) to protect the health of the urban forest.

Policy NE-15.10

Acknowledge that the addition and retention of trees may impact public views. Maintenance practices of trees and shrubs should maintain or enhance designated shoreline public views.

Policy NE-15.11

Maintain the city's status as a Tree City USA as designated by the Arbor Day Foundation through the following measures: a. Maintain certification through various programs and activities long term. b. Strive to achieve annual growth awards from the Arbor Day foundation as a part of long term implementation of the Tree City designation. c. Consider programs and policies which will further recognize the city's efforts in relation to community forestry.

Policy NE-15.12

Upon consultation with the City Arborist, consider additional planning or resource documents (such as tree stewardship guide) related to ongoing tree stewardship and protection.

